

**Submissions on Human Rights Violations
By the Government of Sri Lanka**

To

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

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North East Secretariat on Human Rights (NESoHR)

Kilinochchi,

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Contents

Page No

| | |
|---|----|
| Summary of Contents | 2 |
| 1. Introduction | 5 |
| 2. Discriminations: | 6 |
| 3. Communal Riots: | 9 |
| 4. Human Rights Violations: | 11 |
| 5. Ethnic Cleansing: | 15 |
| 6. Paramilitary Groups: | 16 |
| 7. Seeking Refuge through Courts Voluntarily: | 17 |
| 8. High Security Zone: (HSZ) | 17 |
| 9. Embargo & Road Closure | 17 |
| 10. Tsunami Rehabilitation: | 19 |
| 11. Conclusion: | 22 |
| Appendix 01 - Events of July 1983 | 23 |
| Appendix II - The Details of the NGOs Killed since January 2006 | 26 |
| Appendix III - Details of Media Personnel Killed and Harrassed | 28 |

Summary of Contents

1. Introduction:

Sri Lanka has two nations – Sinhalese & Tamils. Since the British left Sri Lanka in 1948 after independence the Tamils say that they did not get a fair deal from the majority Sinhalese. The ethnic war that has erupted due to this has cost over 65,000 lives. This war has existed for almost three decades and still, there is no light seen at the end of the tunnel. Instead the tempo of the war is on its increase. Human Rights are violated without any reservations. Appeals by international Humanitarian Agencies have proved futile.

Atrocities of the worst degree are the rule of the day. Human life has lost its value. People in all works of life get killed mercilessly or get abducted. They are living in perpetual fear for their lives. Child recruitment, which is very predominant in the East, is affecting the safety of the children. Uneasiness, eternal fear and anxiety prevail in the minds of those living in army controlled areas in the North & East.

2. Discriminations:

The Tamils have been discriminated and treated as secondary citizens by the majority community from the time the British left the shores of Sri Lanka. None of the governments have put forward anything concrete to meet the aspirations of the Tamil People. Finally the TULF wanted the government to abide by the resolution of the United Nations in accordance with a resolution enacted in the United Nations

“A group of people belonging to the same culture and speak the same language and live in a territory of their own have the right for Self-Determination.”

- 2.1 Disenfranchisement:
- 2.2 Foreign Aid:
- 2.3 Scholarships:
- 2.4 Schools Neglected:
- 2.5 Irrigation Tanks and Roads neglected
- 2.6 Colonisation:
- 2.7 Industrialisations:
- 2.8 Racial Prejudice:
- 2.9 Recruitment to the Armed Forces
- 2.10 Promotions Denied.

3. Communal Riots:

Communal riots occur periodically killing thousands of Tamils. The most severe ones happened in 1956, 1958, 1977 and in 1983. The one in 1983 called the Black July 83 drew the attention of the international community.

4. Human Rights Violations:

Human Rights of the Tamils have been violated since the independence was granted in 1948. Apart from the disenfranchisement of the Indian Tamils several laws were enacted in parliament periodically denying the Human Rights on the Tamils.

4.1. Sinhala Only:

4.2. Standardisation

4.3. Extra Judicial Killings

4.4. Presidential Commission

4.5. Politicians Killed

4.6. Media Personnel Harassed

4.7. Missing Persons

4.8. Abductions for Political and Economical Reasons

4.9. White Van Syndrome

4.10. Indiscriminate bombings

5. Ethnic Cleansing:

Ethnic cleansing has taken place since the British left Sri Lanka in 1948. The periodical Communal Riots is one form of it. In June 2007 Tamils staying in the lodges in Colombo were rounded up and sent to the North & East in the middle of a night.

6. Paramilitary Groups:

Several paramilitary groups working hand in glove with the army are creating havoc in the army controlled areas. They are behind several killings, abductions and burglary.

7. Seeking Refuge through Courts Voluntarily:

Fearing for their lives several people are seeking refuge voluntarily in jail through the Jaffna Human Rights Commission who takes them to court, which puts them in jail.

8. High Security Zone: (HSZ)

HSZs created by the army have driven away many thousands of people from their own homes. They are lingering in refugee camps for years.

9. Embargo & Road Closure

The closure of main roads have made to live in an open prison. In Jaffna alone 600,000 are in that state. Further the lack of transport of goods has brought scarcity thus shooting the prices of even essential commodities.

10. Tsunami Rehabilitation:

10.1. Post-Tsunami Operational Management Structure [P-TOMS]

This was an agreement reached between the LTTE and the government during the Talks. But this was not adhered to.

10.2. Internally Displaced People (IDP):

Several thousands of refugees are suffering for years in refugee camps. Within the past three months alone 350,000 people from the East have been displaced 2007. In September another 6000 from Mannar district have moved into refugee camps. They do not get proper supply of even the basic essentials. The children are severely affected due to lack of schooling facilities. Friends and relatives get separated from each other as they stay in different camps.

10.3. Problems Faced by NGOs

The NGOs face problems in transporting materials to the camps due to sudden closure of roads and embargo restrictions.

11. Conclusion:

The people in Sri Lanka in general and the Tamils in particular have undergone untold miseries and faced thousands of deaths within the last few decades. Billions of rupees are wasted in this endless war. Here is no respect for Human Rights. Innocent civilians are getting shot and killed daily. Similarly thousands go missing and they rarely return. Families are getting devastated. School proceedings get interrupted intermittently thus affecting the children's' education

No military solution is possible for the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. An immediate cease fire, stoppage of all forms of Human Rights Violations forthwith, and early commencement of Peace Talks are the ways that will bring an end to the misery prevailing in this country.

1. Introduction:

The Tamils and the Sinhalese are the two main races that have lived in Sri Lanka for thousands of years. They had their own separate kingdoms – one for the Tamils and two for the Sinhalese. The North and the East comprised the Tamil Kingdom. When Sri Lanka was colonized by the Portuguese in 1505 and subsequently by the Dutch in 1658 they maintained those kingdoms separately as they were. But when the British colonized this island in 1796 all the three kingdoms were brought under one rule to facilitate the British to run the colony easily from London. But when the British left the shores of this island in 1948 they handed over the rule of the entire land in the hands of the majority Sinhalese. Amalgamating the Tamil kingdom and the Sinhala kingdoms is the root cause of the ethnic problem that is prevalent today. Since independence the Tamils have been discriminated in many ways which we shall deal with in depth later in this report. Periodical communal disturbances have taken place causing loss of lives, properties and the dignity of the Tamil people. Some of these too will be highlighted below to illustrate the ferocity and barbarity in the way the Tamils were attacked. Several discriminatory laws were enacted pushing the Tamils as the secondary citizens of this country. Even the law safeguarding the rights of the minorities that was incorporated in the Solbury constitution introduced by the British at the time of independence was done away with subsequently, when the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) introduced its own constitution in 1972 and revised it later in 1978.

Since the British left Sri Lanka in 1948 after independence the Tamils say that they did not get a fair deal from the majority Sinhalese. The ethnic war that has erupted due to this has cost over 65,000 lives. This war has existed for almost three decades and still there is no light seen at the end of the tunnel. Instead the tempo of the war is on its increase. Billions of rupees are channeled to procure arms, ammunitions and equipments. Human Rights are brutally violated without any reservations. Appeals by international Humanitarian Agencies have proved futile.

Atrocities of the worst degree are the rule of the day. Human life has lost its value. People in all works of life get killed mercilessly. They are living in perpetual fear for their lives. Child recruitment, which is very predominant in the East, is affecting the safety of the children. Uneasiness, eternal fear and anxiety prevail in the minds of those living in army controlled areas in the North & East.

2. Discriminations:

The Tamils have been discriminated and treated as secondary citizens by the majority community from the time the British left the shores of Sri Lanka.

2.1 Disenfranchisement:

A bill was passed in parliament to disenfranchise the Indian Tamils. Almost a million of them were declared as "Stateless" and subsequently deported to India by the Sri Lankan government. There were several instances where the husbands, wives and children were separated from each other due to this inhuman act. This bill as envisaged resulted in the diminishing of the number of elected Tamil representatives in the parliament from 33% to below 20%.

2.2 Foreign Aid:

While several development projects are conducted in the Sinhala areas with the help of foreign aid the Tamil areas are willfully neglected.

2.2.1 Hundreds of "Model Villages" are formed in the south but not a single in the North or East.

2.2.2 The Mahaveli Ganga project was terminated with Anuradhapura instead of extending it to the Iranamadu tank in the North via the Kanagarayan Aru (river).

2.3 Scholarships:

Several Sinhalese are sent overseas, Japan and India on scholarships offered by the foreign countries and the Tamils are excluded from these except a very few provided they do have the proper political connections.

2.4 Schools Neglected:

2.4.1. The schools in the Tamil areas are given a step motherly treatment.

2.4.2. The children do not get their free books and stationery in time.

2.4.3. The supply of the midday meal is very irregular.

2.4.4. The school buildings are not properly maintained.

2.4.5. There is a great shortage for teachers especially to teach English and Mathematics in the Tamil areas while in the South certain schools are overstaffed due to political appointments.

2.4.6. The Tamil teachers do not get their pay pack in time.

2.5 Irrigation Tanks and Roads neglected

Irrigation tanks are not maintained regularly and properly. The irrigation channels too are neglected and sluice gates and diversion barricades do not function properly. A great amount of water gets wasted and the farmers undergo untold difficulties. The roads including the trunk roads are not maintained properly.

2.6 Colonisation:

This is the worst discrimination of all. It is premeditated, well orchestrated and being executed over fifty years. This is taking place even today. Large territories of the Tamil Homeland are colonized with Sinhalese. The ulterior motive was to make the Tamils to become a minority even in the Tamil Homeland. The Sinhala settlers are hand picked from among the undesirables such as the Island Reconvicted Criminals (IRCs) and hooligans. They are provided houses, wells, cattle and financial assistance to start with. All these facilities they are also supplied with arms and ammunitions to defend themselves and to guard the borders.

The statistics given below are obtained from the statistical department:

2.6.1 Neo-colonisation:

The latest form of “Neo-colonisation” is for the army to drive away the masses (Tamils & Muslims) en-bloc under the pretext of “Liberating” them from the LTTE and let them suffer in ill equipped refugee camps

The latest instances that took place three months back are the areas called Sampur, Mutur, Vakarai, Kudumbimalai (renamed as Toppigala) in the East. The people, hundred thousands of them, who were forcibly vacated from their residences in these areas, are still suffering in different refugee camps. Under the so called “Liberation of the East” more than 350,000 people both Tamils and Muslims became refugees overnight. Some of these refugees are forcibly relocated in other areas against their consent. Most recent episode of this nature took place in Aug/Sept 2007 in Silavathurai and Mullikulam in the district of Mannar. Here more than 6000 were displaced from their homes.

Buddhist monks have suddenly “Discovered Buddhist Relics” in the “liberated” areas and want the government to declare those areas as “Sacred Buddhist Areas.” Several Buddha statues and shrines are being erected in these areas. This means the IDPs will not be permitted to return to their homes in future. While the families are affected physically, hygienically, economically and socially the school going children are

affected education wise. According to a report several thousands do not attend a proper school. This figure was reported prior to the latest influx of 350,000 refugees from the East. The latest figures are not available as yet.

2.7 Industrialisations:

There were only three industries that were put up in the Tamil Homeland since independence. They were the Kankesan Cement Factory at Kankesanthurai, the Chemical Factory at Paranthan, both in the North and the Valaichenai Paper factory in the East. Out of these the factories in the North are defunct. The Paranthan Chemical Factory has been bombed to the ground without a trace. The entire area looks barren. But on the other hand the government has put up hundreds of factories in the South providing employment for hundred thousands of workers. Even though the Kankesan cement factory is under the government controlled area yet the GoSL did not deem it fit and proper to restart the factory. They cannot do that because it comes under the so called HSZ. Hence the workforce will be denied access to the factory.

2.8 Racial Prejudice:

The Sinhalese were given preference in every sphere of life. When it comes to employment the Sinhalese were preferred over the Tamil candidates. While distributing crown lands for colonisation it was the Sinhalese who were preferred.

2.9 Recruitment to the Armed Forces

The Tamils constitute nearly 18% of the total population in Sri Lanka. But the Tamils are less than 1% in the armed forces and is continuing to dwindle further as the intake of Tamils to the forces is virtually minimal.

2.10 Promotions Denied.

Several Tamil deputy heads of departments had to stagnate in that position while their juniors, who were Sinhalese, were promoted as heads of departments bypassing the Tamils.

3. Communal Riots:

Communal riots have become a recurrent affair in Sri Lanka. The first one was in 1915 when the Sinhalese went against the Muslims. The riots since 1956 were directed against the Tamils.

3.1 In 1956:

This was on a small scale, comparatively speaking, in 1956, when the Tamil members of the parliament held a peaceful demonstration in front of the parliament. The eldest was S.J.V.Chelvanayagam, who was over 75 years old ailing from Parkinson's disease. He was the leader of the Federal Party. In spite of that he and his colleagues were mercilessly beaten up by hooligans set up by certain elements from the government. The police and the army personnel who were around did nothing to stop that inhuman act. It is an internationally accepted democratic right of an individual or individuals to demonstrate her/his or their view peacefully. Over 200 Tamils were killed in this riot.

3.2 In 1958:

This was more wide spread over a large portion of the Sinhala areas. Innocent civilians on the roads were attacked. Sinhala thugs broke into Tamil home in the Sinhala areas, beat up the inmates and plundered their properties. The total number of Tamils killed was 300. Thousands of Tamils were driven out of their homes and had to seek shelter in refugee camps. While they were in the refugee camps their residences were looted. The Indian government came to the rescue of the Tamils very promptly. It sent passenger ships to Colombo and thousands of refugees were transported to the North and East. Most of the refugees were in their night dresses and came with empty hands as they were driven out of their houses in a hurry. The mere fact that the refugees were taken to North and East confirms the truth that the Tamils have a Homeland of their own where they can be safe.

3.3 In 1977:

This was much more bloody and wide spread than the previous ones. The total killed was over 1500 and the number displaced exceeded several thousands.

3.4 In 1983 - Black July 83:

This was the worst ever experienced by the Tamils who lived in the Sinhalese areas. Tamils living in every town and village were not spared. Not only the houses but business premises and Tamil industries were also subjected to severe attack. This was so severe that it attracted international attention and it was termed as the "Black July." The hooligans this time resorted to barbarism and brutality of the worst order. A few examples are appended to illustrate the barbarity of the boorish and cruel nature of events that took place during the riots.

- 3.4.1 A bus load of Tamils on their way to the Katunayake Airport from Colombo was stopped on the way, petrol was poured into the vehicle and all the passengers were burnt alive. Not a single soul survived in this ordeal. A Norwegian tourist who witnessed this barbarous event wrote about this in a daily paper "Bergens Tidende" on her return to her country.
- 3.4.2 A Hindu priest from a Temple in Kalutura was pulled out of his Temple and burnt alive by pouring petrol all over his body.
- 3.4.3 Small babies were thrown into hot tar saying that they were "Tiger Cubs."
- 3.4.4 Several girls and women were raped in the presence of their husbands and children. Some were subject to serial rapes. The breasts of several women were cut off.

A noteworthy factor was that some of the hooligans, who went round burning houses, had in their hands the details of the houses owned by the Tamils and those rented by the Tamils. The houses owned by the Tamils were set on fire after looting the goods inside. In the cases of the houses owned by the Sinhalese and rented by the Tamils, valuable items were looted and the furniture were brought out and set on fire. It was also reported certain members of the parliament were around directing the hooligans as to what to do. All these were being done right under the very eyes of the police and military. In a few instances where the gates were locked the military trucks were used to break open the gates to help the law breakers and provide them easy access to the houses.

The government waited for two whole days before it passed the "State of Emergency" thus providing a helping hand indirectly to the crime being committed.

It must be underlined here that no one was prosecuted instead the hooligans were encouraged to make hay at the expense of the Tamils. Another striking feature was that none of the Tamils were compensated for their losses. Instead their properties were bought for a song as many Tamils fearing a repetition of a similar event decided to sell their properties and return to their Homeland in the North and East. However when a few Sinhalese lost their lives due to a bus being subjected to a claymore attack the President made a sudden visit to the scene by helicopter and the entire families were adequately compensated. Nearly one million Tamils would have become as refugees at least once in their lives and none of them were compensated.

The Appendix 1 illustrates as to how the international community and the international media reacted to the events of the Black July of 1983.

4. Human Rights Violations:

Human Rights of the Tamils have been violated since the independence was granted in 1948. Apart from the disenfranchisement of the Indian Tamils several laws were enacted in parliament periodically denying the Human Rights on the Tamils.

4.1 Sinhala Only:

In 1956 the Sinhala only Bill was passed in parliament thus forcing the Tamils to learn Sinhalese, which was made the only official language. The Tamils were denied jobs in government and corporations if they were not conversant in Sinhalese. The government servants who were already in government service were compelled to learn Sinhalese. Those who failed to comply with this rule were denied their annual increments and promotions.

4.2 Standardisation

The Standardisation Bill was passed in the parliament in 1971. This Bill enforced the Tamil students to obtain higher marks than their Sinhalese counterparts to gain admission into the Universities.

Standardisation and the Sinhala Only bill contravene the Article 26.1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The (Sinhalese) historian C.R. de Silva wrote:

TAMILS SQUEEZED OUT OF HIGHER EDUCATION - 1971

"Everyone has the right to education... higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit" - Article 26.1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights"

"In 1971, a system of standardisation of marks was introduced for admissions to the universities, obviously directed against Tamil-medium students (referred to earlier). K.M. de Silva describes it as follows:

'The qualifying mark for admission to the medical faculties was 250 (out of 400) for Tamil students, whereas it was only 229 for the Sinhalese. Worse still, this same pattern of a lower qualifying mark applied even when Sinhalese and Tamil students sat for the examination in English. In short, students sitting for examinations in the same language, but belonging to two ethnic groups, had different qualifying marks.'

He observes that by doing this in such an obviously discriminatory way, 'the United Front Government of the 1970s caused enormous harm to ethnic relations.'

This was not the end; in 1972 the 'district quota system' was introduced, again to the detriment of the Ceylon Tamils.

By 1977 the issue of university admissions had become a focal point of the conflict between the government and Tamil leaders. Tamil youth, embittered by what they considered discrimination against them, formed the radical wing of the Tamil United Liberation Front. Many advocated the use of violence to establish a separate Tamil state of Eelam. It was an object lesson of how inept policy measures and insensitivity to minority interests can exacerbate ethnic tensions.”

4.3 Extra Judicial Killings

On an average more than 4 people are killed daily mainly in the army controlled areas in the North and East. It is very high in Trincomalee, Jaffna, Batticaloa and Vavuniya. Armed forces shoot innocent civilians irrespective of their age or sex. But youngsters are the most targeted lot. Some are taken in for “questioning” at army check points later their mutilated bodies are found thrown on the road or into a bush or a well. Army personnel both in uniform and in civil along with paramilitary elements, break into private residences and take away the youths both boys and girls and they are either never heard of again or their bodies are left abandoned. Signs of torture and rape can easily be noticed on their bodies. Some female bodies are seen with their breasts cut away. This is a terrifying phenomenon that is getting worse with time. These killings take place in close proximity to army checkpoints and so far nobody has been arrested.

| Districts | 22.02.02 to 19.11.05 | 20.11.05 to 31.08.07 | Total |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Jaffna | 64 | 655 | 719 |
| Kilinochchi | 03 | 06 | 09 |
| Mullaitivu | 01 | 84 | 85 |
| Vavuniya | 23 | 237 | 260 |
| Mannar | 11 | 136 | 147 |
| Trincomalee | 26 | 584 | 610 |
| Batticaloa | 179 | 494 | 673 |
| Amparai | 33 | 98 | 131 |
| Others | 14 | 102 | 116 |
| Total | 354 | 2396 | 2750 |

The above figures clearly show that 98% of the killings were done after the present President assumed office.

4.4 Presidential Commission:

This was appointed to inquire into 16 selected incidents of the killings. To this a group of eminent persons from several countries was invited as observers. It is called the International Independent Group of Eminent Persons (IIGEP). This is headed by Justice P.N.Bhagwati from India.

The IIGEP has on several occasions expressed their dissatisfaction in the way the inquiries are conducted.

“Among other things it said that the Commission has made a decision to conduct all investigations in closed sessions and not open to public and not even to the families of the victims.

The IIGEP is also concerned that the recent amendments to the rules of the Commission will permit the Commission to make a decision not to hold a public inquiry at the end of an investigation.

The IIGEP also added that the Commission is currently conducting investigations without relevant and sufficient information and evidence from state bodies and other persons. Such information is vital for comprehensive and effective investigations.”

The IIGEP also pointed out the interference from the office of the Attorney General.

4.5 Politicians Killed

Several politicians have been killed including members of parliaments.

| Killed in | Date Killed | Name | Age | Hails From |
|------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-----|------------|
| Amparai | 07.02.2005 | Ariyanayagam Chandranehr M.P. | | Amparai |
| Batticaloa | 25.12.2006 | Joseph Pararajasingam M.P | 71 | Batticaloa |
| Jaffna | 20.08.2006 | Sinnathamby Sivamaharajah M.P | 68 | Jaffna |
| Colombo | 10.11.2006 | Raviraj M.P. | | Jaffna |

Mr.J.Parrajasingam M.P. was inside the Church with his family attending the Midnight Mass on X'Mas Eve. The Church was fully packed and surrounded by nearly hundred army personnel. He was shot dead in the presence of so many persons and the security personnel, who were there, did nothing to arrest the perpetrators.

Mr.Raviraj M.P. was returning after an interview from a Sinhalese TV Station 10.11.2006 when his vehicle was stopped on the road and he was shot dead. There were two check points within 250 metres on either side of the spot where the shooting took place. How the executioners passed through these two check points unchecked makes the answer quite obvious. There were many eyewitnesses in the vicinity. But none was taken in for investigation and no one was arrested.

4.6 Media Personnel Killed:

Several media personnel have been killed, abducted or forced to give up their jobs as they were threatened to death. The killing started with Soyza - a Sinhalese - being the first victim. Next was the killing of Mylvaganam Nimalarajan. (see Appendix 9 & 17). The most striking was the murder of Sivaram alias Tharaki. Unknown people took him in a van and drove away. His body was found on the following day on a wayside. There were signs of

severe torture all over his body. It was found out that the van belonged to a paramilitary group working closely with the army called the People's Liberation of Tamils (PLOT). But no one was arrested or prosecuted until now even though several years have passed since the killing. People live in perpetual fear. **The worrying question in everybody's mind is; "Who is Next?"**

4.7 Media Personnel Harassed

Journalists are harassed and intimidated to such an extent that many have resigned their jobs fearing for their lives. (Appendix 17)

4.8 Missing Persons

Several persons get arrested under "roundup and search operations", or in private houses, business premises, outside schools, on the road, at checkpoints etc and they are rarely heard of thereafter or recovered as dead. And of all people the President once announced that most of those reported missing have gone overseas. Quite a number who were abducted and ransom extracted do not dare to report it to the authorities fearing deadly consequences. An organization called the Mothers of Missing Persons was formed and they have reported the details of their beloved ones to several Humanitarian organizations and they even met the President Mahinda Rajapaksha, who promised to look into the matter and bring redress to the mothers. But nothing has happened even though nearly a year has passed since the meeting they held with the President.

Details of Missing Persons

| Districts | 22.02.02to19.11.05 | 20.11.05to31.08.07 | Total |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Jaffna | 12 | 450 | 462 |
| Kilinochchi | 00 | 00 | 00 |
| Mullaitivu | 00 | 03 | 03 |
| Vavuniya | 00 | 26 | 26 |
| Mannar | 01 | 62 | 63 |
| Trincomalee | 02 | 40 | 42 |
| Batticaloa | 01 | 104 | 105 |
| Amparai | 00 | 12 | 12 |
| Others | 00 | 198 | 198 |
| Total | 16 | 895 | 911 |

From the forgoing figures nearly 98% of the persons reported have gone missing after the present President came into power.

4.9 Abductions for Political and Economical Reasons:

Abductions take place practically daily. There are two reasons for these abductions -for political and for economical reasons. The political reason behind the abduction is to hunt down the sympathizers of the LTTE, trade unionists, intellectuals, student leaders, media personnel and those suspected to belong to the LTTE.

The other reason for abductions is for economical purposes. They target rich Tamil and Muslim merchants and claim very high ransom for their release. These ransom amounts to several millions of rupees depending on how rich the victims are. There have been a few instances where the victims were killed when ransom was not paid. The economic abductions are more prevalent in Colombo. This has resulted in several businessmen closing down their businesses.

4.10 White Van Syndrome

Most of the abductions and some killings are done by persons operating in **unnumbered** white vans in areas under the control of the army. Check points are found for every few hundred metres especially in Colombo, where most of the abductions take place and these vans carrying fully armed persons pass through these networks of checkpoints without being checked or detected. The obvious answer is that these abductors are either operating hand in glove with the army personnel or they are from the army itself. People say that a chill passes through them every time they see a white van with or without a number plate.

4.11 Indiscriminate bombings

It is mostly civilian targets that are bombed by the air force. These include private residences, schools, Temples and Churches. St.Peters Church, Nagar Kovil Girl School, Senchola,i Paduvankarai are only a few. The air force dropped leaflets advising the people to go to the St.Peters Church in Kayts and while they were there, the Church was bombed killing 118 people comprising mainly of women and children were killed at the spot. Over 150 were reported injured.

5. Ethnic Cleansing:

Tamils from the North and East go to Colombo on several missions. Suddenly several lodges were rounded up by the police during the early hours in the night and people were ordered to get into the buses that were waiting outside the lodges. They were not given time even to pick up their bag and baggage. Most of them were in their night dresses. They were driven away towards the Tamil Homeland and dropped at the border towns. They were left high and dry on the middle of the road. When severe protests were aroused the government agreed to drive them back to Colombo after a couple of days.

This in other words meant that the Tamils have no Freedom of Movement in Sri Lanka. This is something similar to denying those from Scotland access to London, one from Hordaland from visiting Oslo or those in USA being denied movement between the different states.

After a couple of days the Prime Minister extended an apology for those affected. However another responsible minister Jeyaraj Fernandopillai made an announced that there was no need for the Prime Minister to have apologized. The Inspector General of Police (IGP) declared openly that there was no necessity for the Tamils living in outstations to stay in Colombo.

6. Paramilitary Groups:

These are splinter groups from various rebel organisations, who are working hand in glove with the Sri Lankan army. They are paid, supplied with arms, ammunitions and provided security as well. They are terrorizing the Tamil civilians not only in the army controlled areas in the North and East but also in Colombo. They do most of the dirty work for the forces. They resort to burglary, rape, and extortion at the point of a gun. They are behind most of the killings, burglaries, kidnapping and extortion in connivance with the forces. The Karuna group is notorious for recruiting children even at the age of twelve. They have banned the sale of all Tamil papers except the one released by EPDP, which is another paramilitary group.

A TV company from Australia have broadcast a program exposing the activities of this group.

The utterances of a former British Minister are appended:

The UK has been sharply critical of Karuna and his group in recent months with Dr. Kim Howells, the former Foreign Office Minister with responsibility for UK-Sri Lanka relations, making this clear in the House of Commons.

"In March 2006, he said that "the activities of the so-called Karuna faction are a destabilizing factor in Eastern Sri Lanka" and that "their violence is no more acceptable and that of the LTTE."

In May 2007 he said in the Commons that the LTTE ``is not the only source of violence here'' and that there were reports of government links to the Karuna faction.

"We believe his faction to be responsible for extra judicial killings, abductions, intimidations of displaced persons and child recruitment." He said adding that "Karuna's record is appalling, and we will be watching very closely that he acts on his commitments to the UN to address the child recruitment issue."

"We will want clear evidence that he has delivered against his welcome promises," Howell said. "Karuna needs to go further and cease all actions of violence and intimidations against civilians."

7. Seeking Refuge through Courts Voluntarily:

Several people have surrendered themselves at the Human Rights Office in Jaffna and willingly sought refuge in prison through the court. This illustrates that people are living in perpetual fear. As on 30.09.2007 it is reported that **152** people including two women and children have voluntarily accepted to go into jail as they feared for their lives. It is now noted that these innocent civilians are jailed sharing the cells with convicted criminals. On an average 3 to 4 people seek refuge in this manner daily in Jaffna.

8. High Security Zone: (HSZ)

Several hundred square kilometres of lands in the Tamil areas have been declared as HSZs. Large areas in the North comprising of Kankesanthurai, Palaly, Vasavilan, Tellipalai etc covering several hundred square kilometres are under the HSZ since 1995. Several Hundred thousands of people have been forcibly evacuated from these areas and are living in anguish for nearly twelve years. The HSZs are getting more and more spread over several areas in different places like the Sambur and Muthur areas. The latest move by the government is to declare the entire island of Mandathievu as a HSZ.

9. Embargo & Road Closure

The government has imposed an embargo on several Tamil areas. This includes the Jaffna peninsula and Vanni. The only main highway connecting Jaffna to the south is the A-9 road. This has been closed since the 11th August 2006. Normally around 300 lorries from the south and the north transported various goods to and from Jaffna. The stoppage of this resulted in the steep rise in the prices of all commodities. Even essentials like food, medicine, infant food and fuel are hard to come by. The government says that they are transporting the requirements by ship. But it is the military that lay their hands on it first.

In Jaffna people have to wait in queues for hours before they could get their rations from the cooperatives. If the goods are supplied by ship sufficiently as the government claims, why should the people be queuing up from the early hours? Several seriously ill patients succumb to their illnesses due to the restrictions on free movement resulting lack of accessibility outstations. There have been instances when even the Ambulances carrying patients have been refused to proceed through the checkpoint at Omanthai. Nearly 600,000 people are virtually kept in an open prison in Jaffna. A flight to Colombo from Jaffna costs Rs.10, 000.00, trip by boat to Trincomalee costs Rs.3,500.00 – one way. Here too one has to wait for several weeks. It is only the rich who can afford that luxury.

The farmers in Jaffna are particularly affected as they cannot transport their produces to out stations. This has created a glut in the market. Red onions for example are sold for Rs.20.00 per kilo, where as in Kilinochchi one has to pay Rs.160.00 to Rs.180.00 per kilo.

9.1 Restrictions on Fishing:

The army and the Navy impose restrictions on fishing. No fishing is allowed in the nights. Few hours of fishing is permitted during the day and that too is limited to fish within 200 to 500 metres from the coast. There have been several days when fishing gets completely banned. If they are caught fishing beyond this limit or over the staying the stipulated hours they get beaten up by the army and/or the navy. The fishermen dwell around the poverty line. Even if the fishing is prevented for a day they are badly affected. They are used to deep sea fishing using bigger boats and trawlers. But these are disallowed now. There are times even small boats with outboard engines are not permitted to be taken on to the sea. The boats carrying outboard motors with large horse power is also is disallowed. One fisherman will have only one outboard motor and if that is not allowed then he is left with no other alternative but to either borrow a catamaran or go wading into the sea along the coast and try his luck. The fisher folk are the ones severely affected by the tsunami and they are again being subjected to such inhuman treatment.

While the Tamil fishermen are disallowed to go deep sea fishing the navy lets the Sinhalese fishermen to do deep sea fishing in the sea that is along the Tamil areas.

The fishermen are very often subjected to mortar shelling from the ships. There have been instances where several fishermen were killed and many more wounded. When the shelling starts the fishermen fearing for their lives leave their fishing gears being and make it to the land. These equipments cost a fortune to the poor fishermen. If their boats were to get hit then they were forced to reluctantly leave the boat and either jump into the sea and swim their way back if they were alone in their boat but in case there were another boat or boats nearby they are saved by those boats and brought ashore. When a fisherman is injured and if he were to be the only breadwinner of the family then the family undergoes untold hardship and depends on well wishers like the Church to help them to tide over the situation until he is fit to go back to the sea.

9.2 Restrictions on Free Movement:

People living in the army controlled areas especially in Jaffna the freedom of movement is highly restricted. Curfews are imposed frequently. While the army moves its units several roads get blocked for hours and this leads to severe impediments. Workers cannot reach their destinations in time, students get late to schools and the sick cannot reach the hospitals in time.

10. Tsunami Rehabilitation:

The tsunami victims in the Tamil areas are discriminated when it comes to distribution of relief materials. Even though one year and eight months has passed since the tsunami tragedy, the Tamil victims of this disaster are still ailing under primitive conditions.

Especially Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi the percentage of work done is 19% and 8% respectively. All Sinhala areas have achieved completion from 83%, to 96% as on 31 12.2006. The data appended below, that appeared in an English weekly will speak for itself. It illustrates the disparity in the reconstruction works carried out between the Sinhala and Tamil areas.

Progress Report of tsunami Housing as at 01.12.2006

| Distr.Code | District | Total Needed | N0. Completed | % Completed |
|------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| 33 | Hambantota | 3193 | 5536 | 173% |
| 31 | Galle | 14,713 | 12,280 | 83% |
| 32 | Matara | 7,235 | 6,909 | 95% |
| 13 | Kalutara | 6,697 | 6,436 | 96% |
| 11 | Colombo | 4,953 | 166 | 3% |
| 12 | Gampaha | 511 | 455 | 90% |
| 62 | Puttalam | 74 | 14 | 19% |
| 52 | Amparai | 27,810 | 10,800 | 39% |
| 51 | Batticaloa | 22,523 | 11,787 | 52% |
| 53 | Trincomalee | 9,927 | 4,291 | 43% |
| 41 | Jaffna | 9,140 | 3,617 | 40% |
| 44 | Mullaitivu | 5,457 | 1,032 | 19% |
| 45 | Kilinochchi | 1,836 | 143 | 8% |

Hambantota is the consistency of the President Mahinda Rajapaksha. When 3193 houses were destroyed in that area, 5536 houses were built instead. Whereas there are thousands of victims of the tsunami including Sinhalese still ailing in make shift shelters in other areas. But when one compares this with the Tamil areas Ampara, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Jaffna, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi, which are the most affected areas, the work done is less than 30%.

10.1 Post-Tsunami Operational Management Structure [P-TOMS]

During the Peace Talks held between the GoSL and the LTTE it was accepted by both parties to conduct the relief work for the victims of the tsunami according to the terms in the P-TOMS. Even the International community and particularly the donor countries received the P-TOMS positively. But the GoSL subsequently went back on it due to a court ruling that P-TOMS was against the constitution. The President using his executive powers could have

overruled this but it was not done. The majority of the victims of the tsunami belong to the fishing community, who are generally very poor.

10.2 Internally Displaced People (IDP):

All most all the refugee camps are packed to the brim. There is no proper supply of food, basic amenities and even water supply is inadequate. The spread of diseases are very common as they live under unhygienic conditions. Due to the concentration of too many people in too small areas social problems occur. Since they had to leave their houses in a hurry they were not able to take all their belongings with them. Most of them took only what they could carry with them. It is now reported that all their belongings, that were left behind have been looted. There were none other than the army personnel and its paramilitary elements in the area. Even windows and doors are said to have been taken away. The future of these refugees is bleak. No one can tell them with certainty as to what is in store for them. This brings about a sense of frustration among the refugees. One can easily note how depressed they are. They say that they have not only lost all their belongings but also the self respect because they are now dependant on the hand outs given to them by some INGOs or local NGOs. The women are the most affected of the lot as they lack the privacy that they were used to since infancy in their own domicile. Due to either lack or insufficiency of toilets the women are again the inconvenienced lot. Some say that they control the call of nature for days before they make it. This causes other complications as loss of appetite and stomach disorders.

Some of the refugees have lost contact with their close friends and relatives. It hurts them a lot. This gives them paradoxically a sort of loneliness despite the crowd around them as most of them have not known each other before they came to the camp. Most of the refugee camps do not have electricity. There is a great shortage for kerosene not only in the camps but in the whole area. So for all practical purposes there is no night life as such. Many refugee camps are sited in remote areas. They are housed in Schools and religious premises to start with but they get moved to semi permanent places where there is no access to even basic amenities. Since the refugees cannot find any work in the vicinity of their camps they cannot generate any income even to buy the basic needs. Sickly patients and the old are terribly inconvenienced due to the lack of proper medical facilities.

The accessibility for the vehicles transporting relief materials are often restricted by the army that imposes road blocks and road closures very frequently. There have been several instances that the INGOs had to turn back with their goods as free passage was denied.

The congestion in the camps creates social problems among the refugees. The frustration tempts them to loose their patience easily.

10.3 Problems Faced by NGOs

The NGOs face untold hardships in implementing their duties. Several stumbling blocks are put in their way to hinder their work. Free accessibility is either restricted or denied very often. Many of their lorries loaded with food and essential commodities to be taken to the refugee camps are stopped half way and returned under the pretext of "security reasons." The NGOs even get branded as "White Tigers." Several insinuating remarks are released by certain ministers to the effect that there is misappropriation of funds and that all the funds brought in by the NGOs need scrutiny by the government. The physical harm executed on the personnel working for the NGOs has been highlighted above in this report showing their names, the date of execution and the names of the respective NGOs they worked for. Up to 31.08.2007 forty-four (44) employees attached to the NGOs have been killed.

On a single day 04.08.2006, 17 employees from the ACF after being ordered to lie down facing the floor were mercilessly murdered when the government forces emptied several rounds of bullets on them. A commission appointed to inquire into this massacre has not functioned satisfactorily. An international body comprising of eminent persons headed by a retired judge from India has expressed its dissatisfaction on the manner and the lethargic nature of the activities of the commission.

Several international Human Rights Organisations have expressed their concern over these killings. A couple of these are appended for perusal.

"Human rights and social welfare NGOs throughout the country have faced greater threats and harassment from authorities. These include assaults on NGO gatherings and a proposed paramilitary investigation into their activities, and have focused in particular on those groups unwilling to immediately support the official line." FreedomHouse,,4/6

"Since the renewed outbreak of fighting, humanitarian groups have faced severe restrictions on access to the embattled northeast and the government is cutting the number of work visas it grants to international nongovernmental organizations." (Hogg, HRW)

11. Conclusion:

The entire International Community has stated that the Ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka cannot be solved militarily. Instead it suggested the seeking of a peaceful solution that will satisfy the all the people in this country.

All the people in Sri Lanka in general and the Tamils in particular have undergone untold miseries and faced thousands of deaths within the last few decades. Billions of rupees are wasted in this endless war. Here is no respect for Human Rights. Innocent civilians are getting shot and killed daily. Similarly people go missing and they rarely return. Families are getting devastated. School proceedings get interrupted intermittently thus affecting the children's' education. Many have become widows and several are maimed. Billions worth of properties are being destroyed.

No military solution is possible for the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. An immediate cease fire, stoppage of all forms of Humanitarian Violations forthwith, and reach a permanent solution to satisfy the aspirations of the Tamils; thereby bringing an end to the misery prevailing in this country. An immediate cessation of all forms of killings, abductions and rape are earnestly solicited.

We wish to reiterate that this war will never solve the ethnic problem in this land. It will only amount to procrastination resulting in colossal waste of finances and innumerable deaths, destruction and enormous suffering to the poor masses. We therefore wish to strongly recommend that the United Nation should use its good offices to prevail upon both parties firstly to stop all killings and abductions and bring about a cease fire forthwith and commence Talks in a cordial manner as early as possible.

Both parties must develop trust in each other. This is very essential for the success of the talks. They must remember that they are going to live together peacefully in the future.

Appendix 01

Events of July 1983

"...Clearly (July 1983) was not a spontaneous upsurge of communal hatred among the Sinhala people. It was a series of deliberate acts, executed in accordance with a concerted plan, conceived and organized well in advance.... Communal riots in which Tamils are killed, maimed, robbed and rendered homeless are no longer isolated episodes; they are beginning to become a pernicious habit." **(Paul Sieghart: Reporting on his Mission to Sri Lanka on behalf of the International Commission of Jurists, March 1984)**

Sinhalese savagery within the Maximum Security Prison

Reporting on the killing of 52 Tamil prisoners in the maximum security Welikade prison in Colombo on 25th July 1983 the Madras Hindu a responsible, well respected and widely read Indian newspaper stated as follows.

"Selvarajah Yogachandran, popularly known as Kuttimuni, a nominated member of the Sri Lankan Parliament... one of the 52 prisoners killed in the maximum security Welikade prison in Colombo two weeks ago, (on July 25) was forced to kneel in his cell, where he was under solitary confinement, by his assailants and ordered to pray to them. When he refused, he was taunted by his tormentors about his last wish, when he was sentenced to death. He had willed that his eyes be donated to someone so that at least that person would see an independent Tamil Eelam. The assailants then gouged his eyes...He was then stabbed to death and his testicles were wrenched from his body. This was confirmed by one of the doctors who had conducted the postmortem of the first group of 35 prisoners." **(Madras Hindu, 10 August 1983)**

The world press carried the following reports shortly after the Tamil holocaust of July 1983

- The Daily Express, London, reported on 29 August 1983 as follows:

"A tourist told yesterday how she watched in horror as a Sinhalese mob deliberately burned alive a bus load of Tamils. And she said she had heard other tourists describe how women and children have been murdered in the same way.

Mrs. Eli Skarstein, back home in Stavanger, Norway, told how she and her 15-year old daughter, Kristin, witnessed one massacre.

"A mini bus full of Tamils was forced to stop in front of us in Colombo", she said. "A Sinhalese mob poured petrol over the bus and set it on fire. They blocked the doors and prevented the Tamils from leaving the vehicle." Hundreds of spectators watched as about 20 Tamils were burned to death."

Mrs. Skarstein added: "We can't believe the official casualty figures ... Hundreds, may be thousands, must have been killed already ... The Police force, 95 percent Sinhalese, did nothing to stop the mobs ... There was no mercy, women, children and old people were slaughtered. Police and soldiers did nothing to stop the genocide."

Another foreign visitor wrote to "VOICES" – published by the Christian Conference of Asia – Urban Rural Mission, Kowloon, Hong Kong as follows: "I have seen many riots in my country, but nothing compared to what I saw in Colombo. If I were a Tamil, I would never feel secure in that country again."

President JR Jayawardene of Sri Lanka in his address to the nation broadcast on television on Thursday 28 July 1983 (after allowing full five days of uncontrolled savagery against the Tamils) did not utter a single word of regret or sympathy for the thousands of Tamils who had been massacred to death and the tens of thousands made homeless and housed in refugee camps in their own country.

Instead President Jayawardene announced as follows:

“The time has come to accede to the clamor and the national desire of the Sinhalese people to prevent the country being divided.”

The Guardian, London wrote as follows:

“There is no God-given law that an island shall support just a single state, as examples round the world, both happy and unhappy demonstrate: Borneo, New Guinea, Dominica, Tierra del Fuego, Ireland. If the island of Sri Lanka is to remain a single, democratic state, the rights of its minorities will have to be restored and entrenched.”

Shortly after the Tamil genocide of 23 to 25 July 1983 the Washington Post in its editorial dated August 4, 1983 wrote as follows:

“If living together is so hard, what about a separate state in the North for the Tamils? They have as good a claim to a nation of their own as most members of the United Nations. But as always it is a question of power, and the Sinhalese have the power. Do they also have the wisdom to see that the Tamil minority is treated in a way that justifies its retention within a unitary state?”

Ian Jack wrote in the Sunday Times, London on 16 December 1984 as follows:

“If the world thinks that the territorial demarcation of Sinhala area and Tamil Eelam area is a problematical issue, then the world does not know one salient truth. The division has already occurred – in the minds of both peoples.”

The Madras based Tamil Information Magazine, wrote in September 1984:

“When they (the Sinhalese soldiers) are sent to Tamil areas as an occupation force, they go with hostility in their hearts and with no understanding in their heads, not knowing the language of the people, not taught to appreciate a different culture and patterns of behavior. There is neither patriotism, nor idealism nor motivation, nor aim. So they do what comes naturally – loot, rape and kill.

It is time the government realized that these poor semi-literate Sinhala youths are engaged in an unequal battle. So used they are to dismissing the enemy as “terrorists”, the government and the Sinhala people are yet to confront the truth. The enemy they face is a gallant band of intelligent, strongly motivated, idealistic Tamil youths, who possess both skill and courage, determination and the will to win, and prepared to pay the supreme sacrifice of their lives and the lives of their dear and near ones for a cherished objective. Moreover, they are fighting on their own soil and among their own people, who are proud of them.”

The International Commission of Jurists Review, December 1983:

"Under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, acts of murder committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group as such are considered as acts of genocide. The evidence points clearly to the conclusion that the violence of the Sinhala rioters on the Tamils (in July/August 1983) amounted to acts of genocide."

Minority Rights Group Report on Tamils of Sri Lanka, Walter Schwarz, September 1983:

"...The makings of an embattled freedom movement now seem assembled: martyrs, prisoners and a pitiful mass of refugees. Talk of ' Biafra' which had sounded misplaced in 1975, seemed less unreal a few years later... As this report goes to press in September 1983, the general outlook for human rights in Sri Lanka is not promising. The present conflict has transcended the special consideration of minority rights and has reached the point where the basic human rights of the Tamil community - the rights to life and property, freedom of speech and self expression and freedom from arbitrary arrest have in fact and in law been subject to gross and continued violations. The two communities are now polarised and continued repression coupled with economic stagnation can only produce stronger demands from the embattled minority, which unless there is a change in direction by the central government, will result in a stronger Sinhalese backlash and the possibility of outright civil war".

Sri Lanka: A Mounting Tragedy of Errors - Report of International Commission of Jurists, Paul Sieghart, March 1984:

"Clearly this was not a spontaneous upsurge of communal hatred among the Sinhala people. It was a series of deliberate acts, executed in accordance with a concerted plan, conceived and organized well in advance. But who were the planners? Communal riots in which Tamils are killed, maimed, robbed and rendered homeless are no longer isolated episodes; they are beginning to become a pernicious habit."

Daily Telegraph, London, 26 July 1983:

"Motorists were dragged from their cars to be stoned and beaten with sticks during racial violence in Colombo, the Sri Lanka capital yesterday (24 July). Others were cut down with knives and axes. Mobs of Sinhala youth rampaged through the streets, ransacking homes, shops and offices, looting them and setting them ablaze, as they sought out members of the Tamil ethnic minority... A Sri Lankan friend told me by telephone last night how he had watched horrified earlier in the day as a mob attacked a Tamil cyclist riding near Colombo's eye hospital, a few hundred yards from the home of Junius Jayawardene, the nation's 76 year old President. The cyclist was hauled from his bike, drenched with petrol and set alight. As he ran screaming down the street, the mob set on him again and hacked him down with jungle knives."

Guardian, London, 26 July 1983:

"Pillars of smoke and flame rose over the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo yesterday as mobs attacked the minority Tamil community and looted their homes and stores...Some of the worst rioting erupted in the morning only 200 yards away from President Jayawardene's house... All over the city by mid-morning lorries jammed with young men shouting anti Tamil slogans, were moving into Tamil areas and into shopping centres picking out Tamil shops... Petrol was siphoned from cars into buckets and plastic bowls to speed the work of arson. By noon Colombo resembled a city after a bombing raid. Smoke obscured the sun; main roads were blocked by burnt out vehicles. The rioting surged into the heart of the city. In area after area Sinhalese rioters systematically picked out Tamil homes and shops, whether occupied or empty, and looted and destroyed them..."

London Times, 2 August 1983:

"(A British tourist) said: 'Last Wednesday a taxi driver took us into Negombo... and the whole town was smouldering. All the Tamil property in the centre of the town had been burnt down. The cigarette factory had gone up together with a cinema and a garage. There was smoke everywhere and the whole area was a burnt out mess. There was no sign of any Tamil anywhere. We were told that Tamils were being grabbed off buses by groups of people wielding iron bars. We also saw young Sinhalese stopping cars to siphon out the petrol so they could use it to start fires.'"

New Statesman, Peter Hartnell, 12 August 1983:

"Two weeks ago Nuwara Eliya became the focal point for much of the communal violence that has engulfed the island... We had already been in Sri Lanka for 10 days... before the events of 29 July. We had started in Colombo; we then fled to Kandy to escape the violence; when it followed us there we moved to Nuwara Eliya. Yet subsequent reports confirmed that the damage done to Nuwara Eliya was at least the equal of anything experienced elsewhere.. By dusk on Friday 29 July, not one building in the central street was left standing; fire had spread to the hills too, engulfing shops, homes and buses..."

Appendix II

The Details of the NGOs Killed since January 2006

1. Action Against Famine (ACF) - 04.08.2006

1. Primus Anandarajah
2. Mathavarajah Ketheeswaran
3. G.Sritharan
4. Narmathan
5. R.Arulrah
6. P.Piratheepan
7. M.Rishikesan
8. Y.Kodeeswaran
9. Miss.K.Kovathani
10. Miss.S.Romila
11. Miss.V.Kokilavathani
12. Miss.G.Kavitha
13. S.Ganesh
14. Abdul Latheeb Jabar
15. A.Jaseelan
16. K.Koneshwaran
17. Muraleetharan

2. Danish Refugee Council

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 18. Arumanayagam Thalosius | 23 rd July 2007 |
| 19. Sivarasa Vimalarasa | 19 th June 2007 |
| 20. Thambiah Tharmasri | 11 th June 2006 |
| 21. Narayamoorthy Kandeepan | 11 th Janu 2006 |

3. Hello Trust

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 22. Nagarajah Narendran | 9 th Feb 2007 |
| 23. S.Rajendiran | 9 th January 2007 |
| 24. S.Parameswaran | 4 th Feb 2007 |
| 25. Kunaratnam Lohithas | 4 th Feb 2006 |
| 26. Charles H.Raveendiran | 15 th Nov 2006 |

4. Tsunami Housing Project

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 27. Rasiah Muraleeswaran | 8 th .July 2006 |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|

5. Qutech

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 28. Pathmanathan Shanmugaratnam | 10th April 2006 |
| 29. Selvendra Pratheepkumar | 10th April 2006 |

6. International Red Cross

01st Junne 2007

30. Sinnarajah Shanmuganathan
31. Karthikesu Chabdiramohan

7. Refugees Methodist Social Organisation 6th Aug 2007

32. Mohamed Safeer Mohamed Risfee

8. Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation

33. Kasinathar Ganeshalingam 29th Janu 2006
34. Thangarajah Kathirkamar 29th Janu 2006
35. Miss Thanushkodi Premini 30th Janu 2006
36. Thamirraj Vasantharajan 30th Janu 2006
37. Shanmuganathan Sujendiran 30th Janu 2006
38. Kailasapillai Raveendiran 30th Janu 2006
39. Arunesaraja Satheeskaran 30th Janu 2006
40. Krishnapillai Kamalanathan 02nd July 2006
41. Muthurajah Aruleswaran 24th Mar 2007

9. UN Agency

42. P.Jesley Julian 24th Aug 2006

10. World Bank NorthEast Irrigation Agricultural Project

43. Ratnam Ratnarajah

11. World Care Development Organisation

44. Ragnathan Ramalingam 11th Sept 2006

Appendix III

Details of Media Personnel Killed

1. Mr.Navaratnam a representative for Eelamurasu in Chunnakam.
2. Mr Mahalingam a reporter (The Island).
3. Mr.Satchithanantham publisher of the paper called “Thamilina Viduthalai.”
4. Mr.Richard de Zoysa. His body was found floating in the sea near Dehiwela.
5. Rohankumara the editor of “Sattana,” another Sinhala paper.
6. In 1990 one employee was killed when its office was subjected to aerial bombing.
7. In 1996 Uthyan highlighted the Chemmani killings and hand grenades were thrown at its office.
8. BBC reporter Mylvaganam Nirmalarajan. The first to be killed in Jaffna
9. The next famous journalist who got killed was Mr.Aiyathurai Nadesan.
10. Mr. Tharmaratnam Sivaram better known as Tharaki. The identity of the vehicle he was taken away was traced to belong to PLOT, one of the paramilitary groups working with the army. But none was arrested.
11. The JVP threw a grenade into the office of the Sudar Oli in August 2005 and killed its watcher Mr.David Selvaratnam.
12. Ms.Shakriya Gomes, the lady announcer from the Rupavahini, and Mr.Davis Guruge.
13. Mr.Kannamuthu Arasakumar distributor of Eelanatham from Kalmunai.
14. Distributor Mr.Krishnapillai Joekumar.
15. The watcher at the Uthayan office in Jaffna was shot and killed.
16. Sudar Oli’s employee Mr.Subramaniam Sukirtharajan.
17. Mr.Krishnapillai Navaratnam, distributor of the Tamil daily Thinakural.
18. Mr.George Sahayathas (Marketing Manager) and MrRasaratnam Rajitkumar from the Uthayan were killed. A third person was severely injured.
19. Mr.Mariathas Manoraj a distributor of Metro News and Thinakural - 22 years old.
20. Mr.Sathasivam Baskaran Distributor of Uthyan paper.
21. The manager of the daily Eelanadu Mamanithar Mr.Sinnathamby Sivamaharajah

Media Personnel Harrassed

- The editor of the Sunday Leader Lasantha Wickrematunge and his wife were pulled out of their car one night and both were beaten up. Lasantha is harassed even today.
- Journalist Kumarakuruparan was abducted by “unidentified people” and was released after two days.

- Another to get a similar treatment was Thavarajah Thavamani for the Maharajah's TV network.
- Lakbima a paper in Sinhala, owned by Tiran Alles was forced to close down as its bank account was frozen.
- The JVP caused severe damage to their properties to the Sakthi TV.
- JVP was behind the brutal attack on Mr.Jathurshan of the Sudar Oli
- Reporter for Eelanadu Mr.Manicam escaped several attempts on his life.
- Mr.Iqbal Athas works for Sunday Times. TheDefense Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksha ordered the removal of this security arrangement. Several international agencies including the American government have demanded assurance for the safety of Mr.Athas
- Victor Ivan the chief editor of Ravaya newspaper was harassed.
- When Elephant-pass was taken over by the Tigers the then President declared the state of emergency and muzzled many papers particularly Uthayan (Tamil), The Sunday Leader (English) and Irithaperamuna (Sinhala) etc.
- The most interesting part of all these killing is that none of the perpetrators have ever been prosecuted.
- There is a total ban imposed on the distribution and sale of certain Tamil news papers in the East by the Karuna group.

This is the sort of "Freedom of the Press" and "Freedom of Expression" that exists in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

The government is using its conflict with the LTTE and the rhetoric of counterterrorism to suppress dissent in Sri Lanka.

The worrying question in everybody's mind is; "Who is Next?"