



# TAMIL REFUGEES' ORGANIZATION

( U.K. BRANCH )

TEL:475-0356.

258 - GREEN STREET, LONDON.E7 8LF

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PATRON : PROF. MICHAEL DUMMETT, NEW COLLEGE, OXFORD

## MR. P. NEDUMARAN'S REPORT.

TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL REPORT IN TAMIL.

I travelled widely in the Tamil areas of Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. I visited Jaffna, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Kilinochi, Mannar, Trincomalee and other towns and villages where Tamils live. I covered about 1200 miles by road and roughly 300 miles by sea on my journey which took 23 days in all. For the entire trip I was escorted by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam who were responsible for my personal safety.

I met religious leaders, govt. officials, doctors, professors and lecturers, students, farmers, fishermen, community leaders, members of the citizens' committees, women's organisations, representatives of all the liberation groups, journalists and others and talked to them.

### Cease - Fire

The so-called cease-fire is a complete farce. The Sinhalese army under cover of the cease-fire is avidly hunting down innocent Tamil civilians, particularly in the Eastern Province where its main objective is to drive all Tamils out by terrorising them. The Tamils in Trincomalee and Batticaloa have been set upon with such ferocity and thoroughness, no doubt on orders which they carry out with relish, by the Sinhalese army, navy, air force and commandos that thousands have been massacred.

As a result of these brutal attacks and killings nearly 100,000 Tamils have fled and are fleeing in terror as hapless refugees. Similar attacks in the Vavuniya district have brought forth thousands of new refugees fleeing for their lives, On tractors, bullock carts, on foot and by boat. I saw them fleeing with my own eyes. I visited several refugee camps myself and consoled these unfortunate refugees as best I could. I give below a breakdown of refugee camps:

<u>District</u>	<u>Refugee Camps</u>	<u>Numbers</u>
Jaffna	32	26,000
Mullaitivu	17	8,355
Mannar	4	4,313
Kilinochi	4	3,472
Trincomalee	27	48,350
Thalaiadi	2	260
Vavuniya	17	4,844
Periyavilan	1	298
Total	104	95,892

In addition to the above about 20,000 homeless Tamils have sought refuge with their relatives.

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THAMILNADU/NEDUMARAN'S REPORT/Contd.

In fact after the ' cease-fire' the number of Tamil refugees has almost doubled. Most of these refugees do not receive any help from the government. LTTE and the public are looking after them.

A large number of refugees are, originally from the up country estates and plantations. In the massacres and attacks on Tamils in 1977 and 1983 many up country Tamil families had been driven out by Sinhala thugs from their homes in which they had lived for over 150 years. They had cleared the jungle and lived in the districts of Vavuniya and Mannar by cultivating their plots of land. Some families had suffered in both attacks of 1977 and 1983. Again quite a few of these families became refugees for the third time in 1985. Thus the hardest hit are the families of recent Indian origin, dating back to the conscripted South Indians whom the British had dumped in Ceylon. No government officials ever visit the refugees. Up to date NO TAMIL MINISTER from the Sri Lankan cabinet has called at these camps!!

More and more refugees are being created daily by the atrocities of Sinhala armed forces which are mainly directed against the Tamil civilians; very often totally innocent people including women, children, old people, the sick and disabled. Their plots, fields, fishing boats, shops, warehouses and houses are systematically destroyed under the guise of searching for or fighting guerillas. When terrified & run, they are shot by Sinhala 'soldiers' from safe positions. The so-called Home Guards, who are criminals, hardened by years in prison, recently released and armed and trained for the specific purpose of attacking Tamils and their homes, are also active in this wholesale destruction of Tamil villages.

The air force drops bombs while artillery fire is directed from about 2 miles away. The cowardly armed forces, too scared to come by road for fear of having to face guerillas are using helicopters and cannon to attack Tamil homelands. Mossad is training Home guards in terrible torture methods. The home guards set fire to villages, murder, rape and loot at will. These operations are well planned and executed.

The refugees cannot leave their camps because the armed forces are very active. If the people move out of the camps for any purpose they are attacked. Thus they are trapped inside.

The air force is building landing strips in Kilinochi, Point Pedro, Batticaloa, Mullaitivu, and Vavuniya by destroying hundreds of houses belonging to Tamils and Muslims. Of course any building that stands in the way of these landing strips is destroyed without any regard to people living in or using them.

Food production, water supply, electricity and other normal civil amenities are non-existent in these devastated areas. Thus people are made to suffer. The number of refugees keeps increasing.



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Just as the number of refugees has doubled after the ceasefire, (see Table on page 1) a breakdown of the increase in army camps SINCE THE CEASE FIRE is given below.

Amparai	2	new camps.
Batticaloa	4	" "
Tricomalee	6	" "
Mullaitivu	3	" "
Jaffna	5	" "
Mannar	5	" "
Vavuniya	4	" "

These 29 new camps have been set up during the four months from the date of the cease fire. In addition to these all the previous camps and bases have been strengthened and fortified further.

During this period about 5000 Tamils have been arrested and held without trial in detention camps.

ANOTHER TWO THOUSAND TAMILS HAVE BEEN BRUTALLY MURDERED!!!!!!

Mr Nedumaran's secret visit was completed by the end of October 1985.

### Conclusion

In addition to the 95,892 refugees, figures personally checked by Mr Nedumaran, at least another 10,000 must be added because we have the figures for Batticaloa which he did not visit. Furthermore, more and more Tamils are being made homeless EVERY DAY by the vicious genocidal policy of the Sinhala government.

The only country which has accepted Tamil refugees without rigorous obstacles is India, through its State of Tamilnadu, with much support from the States of Kerala and Karnataka both in the Lok Sabha at Delhi and in their own State Assemblies. India has been magnificent in its help. However the response from the very rich and powerful Western nations has been and is minimal. While West Germany and France have taken in, on a temporary basis, 39,000 Tamil refugees yet the U.K. has allowed in only 2,000!! Here is a breakdown:

India.. . . . .	125,000
Federal Republic of Germany.....	20,000
France .. . . . .	19,000
Holland .. . . . .	1,400
United Kingdom... ..	2,000
Switzerland .. . . . .	1,800
Italy .. . . . .	1,000
Canada.....	3,000
Denmark .. . . . .	200
U.S.A.....	200
Norway.....	100
Sweden.....	100
Australia .. . . . .	3,000
Total	176,800

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While these figures are an astounding indictment of the Sinhala government and its blatant attack on Tamils in their homelands, one is further appalled at the effect on hundreds of thousands of Tamils who have lost their livelihood. Fishing is or was a major source of jobs and income in the North and East. The destruction of many of the boats and the ban on fishing by the security ministry has resulted in about 150,000 fishermen being deprived of their means of living, either wholly or in part mainly in the Northern Province. Airborne raids and gunboat attacks on villages caused havoc.

Rehabilitation of refugees

While those who are physically out of Sri Lanka can feel safe and try to make a new life for themselves we are concerned about the 105,892 refugees within Tamil Homelands who are at the mercy of marauding soldiers, militia, navy and airforce. The TRO(UK) in conjunction with its parent organisation in India is doing all it can to alleviate their sufferings by sending clothes, money and medical supplies. We also give all help necessary to the relatives of refugees in other parts of the island. Many of them had to leave their relatives behind when fleeing for their lives.

Recommendations:

1. We call upon the United Nations to take immediate action through its High Commissioner for Refugees to protect refugees within Sri Lanka from brutal attacks by the airforce and armed forces on the ground.
2. Transport those wishing to go to India. The U.N. must set up its own camps so that refugees can be safely looked after in the first instance and later rehabilitated.
3. A United Nations Force or a Commonwealth Contingent or an Indian Force should monitor the so-called cease - fire which is non-existent.
4. Medical supplies should be taken to these camps by the International Red Cross to ensure that such supplies are actually used for the sick refugees. Otherwise disease will spread and reach epidemic proportions. Infant mortality must be checked.
5. No funds or supplies should be allocated to the Sri Lankan government from international resources because it turns a blind eye to the shooting of refugees, from helicopters, in camps and also hunting them down in the jungle when they flee there.

Finally, the Tamil Refugees' Organisation is dealing with about 30 inquiries for help and advice per week. Most of these calls are from refugees in the U.K. We need your help and support for our work which is entirely voluntary.

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