



வடகிழக்கு மனித உரிமைகள் செயலகம் NORTH EAST SECRETARIAT ON HUMAN RIGHTS NESOHR

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NESOHR Case Report issued on 24th January 2006

Arbitrary killing of mother and two daughters on 14th January

Renuka



Name: Bojan Renuka (Female) (30)
Marital status: Married for 2 weeks
Address: 17, Kanagasabai Road, Manipay, Jaffna
Occupation: English teacher

Renuka studied at Mahajana College in Tellipalai near the home of her parents. She displaced with the rest of the family from their own home in Tellipalai in the 1990's because the Sri Lankan Army took over the land and declared it a military High Security Zone. Renuka has a B.Com degree. She was working as an English teacher at the Thimiyabarathy School near her home in Manipay. Renuka was married just two weeks prior to the killing.

Shannuka



Name: Bojan Shannuka (Female) (23)
Marital status: Single
Address: 17, Kanagasabai Road, Manipay, Jaffna
Occupation: Student

Shannuka, like her sister Renuka, studied at Mahajana College in Tellipalai. Shannuka is a good actress and she has acted in locally produced successful Tamil movies. She was studying towards a degree. Shannuka also acted in a drama that was produced to promote friendship and networks between Muslim, Tamil, and Sinhala youths. The drama was directed by a leading Sinhala director whose name the family is unable to remember.

Arththanareeswari

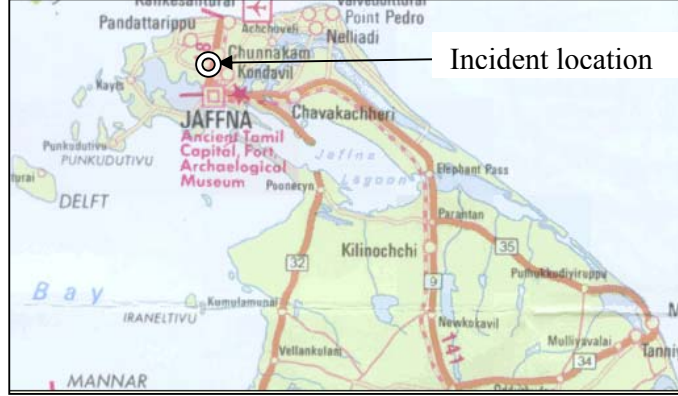


Name: Bojan Arththanareeswari (Female) (51)
Marital status: Married with 3 children
Address: 17, Kanagasabai Road, Manipay, Jaffna
Occupation: Home maker

Arththanareeswari, mother of Renuka and Shannuka, had three accomplished children. The third child is her son Bojan Ullasan who is a Mathematics teacher at Jaffna Central College.

The incident

At 8.00 pm on the night of the murder the family noticed large number of Sri Lankan Army (SLA) soldiers standing in front of their gate for sometime. Their home in Manipay where the family lived is a two story building. They were able to see the SLA soldiers standing in front of their gate. All of the SLA soldiers were covering their face with black cloth. Family felt threatened at that time. However, by 10.00 pm the SLA soldiers had left and the family felt slightly at ease and went to bed.



Other residents in the vicinity said that they saw an unusually large number of SLA soldiers on the road leading to the family's home around 10.00 pm. These residents commented that they were puzzled by this SLA operation at that time and that when they think back about the SLA operations they now realize that the SLA soldiers were in fact clearing the road leading to the family's home.

At 10.00 pm, the Bojan family heard dogs barking that became louder and louder. The family heard big bangs on their gate and when they woke up and looked, they saw nine men jumping over their gate and banging their door. **Bojan Senior (56)** opened the door and his son **Ullasan (26)** was behind the father. The gunmen made both the father and the son to sit on the ground just outside the house.

By then Shannuka came to the entrance and she was pulled outside of the house by the gunmen and shot. She fell to the ground immediately. Hearing the gunshot Shannuka's sister and mother, Renuka and Arththanareeswari, looked out from their rooms. By now the gunmen were inside the house and were spraying bullets. Renuka and Arththanareeswari were hit by bullets and fell to the ground. Renuka's husband who was inside the room remained in the dark and the gunmen did not see him.

Father Bojan and son Ullasan were still sitting on the ground just outside the house as ordered by the gunmen. Father had his head between his knees and was crying. His son Ullasan was turning and looking inside the house where his mother and two sisters lay dead.

As the gunmen walked out they shot the two men sitting on the ground. The bullets were clearly aimed at their chest, however, the father received the bullet on his knee because of his squatting position and son received the bullet on his waist because he had turned and looked inside the house. When Ullasan was shot he got up and ran inside screaming and fell in the front hall. The gunmen returned to the room and shot Ullasan again.

Once the gunmen left the house Renuka's husband came out. Arththanareeswari, Renuka and Shannuka were dead by then. Bojan Senior had a bullet wound on his knees. Renuka's husband attended to Ullasan to stop his bleeding.

Fear prevents assistance to the family

When Renuka's husband tried to get a vehicle to take the injured and dead family members to the hospital no one in the neighbourhood would come to their assistance out of fear of retribution. Bojan Senior used to work for St John's Ambulance. Through that contact he asked for an ambulance. He was able to do that an hour after the shooting and the ambulance arrived two hours after the shooting. If not for this father and son too would have died. Father and son were admitted to the Jaffna Teaching Hospital where they are still receiving treatment.

The inquiry

Several law "enforcing authorities" which included, Manipay police, Jaffna police head office, and CID from Colombo, visited the remaining family members to inquire about the incident. SLMM also visited the family members to inquire.

Note by NESOHR: NESOHR is with holding the identities of the people who have provided us with information about the case for their own safety. NESOHR is ready to share more detailed information with any reputable international human rights organizations wishing to inquire into this case.

International diplomats, media personnel and INGO staff in the island have asked us why we have not issued reports on the attacks on the Sri Lankan military. We are surprised by this question. NESOHR is styled as a national human rights organization and its main task is to protect the human rights of those who are unarmed. For this reason we do not bring under our purview the attacks on armed persons like the Sri Lankan military, members of the LTTE and members of other armed groups.

Dr N Malathy
(NESOHR Secretary)