

Under Fire: Persons in Humanitarian Service

A Preliminary Report on
Killings and Disappearances
of Persons in Humanitarian Service in Sri Lanka,
January 2006 – December 2007

07 March 2008

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1. INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of 2006, violence related to the conflict has escalated dramatically, and killings and disappearances of civilians have become widespread in Sri Lanka. Internal displacement has also been a serious problem. Government agencies have not been able to provide adequate assistance and protection to civilians. Thus, national and international humanitarian actors have become a crucial life line for thousands of affected people.

However, the situation on the ground has not been at all conducive to humanitarian work. Since 2006, numerous people engaged in humanitarian work have been killed and subjected to enforced disappearances. Many more individuals and organizations have been subjected to threats and attacks. Restrictions have been created which make it difficult or, in some cases, impossible to access civilians needing protection and assistance. Obtaining and renewing visas and work permits for expatriate staff of humanitarian agencies has also become extremely difficult.

While some incidents such as the killing of 17 ACF staff in August 2006 in Mutur received public attention, many incidents received hardly any coverage in local and international media.

Complaints have also been lodged with relevant authorities for a large number of these cases, but there is no available public information about progress made in investigations. To the best of our knowledge, there has not been a single prosecution or conviction in any of the incidents.

Through this report, the Human Rights in Conflict program of the Law & Society Trust (LST) seeks to remember and pay tribute to all humanitarian actors who have made a supreme sacrifice to serve all Sri Lankans. We also hope to contribute to a process of ensuring justice to these persons killed and subjected to enforced disappearances, their families and loved ones, by monitoring the status of investigations. LST believes that it is only by such documenting, that analyzes trends of attacks, threats and restrictions facing those involved in humanitarian work in Sri Lanka, can we put in place mechanisms to prevent such incidents in the future and bring about a more conducive environment for humanitarian work.

In line with this belief, on 19 November 2007, we shared a list we had compiled using available public information with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights. We sought the Ministry's support to document these incidents and requested additional information and corrections. The request for feedback specifically referred to the incident itself, as well as investigations, prosecutions and convictions. Staff of LST called the Ministry after a few days and were assured of feedback by staff at the Ministry. However, no response was received, even after three months. Earlier this week, another request was made through a letter, and an updated table of incidents was shared with the Ministry. However, to date, we have received no feedback. We therefore release this preliminary report based on information available to us via staff of humanitarian agencies, other civil society groups and media, as well as information gathered through frequent visits to the North and East, where all but two of the incidents occurred.

We have limited the scope of this preliminary report to killing and enforced disappearances of those who were engaged in humanitarian service. We have included staff of humanitarian NGOs, persons involved in humanitarian projects, as well as religious leaders who engaged in humanitarian work. We use the term "humanitarian service" rather than "humanitarian work" because those killed do not fit neatly into one category of persons. Rather, they belong to a broader range of Sri Lankan nationals of all ethnicities – lay people and religious leaders, technical staff and labourers – working to make a tangible improvement in the lives of people suffering from the double blow of disaster and the ongoing conflict.

We have not endeavored to identify the perpetrators, although some of the information available may indicate or refer to alleged perpetrators. Another crucial issue that arises from this preliminary report is ambiguity around the reason and motivation for the killing and enforced disappearances of these humanitarian actors. It is often not clear whether the incidents are the result of the person's involvement with a particular organization or project, or the nature of their work, or whether they are due to reasons that have nothing to do with these involvements.

Although the government has been unwilling or unable to provide information on these cases we have documented, we expect the government to use information in this report to investigate into these incidents, to uncover relevant factual information and ensure independent and speedy investigations into all these incidents, leading to prosecutions and conviction of those responsible. We also expect that such information would be made available to all Sri Lankans and concerned members of the international community.

We hope to present an updated and comprehensive report in the future.

I wish to thank the principal author, Mr. Dilshan Muhajarine, for his patience and hard work in putting together this preliminary report. Thanks are also due to the team at the Human Rights in Conflict program at LST, especially Researcher Ms. Dulani Kulasinghe and Executive Director of LST, Ms. Damaris Wickremesekera, for her encouragement. Appreciation is also due to several friends and colleagues, who encouraged and supported us to take up this project. I also remember with gratitude heads and staff of several humanitarian agencies who shared information and their views with us, and whose input has been invaluable in putting this report together.

Ruki Fernando
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Law & Society Trust (LST)

06 March 2008

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2006, it has been “open season” on humanitarian workers. What is universally considered a noble and compassionate profession, seeking to protect and assist people affected by conflict and natural disasters, has turned into one of the deadliest jobs in Sri Lanka. International humanitarian law seeks to protect humanitarian actors and requires armed actors, both state and non state, to turn their guns away from them. But in Sri Lanka, the guns have literally been on those engaged in humanitarian service, putting them directly in the line of fire.

In addition to the war against each other, armed actors in Sri Lanka are clearly waging a war against humanitarian service and those engaged in humanitarian service.

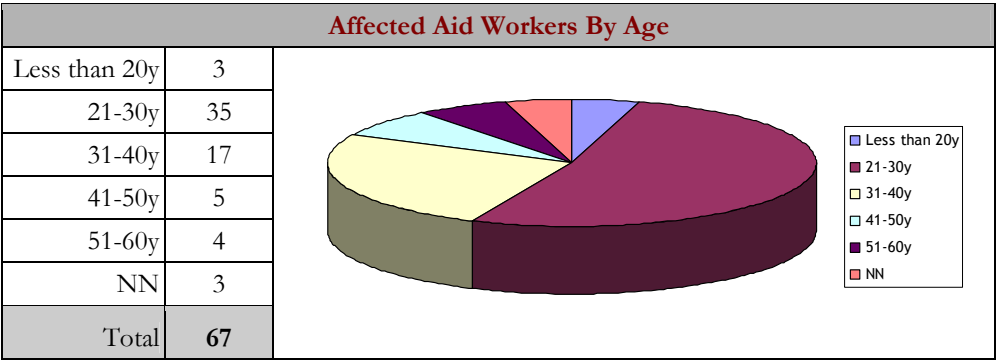
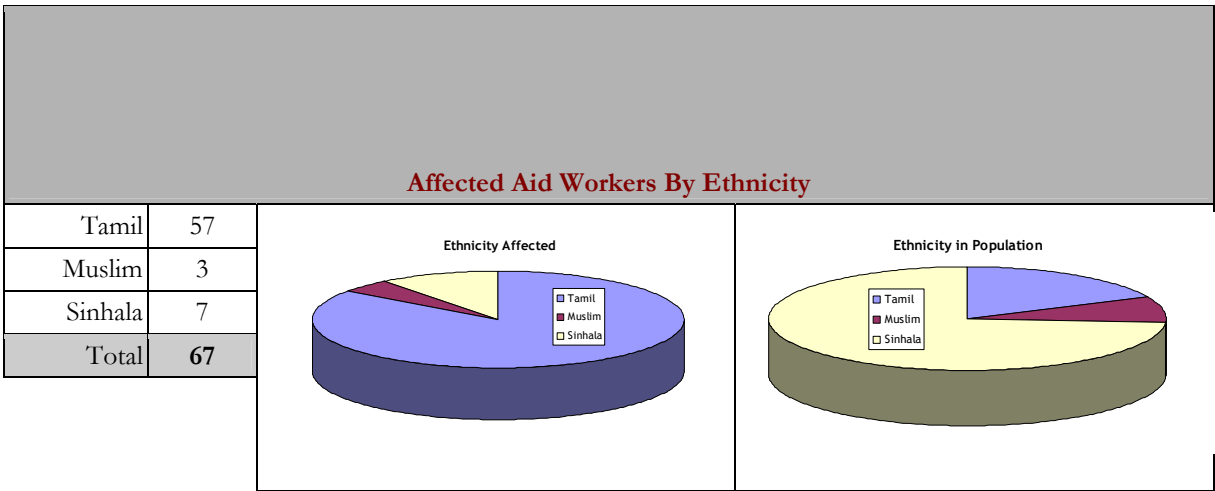
In the 24 month period between January 2006 – December 2007, there has been a killing or enforced disappearance of at least one person engaged in humanitarian service in every month, except March and October 2006.

Tamil male humanitarian workers between the ages of 21 and 40 have been the most vulnerable, as the analysis below indicates. More than a third of all humanitarian workers killed were from Jaffna, while all but one incident occurred in the Northern or Eastern provinces. Even in the incident that occurred outside the North East – the killing of two Sri Lankan Red Cross workers – the affected persons were from Batticaloa and based there for their work.

Victims’ occupations ranged from program staff, field staff, administrative staff of humanitarian agencies, as well as others employed to work in development and relief projects such as masons and construction workers. Victims also include two Catholic Priests and a Buddhist Monk – the monk and one of the priests became involved in humanitarian service as part of their religious practice.

To the best of our knowledge, not a single person has been convicted or even prosecuted in relation to any of the incidents listed in this report. Some of these incidents are more than two years old. There have been media reports and statements from the government that investigations into some cases have commenced and are proceeding, but no details have been made available to the public, only vague statements that “there is progress being made”. Some agencies and family members have claimed that they have not been informed of progress into investigations. Some cases have been included in the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry appointed to look into serious human rights violations, and while others have been taken up by UN human rights bodies such as the Special Procedures, but even in these, there is no known outcome. Reputed international groups, including the International Independent Group of Eminent Persons (IIGEP) appointed by the President in late 2006, have concluded that some of the investigation processes are not in line with international standards and norms.

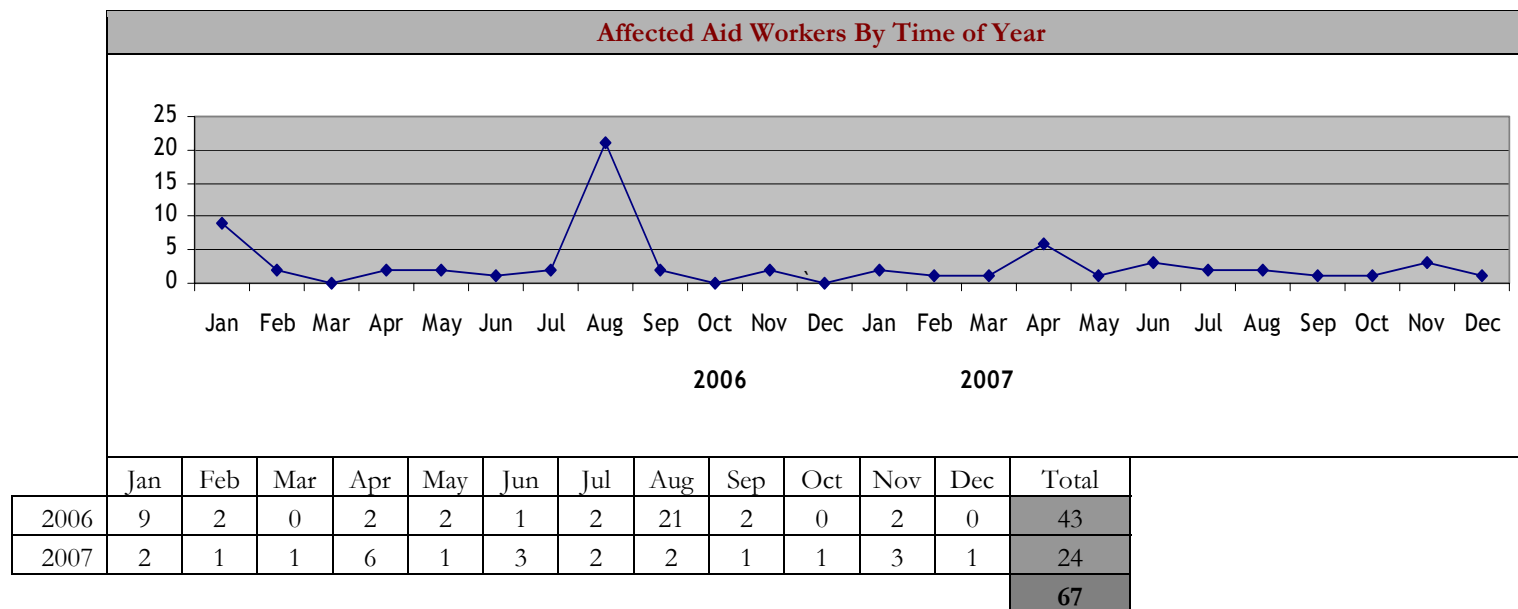
The Government appears unwilling to accept international advice and assistance being offered to address these many serious shortfalls. In view of the state of denial regarding the extent and seriousness of atrocities committed against those in humanitarian service, seen against a backdrop of continuing threats, attacks and restrictions, as well as impunity for even the most serious abuses, the future of humanitarian service in Sri Lanka looks bleak.



Affected Aid Workers By Type of Incident	
Disappearance	23
Killing	44
Total	67

Affected Aid Workers By Gender	
Male	62
Female	5
Total	67

Affected Aid Workers By Region	
Jaffna	21
Batticaloa (including incidents at Batticaloa-Polonnaruwa border)	17
Vavuniya	2
Trincomalee	20
Ampara	2
Mannar	3
Colombo	2
Total	67



Affected Organizations By Aid Workers and By Incidents		
	Persons	Incidents
Danish Demining Group	6	5
Tamils Rehabilitation Organization	9	4
Halo Trust	6	6
Mines Advisory Group	1	1
HUDEC-Caritas	2	1
Norwegian Refugee Council	1	1
North East Irrigated Agriculture Project	1	1
Other [short term, contractual staff]	9	3
Action Contre la Faim	17	1
Religious Leaders (Catholic, Buddhist)	2	2
Sri Lanka Red Cross Society	4	3
United Nations Office for Project Services	1	1
Sewalanka Foundation	1	1
World Concern	1	1
Terre des hommes	1	1
Danish Refugee Council	1	1
United Methodist Committee on Relief	1	1
Jesuit Refugee Service	1	1
Rural Development Foundation	1	1
World Vision	1	1
TOTAL	67	37

3. TABLE OF INCIDENTS

Notes to column headings in the table below:

1. Incident number and total number of persons affected by the incident in parenthesis
2. Name of persons in alphabetical order
3. M for male and F for female
4. M – Muslim, S – Sinhala and T – Tamil

Incident ¹	Date	Place, District	Type of Incident	Persons Affected ²	Age	Sex ³	Ethnicity ⁴	Organization
#01 (2)	11 Jan. 2006	Point Pedro, Jaffna	Disappearance (abduction in white van)	(1) Narayanamoorthy Kandeepan	30	M	T	Danish Demining Group (DDG)
				(2) Thambiah Tharmasri	28	M	T	
#02 (2)	29 Jan. 2006	Welikanda Polonnaruwa	Disappearance (abduction in white van)	(3) Kasinathar Ganeshalingam	53	M	T	Tamil Rehabilitation Organization (TRO)
				(4) Kathirkamar Thangarasa	43	M	T	
#03 (5)	30 Jan. 2006	Welikanda Polonnaruwa	Disappearance (abduction in white van)	(5) Arulnesarasa Satheeskaran	23	M	T	Tamil Rehabilitation Organization (TRO)
				(6) Kailayapillai Ravindran	26	M	T	
				(7) Shanmuganathan Sujendran	24	M	T	
				(8) Thambiraja Vasantharajan	24	M	T	
				(9) Thanushkodi Premini	25	F	T	
#04 (1)	04 Feb. 2006	Kaithady, Jaffna	Disappearance	(10) Kanagaratnam Logithas	23	M	T	HALO Trust
#05 (1)	17 Feb. 2006	Batticaloa	Disappearance	(11) Parameswaran	NN	M	T	Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
#06 (2)	10 Apr. 2006	Mirusuvil, Jaffna	Killing (claymore)	(12) Chelvendra Pradeepkumar	29	M	T	HUDEC – Caritas Jaffna
				(13) Shanmugaratnam Pathmanathan	55	M	T	
#07 (1)	15 May 2006	Vavuniya	Killing (shot)	(14) Jeyaruban Gnanapragasam	22	M	T	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
#08 (1)	26 May 2006	Kalviyankadu, Batticaloa	Killing (shot)	(15) Ratnam Ratnaraja	48	M	T	North East Irrigated Agriculture Project (NEIAP)

#09 (1)	08 Jun. 2006	Polikandy, Vadamarachchy, Jaffna	Disappearance	(16) Rajani	26	M	T	FORUT funded Nilavan Kudiyiruppu Tsunami Housing Scheme
#10 (1)	02 Jul. 2006	Oddumawady Bridge, Valaichchenai, Batticaloa	Disappearance	(17) Krishnapillai Kamalanathan	24	M	T	Tamil Rehabilitation Organization (TRO)
#11 (1)	08 Jul. 2006	Polikandy, Vadamarachchy, Jaffna	Killing (beaten to death)	(18) Rasiah Muraleeswaran	42	M	T	FORUT funded Nilavan Kudiyiruppu Tsunami Housing Scheme
#12 (17)	04 Aug. 2006	Muttur, Trincomalee	Killing (shot execution-style)	(19) Abdul Latif Mohammed Jauffer	31	M	M	Action Contre la Faim (ACF)
				(20) Ambigapathy Jayaseelan	27	M	T	
				(21) Ganesu Kavitha	27	F	T	
				(22) Gangatharan Sritharan	36	M	T	
				(23) Kanakarathnam Kovarthani	28	F	T	
				(24) Mathawarajah Ketheswaran	36	M	T	
				(25) Mohanthasa Rishikesan	23	M	T	
				(26) Muralitharan Dharmarathnam	34	M	T	
				(27) Muthulingam Narmathan	24	M	T	
				(28) Richard Arunraj	23	M	T	
				(29) Sathyawel Koneswaran	24	M	T	
				(30) Sellaiya Ganesu	54	M	T	
				(31) SingharasaPrimus Anantharajah	32	M	T	
				(32) Sivapragasam Romila	25	F	T	
				(33) Thurairaja Pratheepan	27	M	T	
				(34) Vairamuthu Kokilavathani	29	F	T	
				(35) Yogarajah Kodeeswaran	31	M	T	

#13 (2)	20 Aug. 2006	St. Mary's Church, Allaipiddy, Kayts, Jaffna	Disappearance	(36) Rev. Fr. Tiruchchelvan Nihal Jim Brown	34	M	T	Parish Priest of Allaipiddy (Catholic Priest)
				(37) Wenceslaus Vines Vimalathas	40	M	T	Assistance to Parish Priest of Allaipiddy
#14 (1)	20 Aug 2006	Cheddikulam, Vavuniya	Killing (shot)	(38) Nagarasa Thavaranjitham	24	M	T	Sri Lanka Red Cross Society
#15 (1)	24 Aug. 2006	Munaiyoorkulam, Thambiluvil, Ampara	Killing (shot)	(39) P. Jestly Julian	29	M	T	UNOPS
#16 (1)	01 Sep. 2006	Karavedy, Jaffna	Killing (shot)	(40) Sathiyamoorthy Selvaroopan	27	M	T	Sewalanka Foundation
#17 (1)	11 Sep. 2006	Nilaveli Road, Trincomalee	Killing (shot)	(41) Ragunathan Ramalingam	31	M	T	World Concern
#18 (1)	15 Nov. 2006	Old Park Rd., Chudikkuli, Jaffna	Disappearance (abduction in white van)	(42) Charles Huston Ravindran	30	M	T	HALO Trust
#19 (1)	23 Nov. 2006	Periyaneelavanai, Ampara	Killing (shot)	(43) Sabaratnam Rubesh	31	M	T	Terre des Hommes (TDH)
#20 (1)	04 Jan. 2007	Racca Rd., Jaffna	Disappearance (abduction in white van)	(44) Subramaniam Parameswaran	29	M	T	HALO Trust
#21 (1)	09 Jan. 2007	Kellner Rd., Nallur, Jaffna	Disappearance	(45) C. Rajendran	35	M	T	HALO Trust
#22 (1)	09 Feb. 2007	Temple Rd., Nallur, Jaffna	Disappearance	(46) Nagarasa Narenthiran	27	M	T	HALO Trust
#23 (1)	24 Mar. 2007	Periyamadu, Mannar	Killing (claymore)	(47) Muthuraja Aruleswaran	30	M	T	Tamils Rehabilitation Orgaziation (TRO)

#24 (6)	01 Apr. 2007	Mailampaaveli, Batticaloa	Killing (shot)	(48) Liyanamohottilage Dayananda Cabral	33	M	S	Village of Hope (post-tsunami orphanage for survivors)
				(49) Liyanamohottilage Thushara Madusanka Cabral	17	M	S	
				(50) Thoranahena Gedara Susantha Ranjith Abeykoon	24	M	S	
				(51) Tissa Walan Mudiyansele Danapala	54	M	S	
				(52) Tissa Walan Mudiyansele Wijethunga	17	M	S	
				(53) Wele Pendige Chandrasiri	45	M	S	
#25 (1)	13 May 2007	Morawewa, Trincomalee	Killing (shot)	(54) Ven. Thero Handungamuwe Nandarathna	NN	M	S	Chief Incumbent of Sri Pabbathaaramaya (Buddhist Monk)
#26 (2)	01/02 Jun. 2007	Fort Railway Station, Colombo / Dumbara Estate, Ratnapura	Killing (shot)	(55) Karthequesu Chandramohan	26	M	T	Sri Lanka Red Cross Society
				(56) Sinnarasa Shanmugalingam	32	M	T	
#27 (1)	19 Jun. 2007	Kuppilaan, Mayilankaadu, Walikamam, Jaffna	Disappearance	(57) Sivarasa Vimalarasa	20	M	T	Danish Demining Group (DDG)
#28 (1)	18 Jul. 2007	Mulliveethi, Ariyaalai, Jaffna	Disappearance (abduction in white van)	(58) Sivalingam Prabakaran	34	M	T	Danish Demining Group (DDG)
#29 (1)	23 Jul. 2007	Jaffna	Killing (shot)	(59) Arumainayagam Alloysius	26	M	T	Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
#30 (1)	06 Aug. 2007	Trincomalee	Disappearance	(60) Mohamed Zavahir Mohamed Rizvi	NN	M	M	Methodist Community Organization for Refugees (UMCOR)
#31 (1)	20 Aug. 2007	Kasthooriar Rd., Jaffna	Killing (shot)	(61) Sivasamy Sritharan	31	M	T	Danish Demining Group (DDG)
#32 (1)	26 Sep. 2007	Mannar	Killing (claymore)	(62) Rev. Fr. Nicholaspillai Pakiaranjith	40	M	T	Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) / (Catholic Priest)

#33 (1)	28 Oct. 2007	Naranthanai, Kayts, Jaffna	Killing (shot)	(63) Shanmuganathan Pakeerathanathan	28	M	T	Danish Demining Group (DDG)
#34 (1)	10 Nov. 2007	Weerapura, Mannar	Killing (shot)	(64) Gouthu Jalaltheen	38	M	M	Rural Development Foundation (RDF)
#35 (1)	16 Nov. 2007	Jaffna	Killing (shot)	(65) Thangarajah Sujeevan	26	M	T	HALO Trust
#36 (1)	28 Nov. 2007	Navatkuda, Batticaloa	Disappearance	(66) Sinnathamby Sathananthan	28	M	T	World Vision
#37 (1)	14 Dec. 2007	Jaffna	Killing (shot)	(67) Sooriyakanthu Thavarajah	43	M	T	Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (Jaffna Branch)

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4. SHORT SUMMARY OF EACH INCIDENT AND PROGRESS MADE ON INVESTIGATIONS

INCIDENT #1 – 2 DDG demining staff abducted in Point Pedro (Jaffna) on 11-Jan.-06	16
INCIDENT #2 – 2 TRO staff abducted in Welikanda (Polonnaruwa) on 29-Jan.-2006	17
INCIDENT #3 – 2 TRO staff abducted in Welikanda (Polonnaruwa) on 30-Jan.-2006	18
INCIDENT #4 – 1 Halo Trust demining staff abducted in Kaithady (Jaffna) on 04-Feb.-2006	22
INCIDENT #5 – 1 MAG demining staff abducted in Kallady (Batticaloa) on 17-Feb.-06	23
INCIDENT #6 – 2 HUDEC-Caritas staff killed in Mirusuvil (Jaffna) on 10-Apr.-2006	24
INCIDENT #7 – 1 NRC staff killed in Vavuniya on 15-May-2006	25
INCIDENT #8 – 1 NEIAP staff killed in Kalviyankadu (Batticaloa) on 26-May-2006	26
INCIDENT #9 – 1 Forut tsunami-rebuilder-mason missing in Polikandy (Jaffna) on 08-Jun.-2006	27
INCIDENT #10 – 1 TRO staff abducted in Valaichchenai (Batticaloa) on 02-Jul.-2006	28
INCIDENT #11 – 1 Forut tsunami-rebuilder-mason killed in Polikandy (Jaffna) on 08-Jul.-2006	29
INCIDENT #12 – 17 ACF staff killed in Muttur (Trincomalee) on 04-Aug.-2006	30
INCIDENT #13 – 2 abducted (a parish priest and his assistant) in Allaipiddy-Kayts (Jaffna) on 20-Aug.-2006	33
INCIDENT #14 – 1 SLRCS staff killed in Cheddikulam (Vavuniya) on 20-Aug.-2006	35
INCIDENT #15 – 1 UNOPS staff killed in Munaiyoorkulam, Thambiluvil (Ampara) on 24-Aug.-2006	36
INCIDENT #16 – 1 Sewalanka staff killed in Karavedy (Jaffna) on 01-Sep.-2006	37
INCIDENT #17 – 1 World Concern staff killed in Nilaveli Road (Trincomalee) on 11-Sep.-2006	38
INCIDENT #18 – 1 HALO Trust staff abducted in Chudikkuli (Jaffna) on 15-Nov.-2006	39
INCIDENT #19 – 1 TDH staff killed in Periyanceelavanai (Ampara) on 23-Nov.-2006	40

INCIDENT #20 – 1 HALO Trust demining staff abducted in Racca Rd. (Jaffna) on 04-Jan.-2007	41
INCIDENT #21 – 1 HALO Trust demining staff abducted in Kellner Rd., Nallur (Jaffna) on 09-Jan.-2007	42
INCIDENT #22 – 1 HALO Trust demining staff abducted in Temple Rd., Nallur (Jaffna) on 09-Feb.-2007	43
INCIDENT #23 – 1 TRO staff killed in Periyamadu (Mannar) on 24-Mar.-2007	44
INCIDENT #24 – 6 post-tsunami building constructors killed in Mailampaaveli (Batticaloa) on 01-Apr.-2007	45
INCIDENT #25 – 1 Buddhist priest killed in Morawewa (Trincomalee) on 13-May-2007	47
INCIDENT #26 – 2 Red Cross staff abducted in Colombo and found killed in Dumbara Estate (Ratnapura) on 01 & 03-Jun.-2007	48
INCIDENT #27 – 1 DDG demining staff abducted in Kuppilaan (Jaffna) on 18-Jun.-2006	50
INCIDENT #28 – 1 DDG demining staff abducted in Ariyaalai (Jaffna) on 18-Jul.-2007	51
INCIDENT #29 – 1 DRC staff killed in Jaffna on 23-Jul.-2007	52
INCIDENT #30 – 1 UMCOR staff abducted in Trincomalee on 06-Jul.-2007	53
INCIDENT #31 – 1 DDG demining staff killed in Kasthooriar Rd., (Jaffna) on 20-Aug.-2007	54
INCIDENT #32 – 1 Catholic priest killed in Mannar on 26-Sep.-2007	56
INCIDENT #33 – 1 DDG demining staff killed in Naranthanai, Kayts (Jaffna) on 28-Oct.-2007	57
INCIDENT #34 – 1 RDF staff killed in Weerapura (Mannar) on 10-Nov.-2007	58
INCIDENT #35 – 1 HALO Trust demining staff killed in Jaffna on 16-Nov.-2007	60
INCIDENT #36 – 1 World Vision staff killed in Navatkuda (Batticaloa) on 28-Nov.-2007	61
INCIDENT #37 – 1 SLRCS staff killed in Jaffna on 14-Dec.-2007	62

INCIDENT #1 – 2 DDG demining staff abducted in Point Pedro (Jaffna) on 11-Jan.-06

Incident Narrative with Background:



Narayanamoorthy Kandeepan (30) and **Thambiah Tharmasri (28)** lived in the same house and work for the Danish Demining Group (DDG) in Jaffna. Both usually left for work at the crack of dawn on a motorbike and return home by 2.00PM. It is the practice in the Northeast to start demining work just before sunrise and finish around midday so that workers do not have to stand in the hot sun all day. On Wednesday 11 January 2006 they left home in Odaikkarai Lane in Point Pedro at 5.30AM as usual for work in Kuppilan. Occupants from

heard Kandeepan receiving three calls that morning. Kandeepan was heard saying that he was leaving soon. Less than one hour later someone in the neighbourhood brought the National Identity Card and the mobile phone belonging to Kandeepan and handed it over at Kandeepan's home. The neighbour said that it was found on the road. The family went out to investigate what had happened and the following account was given by several neighbourhood witnesses.

Residents close to the location where Kandeepan and Tharmasri were abducted say they saw several Sri Lankan army (SLA) soldiers standing on the road in that early hours of the morning just before the two men were abducted. People said that they thought the SLA was planning an early morning roundup. Travelers who arrived at the Nalu Junction and the VB Road junction said that they were turned away by the SLA, preventing them from entering the strip of road between the two junctions. They also said that they saw a white van parked at both of these two junctions.

When Kandeepan and Tharmasri were traveling on this strip of road between Odakkarai junction and VB Road junction there were no other civilians on that strip of road except the SLA soldiers who were roaming. According to residents on this strip of road, they heard noises and voices. When they attempted to look out, the SLA threatened them and told to stay inside. Kandeepan and Tharmasri were then forced into the white van while the two resisted the attempt. As the white van drove away with the two men Kandeepan had thrown his National Identity Card, his mobile phone and other belongings that were in his pocket on to the road.

Kandeepan had helped with the matchmaking between his sister and Tharmasri. They had been married only seven months. Tharmasri and his wife (Kandeepan's sister) lived in the same house as Kandeepan, his parents and his siblings. Kandeepan's family said that his sister, who is pregnant, was in a state of shock.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

People told the family that they saw the white van driving to the military camp in the Pallapai high security zone. When the family went to lodge a complaint at the police station and told the police what they had heard from the residents, the police asked the family for evidence that the two men were abducted. Later they also suggested that someone else may have abducted the two men. It is alleged that the two were abducted by EPDP operatives at a spot about 150 metres away from the 52-4 brigade army camp.

Sources (in order of publication):

- NESOHR Case Report - Abduction of N Kandeepan and T Tharmasri by Sri Lankan Army (12-Jan-2006)
[//www.nesohr.org/inception-sept2007/human-rights-reports/KandeepanCaseReport.pdf](http://www.nesohr.org/inception-sept2007/human-rights-reports/KandeepanCaseReport.pdf)
- Tamil Speaking Aid Workers Becoming an Endangered Species in Sri Lanka (30-Aug-2007)
[//federalidea.com/focus/archives/143](http://federalidea.com/focus/archives/143)

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INCIDENT #2 – 2 TRO staff abducted in Welikanda (Polonnaruwa) on 29-Jan.-2006

Incident Narrative with Background:



On 29 and 30 January 2006, in two separate incidents, 5 and 15 TRO staff were abducted in a white van while traveling from Batticaloa to Kilinochchi after official business. Both incidents of abductions took place on the same stretch of highway soon after the military checkpoint in Welikanda.

On 29 January, **Kasinathar Ganeshalingam (53)**, **Kathirkamar Thangarasa (43)** and three female TRO employees were driving from the town of Batticaloa in eastern Sri Lanka, on their way north to the TRO headquarters in the town of Kilinochchi in northern Sri Lanka. According to two TRO workers who were later released, at about 8PM they saw a white Toyota Hi-Ace van following their vehicle.

They were stopped and subjected to checks at the Sri Lanka Army checkpoint at Welikanda, on the border of Batticaloa and Polonnaruwa districts, and saw the white van parked behind their vehicle. When they moved a short distance from the checkpoint, the white Hi-Ace van came behind them, overtook their vehicle and stopped them.

An unknown number of armed men got out of the van and assaulted both Ganeshalingam and the driver, Thangarasa, tied them up and dumped them in the back of the TRO vehicle. The TRO vehicle was then driven for about three hours and finally stopped at a camp in a jungle area at about 11.30PM. The five TRO staff members were held overnight in the camp. The women, who were reportedly held separately



from their male colleagues, claim that they heard the two men being beaten by their captors. The following evening at around 9PM, two female staff members, Punniyamoorthy Nadeswari and Sithiravel Sivamathi, were released, taken to the nearest main road and put on a bus by their abductors, who warned them not to speak to anyone about what had occurred. A third female TRO staff member, S Dosini, was released later.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

[See Incident Report #3 that follows.]

Sources (in order of publication):

[See Incident Report #3 that follows.]

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INCIDENT #3 – 2 TRO staff abducted in Welikanda (Polonnaruwa) on 30-Jan.-2006

Incident Narrative with Background:



Five more TRO employees—**Arulnesarasa Satheeskaran (23), Kailayapillai Ravindran (26), Shanmuganathan Sujendran (24), Thambiraja Vasantharajan (24) and Thanushkodi Premini (25)**—

“disappeared” on 30 January in similar circumstances in the same area (see Incident Report #2 above). At 4pm, 15 TRO staff members were traveling from the organization's Batticaloa District office to the town of Vavuniya to attend a training session, when their way was blocked by a white van approximately 100 metres after the Sri Lanka Army checkpoint at Welikanda. According to those who were later released, the white van had previously been following them. Five armed Tamil-speaking men, aged between 20 and 25, reportedly got out of the white van and boarded the TRO vehicle. One of them dragged the driver out of his seat and then drove the vehicle to a jungle area.

All 15 of the captives were then blindfolded. T Premini, S Sujendram, T Vasantharajan, K Ravindran and A Satheesharan were removed from the TRO vehicle and the remaining 10 were taken back to the main road and released. The released TRO workers reported that when one of the abductors shouted out that there was a police jeep ahead, another of the abductors replied that this would not present a problem to them. Before the 10 TRO staff members were released, they were told by the abductors that they should prepare the funeral rites for the five remaining abductees.

The abducted TRO staff members had been involved in post-tsunami/post-war humanitarian relief and development work with orphaned children.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

TRO Kilinochchi and TRO Colombo were notified of these events late in the evening on 30 January 2006 and immediately contacted the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM), ICRC, various human rights groups, international NGOs, Members of Parliament and other significant actors in the Sri Lankan peace process in Batticaloa, Colombo and worldwide.

TRO was informed that, as night had fallen, none of the above mentioned agencies could journey to the area in question due to the prevailing security situation and concerns for their own safety. On the morning of 31 January 2006, TRO personnel in Batticaloa and Colombo filed statements and requests with the SLMM, ICRC, the Batticaloa Police, the office of the President of Sri Lanka and the media.

The two preschool teachers released after the 29 January abduction were detained at the Batticaloa police for 23 hours when they went there to make a statement on 2 February. Then on 8 and 9 February the Human Rights Commission, Colombo took statements from them during full-day proceedings followed by 10-hour statements from them by the CID, Colombo on the 10 and 11 February. No feedback on the statements or reports of investigations have been shared with the families or the TRO by the HRC or the Police.

To date the Sri Lanka Police and security forces have yet to conduct any meaningful investigation or inquiry into these disappearances. Even though many appeals locally and internationally were issued for the release of the missing TRO employees, the Police have not succeeded in tracing the perpetrators and instead have harassed the eye-witnesses who complained about the incident. Since the TRO was perceived as the relief and development arm of the LTTE, the abductions did not receive the local attention it deserved. A theory was also floated in the South that the abductions were stage-managed by the LTTE to avoid participating in the next round of peace talks in Geneva.

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka investigated the case and made a report to its head that has never been released. In addition to not thoroughly investigating the abduction of the TRO aid workers the GoSL has ignored appeals by the TRO to list this case among the 15 cases to be investigated by the Presidential Commission of Inquiry. Neither the TRO nor any of the families have to date received any reports or response from any investigating authorities despite persistent inquiries. There have been no arrests, prosecutions or convictions in this case.

The TRO and families of the seven abducted staffers held a press conference at the TRO Colombo office on 6 April 2006. They stated:



"We the families of the disappeared have had to endure a coordinated campaign by the tabloid press and various government representatives that question the authenticity of the abductions, causing a great deal of pain and suffering for us. We continue to visit the ICRC, SLMM, and TRO offices on a daily basis, even as TRO staffers in Colombo and in the NorthEast receive threatening calls and faxes the past weeks. Also, the lack of support from civil society and humanitarian organizations has made us and the TRO feel further marginalized."

The seven aid workers remain “disappeared” over a year after their abduction and as a result of news reports and information received, the TRO now believes that the seven staffers were executed soon after being abducted by “Karuna Group” paramilitaries on the orders of its senior leader Pillaiyan. The news reports stated that all six men were tortured and the woman gang-raped before being killed, and their bodies disposed of. TRO requests that the Police follow up on news reports and investigate the locations where the bodies may be buried. A memorial service was held on 14 March 2007 at the TRO headquarters in Kilinochchi to honour the memory of the seven humanitarian aid workers.

The January 2006 incidents involving the abduction and killing of seven TRO staffers were preceded and followed by several other attacks specifically targeting the organization. These include: a hand-grenade and machinegun attack on the TRO Batticaloa office on 29 September 2005 killing one staffer, injuring two and destroying six vehicles. Attacks on TRO projects: on 30 June 2006 (detention of boats for tsunami fishermen), on 14 August 2006 (aerial bombing of Senchollai Orphanage), on 19 August 2006 (bombing of TRO boatyard), on 25 August 2006 (attack on its Jaffna office), and finally on 4 September 2006 (TRO bank accounts frozen). These violent attacks were followed by police raids on TRO’s Trincomalee and Vavuniya offices on 5 January 2007 and the Colombo office the following day.

All of these targeted incidents took place while the TRO was a legally registered Sri Lankan charity with its mission to provide much needed relief, rehabilitation and development for the people of the northeast of Sri Lanka. The above series of incidents against the TRO locally in Sri Lanka, was then followed up with a ban on the TRO internationally including the U.S., U.K. and Australia.

Sources (in order of publication):

- TRO Urgent Action Press Release (30-Jan-2006)
Another five TRO staff reported missing (31-Jan-2006)
Released TRO staffers to register complaint with Human Rights Commission (5-Feb-2006)
<http://www.troonline.org/123aboutus.htm>
- TRO Staff Accountants Kidnapped by Paramilitary at Welikanda, Polonnaruwa District (31-Jan-2006)
<http://www.troonline.org/data/press2/PR%201%20%20%20&%20statement%20from%20released%20accountant.pdf>
- Updates and corrections/clarifications (31-Jan-2006)
<http://www.troonline.org/data/press2/PR%202%20update%20to%20kidnapping.pdf>
- Second Group Missing: Pre School Teachers and Administrators Disappear en route from Batticaloa District (31-Jan-2006)
<http://www.troonline.org/data/press2/PR%203%202nd%20disappearance%20PSEDC%20final.pdf>
- Save Tamil Captives - Statement by International Federation of Tamils (31-Jan-2006)
<http://www.tamilnation.org/indictment/continuingwar/060131ift.pdf>

- Update on TRO & PSEDC kidnapped persons (01-Feb-2006)
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[//www.troonline.org/data/press2/PR%205%20Statement%20made%20by%20pre%20school%20teachers.pdf](http://www.troonline.org/data/press2/PR%205%20Statement%20made%20by%20pre%20school%20teachers.pdf)
- Abduction of TRO Employees - NESOHR Case Report (2-Feb-2006)
[//www.tamilnation.org/tamileelam/nesohr/060202tro.pdf](http://www.tamilnation.org/tamileelam/nesohr/060202tro.pdf)
- UN agencies call for release of aid workers abducted in Sri Lanka (2-Feb-2006)
[//www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=17368&Cr=Sri&Cr1=Lanka](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=17368&Cr=Sri&Cr1=Lanka)
- TRO statement to Civil Society/CHA (3-Feb-2006)
[//www.troonline.org/data/press2/PR%207%20CHA%20speech.pdf](http://www.troonline.org/data/press2/PR%207%20CHA%20speech.pdf)
- Ms. Dosini released (3-Feb-2006)
[//www.troonline.org/data/press2/PR%208%20dosini%20release.pdf](http://www.troonline.org/data/press2/PR%208%20dosini%20release.pdf)
- Update on Kidnapped and Released TRO / PSEDC Staff (3-Feb-2006)
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- Biographies of the abducted (10-Feb-2006)
[//www.troonline.org/data/press2/PR%2010%20profiles%20of%20the%207%20TRO%20staffers%20still%20in%20custody.pdf](http://www.troonline.org/data/press2/PR%2010%20profiles%20of%20the%207%20TRO%20staffers%20still%20in%20custody.pdf)
- Response to allegations that TRO is not cooperating with the Police (10-Feb-2006)
[//www.troonline.org/data/press2/PR%209%20response%20to%20allegations%20of%20non%20cooperation.pdf](http://www.troonline.org/data/press2/PR%209%20response%20to%20allegations%20of%20non%20cooperation.pdf)
- 5,000 Protest for the release of the 7 TRO staff abducted by para-military 20 days ago (17-Feb-2006)
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- Fear for Safety/ possible “disappearance” (10-Mar-2006)
[//www.amnesty.org/en/alfresco_asset/29f89bf8-a2f8-11dc-8d74-6f45f39984e5/asa370072006en.pdf](http://www.amnesty.org/en/alfresco_asset/29f89bf8-a2f8-11dc-8d74-6f45f39984e5/asa370072006en.pdf)
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[//www.troonline.org/data/press2/PR%2013%20Press%20Conference.pdf](http://www.troonline.org/data/press2/PR%2013%20Press%20Conference.pdf)
- Families of abducted TRO staffers to meet Colombo press (6-Apr-2006)
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- Families of the “disappeared” plea for their release (6-Apr-2006)
[//www.troonline.org/data/press2/PR%2014%20summary%20of%20the%20press%20conference.pdf](http://www.troonline.org/data/press2/PR%2014%20summary%20of%20the%20press%20conference.pdf)
- Reports of vehicles the abducted TRO employees were traveling in have been found (03-May-2006)
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- Abduction of seven TRO Employees - An updated NESOHR case report (18-May-2006)
[//www.nesohr.org/inception-sept2007/human-rights-reports/UpdatedTROEmpDis.pdf](http://www.nesohr.org/inception-sept2007/human-rights-reports/UpdatedTROEmpDis.pdf)
- The tragic fate of TRO employees abducted by Karuna cadres (3-Feb-2007)
[//transcurrents.com/tamiliana/archives/284](http://transcurrents.com/tamiliana/archives/284)
- Abducted TRO Aid Workers Believed Dead - Memorial service held by TRO (15-Mar-2007)
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- Tamil Speaking Aid Workers Becoming an Endangered Species in Sri Lanka (30-Aug-2007)
[//federalidea.com/focus/archives/143](http://federalidea.com/focus/archives/143)
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TRO Batticaloa Office Attack: 1 Dead, 2 Injured, 6 Vehicles destroyed (29-Sep-2005) &
Detention of Lorry & Driver Transporting TRO Outboard Motors for Tsunami Fishermen (30-Jun-2006) &
TRO condemns Sri Lanka Air Force bombing of Senchollai Orphanage (14-Aug-2006) &
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Sri Lanka bans charity for funding rebels (22-Nov-2007)

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**INCIDENT #4 – 1 Halo Trust demining staff abducted in Kaithady (Jaffna)
on 04-Feb.-2006**

Incident Narrative with Background:

The parents of **Kanagaratnam Logithas (23)** of Kaithady, Jaffna reported him missing after he left home by motorbike on the night of 04 February 2006 and did not return. He was headed towards Chavakachcheri town and is presumed abducted at Nunavil along the Kandy road.

Logithas was an employee of Halo Trust, an NGO engaged in clearing of land mines in Jaffna and he is one of six employees of Halo Trust who have been either killed or “disappeared”.

The Halo Trust in Jaffna is a non-governmental organization engaged in mine clearing. A large number of youths were recruited during the ceasefire to do this type of work. The LTTE played a dominant role in selecting recruits. Since the mine clearance was mainly in areas adjacent to Palaly high security zone, Halo Trust activity was viewed suspiciously by the security forces.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Complaints were made with the Jaffna Human Rights Commission and Jaffna Police.

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- Tamil Speaking Aid Workers Becoming an Endangered Species in Sri Lanka (30-Aug-2007)
[//federalidea.com/focus/archives/143](http://federalidea.com/focus/archives/143)

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INCIDENT #5 – 1 MAG demining staff abducted in Kallady (Batticaloa) on 17-Feb.-06

Incident Narrative with Background:

Parameswaran (full name and age not known) of Kallady area in Batticaloa was abducted on the night of Friday 17 February 2006 along with two others, each from their own homes. Parameswaran worked for the demining group Mines Advisory Group (MAG). The abductors reportedly visited the homes of the three men late at night and abducted them in a white van.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Progress/outcome not known.

Sources (in order of publication):

- Civilians terrorized in Batticaloa by SLA and paramilitaries (18-Mar-2006)
<http://www.ltteps.org/?folder=10&view=1221>

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INCIDENT #6 – 2 HUDEC-Caritas staff killed in Mirusuvil (Jaffna) on 10-Apr.-2006

Incident Narrative with Background:



Shanmugaratham Pathmanathan (55) and **Chelvendra Pradeepkumar (29)** were traveling by road from the HUDEC sub-office in Kilinochchi (Vanni) when they passed an Army truck traveling in the opposite direction. A claymore landmine fixed to a bicycle was detonated when the army pickup approached, just as the HUDEC vehicle came from the opposite direction, killing five soldiers in the army vehicle and also the two aid workers. Pathmanathan and Pradeepkumar worked for the Human Development Centre (HUDEC)-Caritas Jaffna. Two other Caritas

Police do not know who was behind the attack at Mirusuvil, Jaffna along the A9 highway. An army spokesperson blamed the LTTE, while the LTTE denied responsibility and condemned the attack.

Pathmanathan worked with the Children's Unit and Pradeepkumar worked collecting data, both for the tsunami reconstruction programme of HUDEC. Pathmanathan was the father of three young children while Pradeepkumar was engaged and had been planning to visit his fiancée in Canada in a few weeks.

The two other HUDEC staff, 48-year-old Mayilvaganam Thatparanathan and Mariyarasa Ajanthan, 28, suffered severe injuries and were admitted to the General Hospital in Jaffna. HUDEC networks at parish level across the Jaffna peninsula and the Wannai region in northern Sri Lanka, implementing aid projects and justice and peace initiatives for people displaced by Sri Lanka's ethnic war and for tsunami survivors.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Progress/outcome not known.

Sources (in order of publication):

- Tsunami workers killed by explosion (10-Apr-2006)
http://www.cafod.org.uk/news_and_events/emergencies/asia_tsunami/tsunami_workers_killed_2006_04_10
- Mine kills two Caritas workers (11-Apr-2006)
<http://www.asianews.it/view.php?l=en&art=5886>
- Tamil Speaking Aid Workers Becoming an Endangered Species in Sri Lanka (30-Aug-2007)
<http://federalidea.com/focus/archives/143>

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INCIDENT #7 – 1 NRC staff killed in Vavuniya on 15-May-2006

Incident Narrative with Background:

Jeyaruban Gnanapragasam (22) was shot dead by unknown persons on his return home from work around 6PM on the Puthiyasinnakulam Road, 7 km away from Vavuniya town, on 15 May 2006. Jeyaruban was an employee of NRC's shelter project in Vavuniya and was a resident of Puthiyasinnakulam north of Vavuniya. Jeyaruban had been employed by the NRC as a driver since July 2005.

Jeyaruban was shot with seven nine millimeter bullets to the hands, back and head within a high security zone less than 150 meters from an army checkpoint north of Vavuniya. His body was left in the middle of the road, and subsequently dragged to the side of the road by unknown person(s).

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

The Vavuniya magistrate in charge of the investigation has not been able to get access to any soldier on duty in the area at the time.

Sources (in order of publication):

- Statement on the death of Jeyaruban Gnanapragasam (16-May-2006)
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- TRO condemns attack (23-May-2006)
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- "End threats and violence against NGO workers" (Sep-2006)
[//www.hrw.org/backgrounder/asia/srilanka0906/5.htm](http://www.hrw.org/backgrounder/asia/srilanka0906/5.htm)
- 2006 Trincomalee massacres, "Additional murders of NGO workers" (not dated)
[//www.avoo.com/wiki/2006_Trincomalee_massacres](http://www.avoo.com/wiki/2006_Trincomalee_massacres)

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INCIDENT #8 – 1 NEIAP staff killed in Kalviyankadu (Batticaloa) on 26-May-2006

Incident Narrative with Background:

Ratnam Ratnarajah (48) was shot and killed by paramilitary cadres near his residence in Sri Lanka Army controlled Kalviyankadu, north of Batticaloa town, at 2PM on 26 May 2006. Ratnarajah functioned as the Deputy Project Director (DPD) of the World Bank assisted North East Irrigated Agriculture Project (NEIAP).

It is alleged that Ratnarajah had received a series of threatening phone calls from paramilitary operatives, asking the Director to employ Karuna group Markan's relatives in NEIAP clerical positions. As a disciplined and conscientious manager, Ratnarajah is said to have not entertained these requests.

Ratnarajah was an engineer from Naippaddimunai in Kalmunai. He is survived by his wife and two children.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Progress/outcome not known.

Sources (in order of publication):

- NEIAP Deputy Project Director assassinated in Batticaloa (26-May-2006)
[//anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=18292](http://anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=18292)
- Tamil Speaking Aid Workers Becoming an Endangered Species in Sri Lanka (30-Aug-2007)
[//federalidea.com/focus/archives/143](http://federalidea.com/focus/archives/143)

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**INCIDENT #9– 1 FORUT tsunami-rebuilder-mason missing in Polikandy (Jaffna)
on 08-Jun.-2006**

Incident Narrative with Background:

Rajani (26) from Pungudutivu, was a mason employed in the FORUT housing scheme for the tsunami affected at Nilavan Kudiyiruppu Settlement Scheme in Polikandy in Vadammaradchy north. He has been reported missing since Thursday 8 June 2006.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Progress/outcome not known.

Sources (in order of publication):

- Construction worker's body with assault injuries found in Polikandy (9-Jun-2006)
[//anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=18450](http://anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=18450)
- Activities of GoSL operated forces 9-11 June (11-Jun-2006)
[//www.ltteps.org/?folder=5&view=1382](http://www.ltteps.org/?folder=5&view=1382)
- Housing worker found beaten to death in Vadammaradchy (8-Jul-2006)
[//anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=18741](http://anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=18741)
- Tamil Speaking Aid Workers Becoming an Endangered Species in Sri Lanka (30-Aug-2007)
[//federalidea.com/focus/archives/143](http://federalidea.com/focus/archives/143)

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INCIDENT #10– 1 TRO staff abducted in Valaichchenai (Batticaloa) on 02-Jul.-2006

Incident Narrative with Background:

On 2 July 2006 around 10.30AM, **Krishnapillai Kamalanathan (24)**, Director of TRO's Sonobo Children's Home, and Thevarajah Nageswaran were stopped at the Oddumavadi Bridge Army checkpoint. The two men were traveling on a motorcycle.

They were checked by the Army and told to register at the police checkpoint. The men were detained for 1.5 hours and then allowed to proceed. After crossing the bridge the motorcycle driven by Nageswaran was followed and stopped by two men on another motorcycle. The men stated that they were from the "Karuna Group" and forced Kamalanathan on to their motorcycle and took him away. Nageswaran was released and allowed to proceed on the motorcycle.

Kamalanathan has not been heard of since. Kamalanathan is married and at the time his wife was pregnant with their first child. He was the Director of TRO's Sonobo Children's Home in Vaharai which cares for 48 girls and 43 boys who were orphaned by the war or tsunami. The home receives financial support from the Denmark Sonobo Children's Home Society and the London Youth Society.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

A Police report has been made and TRO requested the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM), International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and the government of Sri Lanka to fully investigate this incident and to ensure the safe release of Mr. Kamalanathan.

Sources (in order of publication):

- Abduction of TRO Children's Home Director Krishnapillai Kamalanathan [AHRC Urgent Appeal] (3-Jul-2006)
[//www.ahrchk.net/ua/mainfile.php/2006/1819/](http://www.ahrchk.net/ua/mainfile.php/2006/1819/)
[//www.humanitarianinfo.org/srilanka/catalogue/ViewFile.aspx?Item=Files\Media_Centre\Press_Centre\PR46_PR-TRO.pdf](http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/srilanka/catalogue/ViewFile.aspx?Item=Files\Media_Centre\Press_Centre\PR46_PR-TRO.pdf)
- Two TRO workers targeted again in two separate incidents (03-Jul-2006)
[//www.ltteps.org/?folder=9&view=1435](http://www.ltteps.org/?folder=9&view=1435)
- Tamil Speaking Aid Workers Becoming an Endangered Species in Sri Lanka (30-Aug-2007)
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**INCIDENT #11 – 1 FORUT tsunami-rebuilder-mason killed in Polikandy (Jaffna)
on 08-Jul.-2006**

Incident Narrative with Background:

The body of **Rasiah Muraleeswaran (42)** of Meesalai East, was found at the building site where he worked as a mason, on the morning of 8 July 2006 with severe assault injuries. Muraleeswaran was a mason employed in the FORUT housing scheme for the tsunami affected at Nilavan Kudiyiruppu Settlement Scheme in Polikandy in Vadamardchy north. Injuries indicated that he was bludgeoned to death. The Nilavan settlement, where the body was found, is located within a High Security Zone.

Muraleeswaran was the father of two children and had earlier worked for the LTTE in a tsunami rehabilitation scheme before joining FORUT as a mason.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Progress/outcome not known.

Sources (in order of publication):

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INCIDENT #12 – 17 ACF staff killed in Mutur (Trincomalee) on 04-Aug.-2006

Incident Narrative with Background:



On Friday 4th August 2006, or on the day following that, seventeen employees of Action Contre la Faim were found killed—shot at close range, execution-style—in their office premises in Mutur, Trincomalee. The uncertainty of the date of the killings itself is due to the controversy alleging who was responsible—Friday if the government forces were responsible, and Saturday (5th) if the LTTE had committed the slayings.

The seventeen ACF staffers killed were: **Muthulingam Narmathan (24), Richard Arunraj (23), Thurairaja Pratheepan (27), Mohanthasa Rishikesan (23), Kanakarathnam Kovarthani (28), Ganesu Kavitha (27), Sivapragasam Romila (25), Vairamuthu Kokilavathani (29), Ambigapathy Jayaseelan (27), Gangatharan Sritharan (36), Singharasa Primus Anantharajah (32), Yogarajah Kodeeswaran (31), Sellaiya Ganesu (54), Muralitharan Dharmarathnam (34), Sathyawel Koneswaran (24), Abdul Latif Mohammed Jauffer (31) and Mathawarajah Ketheswaran (36).**

The incident took place during the height of the battle where the government forces were fighting to reopen the Maavil Aru sluice gates forcibly closed by the LTTE thus denying water for irrigation to Sinhala farmers. The LTTE claimed their action was in response to the non-realization of a development project promised by the government benefiting Tamil civilians.

The “Maavil Aru battle for water” started south of Mutur and soon spilled over to Mutur town and the border areas, with the LTTE claiming to have gained control of the town from the security forces and then to have strategically abandoned it. The government forces however initially maintained they were in full control of Mutur town at all times during the battle, but later proclaimed that the LTTE *was* in control of the town briefly during which time, the forces claimed, the ACF slayings took place.

The thirteen males and four females killed—all Tamil except for one Muslim—were residents of Trincomalee and visited Mutur daily to carry out their duties as Water and Sanitation Technicians and Hygiene Promotion Agents on behalf of civilians affected by the war and the tsunami. As was customary for these aid workers, they would take the morning ferry from Trincomalee to Mutur and return home taking the evening ferry. Since the military adventures of the government forces and the LTTE came unannounced amounting to artillery bombardment and mortar attacks resulting in the rapid movement of the battleground from Maavil Aru towards Mutur town, the evening boat service was suspended resulting in the aid workers being trapped in Mutur.

The news of the slaying of ACF workers was even more devastating for two families. Of the 17 killed, the Ganesh family lost both father and a daughter, S. Ganesh (54) and G. Kavitha (27). The Yogarajah family's 31 year-old son Kodeeswaran was amongst the 17; his 20 year-old younger brother Y. Hemachandran had been killed in a similar way only seven months before. (Hemachandran was one of the five Trincomalee students killed on 02 January 2006—again, execution-style, this time allegedly by Special Task Force personnel.)

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

The inquest into the killings began in Mutur Magistrate's Court and was then transferred to the Anuradhapura Magistrate's Court in September. As a result of the international attention to the incident, which was termed “a gross violation of human rights”, the Sri Lankan Government invited the Australian Government to provide technical forensic expertise for the investigation into the deaths but the forensic team was not mandated to observe the proceedings, assess whether they complied with international standards or report publicly.

An international standard relevant to an inquest is the UN Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions. In Sri Lanka inquests are carried out under the Code of Criminal Procedure Act No. 15 of 1979. The Code requires that inquiries shall be open to the public, though the inquirer can on a case-basis decide to exclude the public in very limited and exceptional circumstances. However, on one occasion, the International Commission of Jurists' request to send an independent international observer was rejected by the government. The Presidential Commission of Inquiry to Investigate and Inquire into Alleged Serious Violations of Human Rights, in the meantime, held its first closed investigation into the ACF case on 14 May 2007.

One year after the incident, the head of the government's peace secretariat went on record charging that ACF was responsible for the massacre of its own national staff through "negligence" and "irresponsibility". The letter addressed, to the Minister for Disaster Management and Human Rights, called for an independent probe into the incident.

When the case last came up in the Anuradhapura Magistrate court for a preliminary inquiry on 28 November 2007, after the some instructions to the police the case was put off for 23 January 2008. The 'full inquiry' in to the case will be heard at the Mutur courts. Immediately after the crime the Mutur Magistrate conducted the inquiry. Later the inquiry was transferred to Kantale Magistrate Court. Finally the Judicial Services Commission transferred the case to the Anuradhapura court.



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INCIDENT #13 – 2 abducted (a parish priest and his assistant) in Allaipiddy-Kayts (Jaffna) on 20-Aug.-2006

Incident Narrative with Background:



On 20 August 2006 **Father Thiruchelvam Nihal Jim Brown (34)** and **Wenceslaus Vincens Vimalathas (40)** were travelling by motorbike to Allaipiddy village, when they met a friend who accompanied them to the Allaipiddy Navy checkpoint. The friend left the two men standing at the checkpoint at around 2PM. An eyewitness confirmed that they saw the two men shortly after this, travelling through Allaipiddy on a motorbike. The eyewitness then saw two motorbikes each carrying three armed men wearing bulletproof vests, following Father Brown and armed men then stopped outside St. Mary's Church in Allaipiddy and following some discussion, one of the motorbikes turned back in the direction of the Allaipiddy Navy checkpoint.

When the eyewitness reached the checkpoint in order to leave Allaipiddy, they saw the same three armed men who had turned back from St. Mary's Church talking to the SLN personnel and pointing in the direction of Allaipiddy. The armed men then allegedly rode back to Allaipiddy village, taking a different route than they had before. Father Jim Brown and his assistant Vincens Vimalathas have been missing since and are presumed dead.

Allaipiddy village falls within the government-controlled territory of Kayts off the Jaffna peninsula. It is a prominent Roman Catholic-Tamil dominant village in the Jaffna peninsula. The Sri Lankan Navy has security control in the surrounding area. Father Brown took over the role of parish priest after his predecessor, Father Amal Raj, requested a transfer from St. Philip Neri Church after allegedly receiving death threats from a local Sri Lankan Navy officer. As part of ongoing military operations, the Sri Lankan Army shelled the St. Philip Neri's Church in Allaipiddy on 13 August 2006, killing 15 displaced persons sheltering there.

Father Brown was publicly rebuked by Navy officials for having moved all 300, mostly Catholic, Allaipiddy families to a safer Catholic church at Kayts eight miles away during military operations. Father Brown was also accused by the Navy commanding officer of Allaipiddy of helping the LTTE to dig bunkers. The EPDP website report insinuated that Fr. Brown had some allegiance or involvement with the LTTE because of residing in Pudukudiyiruppu, Mullaitivu in the LTTE-controlled Vanni before coming to Allaipiddy, even though the priest had never served in Pudukudiyiruppu.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Inquiries into the whereabouts of Father Brown and Vimalathas were made at a number of churches across the Jaffna peninsula and in surrounding areas. Rear Admiral Upali Ranaweera, Commander of the SLN's Northern Region, denied that the two men were arrested. Navy personnel at the Allaipiddy checkpoint stated that Father Brown and Vimalathas passed through the Allaipiddy checkpoint and returned soon after, travelling in the direction of Jaffna town. However, local police have not received an answer to their request to the Navy to produce the evidence of the return to Jaffna city by the missing men. A complaint was lodged with local police as well as the Human Rights Commission regarding their disappearance and investigations took place into their whereabouts.

According to local newspapers a "mutilated torso" packed in a sand bag found off the coast of the Jaffna peninsula, near Pungudutheevu, on 14 March 2007 was identified as the dead priest. However, the Sri Lankan government announced in June 2007 that subsequent DNA analyses had proved that the remains were not those of either man.

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INCIDENT #14 – 1 SLRCS staff killed in Cheddikulam (Vavuniya) on 20-Aug.-2006

Incident Narrative with Background:

Nagarasa Thavaranjitham (24) was shot dead at his residence in Chettikulam, Vavuniya, around 10PM on 20 August 2006, by gunmen riding on a motorbike. Nagarasa was an employee of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Progress/outcome not known.

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INCIDENT #15 – 1 UNOPS staff killed in Munaiyoorkulam, Thambiluvil (Ampara) on 24-Aug.-2006

Incident Narrative with Background:

P. Jestly Julian (29), employed by the UN agency UNOPS in Amparai district, was shot dead by unidentified armed men around 9A.M. on 24 August 2006 at Munaiyoorkalam in Thambiluvil in Amparai district. Armed men who came in a motor bike took him from his office to a place in Munaiyoorkalam and shot him. His body was handed over to Thirukovil hospital. One report points to LTTE as responsible for Julian's killing.

Julian was a native of Komari and father of two children.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Progress/outcome not known.

Sources (in order of publication):

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INCIDENT #16 – 1 Sewalanka staff killed in Karaveddy (Jaffna) on 01-Sep.-2006

Incident Narrative with Background:

Sathiyamoorthy Selvaroopan (27) was shot dead at his home at Karanavai, Karaveddy in Jaffna on 1 September 2006 around 9PM. Selvaroopan's mother, Sathiyamoorthy Thangaratnam (55), also was killed by the armed men when she had attempted to block the killers. Unidentified armed men had stormed in to the house and opened fire on the family where they were gathered to hear the night's news broadcast.

Selvaroopan was working as a planning officer attached to a tsunami reconstruction project of the national NGO Sewalanka Foundation. He had worked serving the vulnerable communities in Vadamarachchi under the North-East Provincial Council-executed and Asian Development Bank-financed project called the 'North East Coastal Community Development'. Selvaroopan had been employed by Sewalanka since May 2006.

Selvaroopan's wife—Shopana (21), an undergraduate at the University of Jaffna—and his brother Gajaroopan (20) who were injured from the shooting, were admitted to Manthikai hospital.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Progress/outcome not known.

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**INCIDENT #17 – 1 World Concern staff killed in Nilaveli Road (Trincomalee)
on 11-Sep.-2006**

Incident Narrative with Background:

Ragunathan Ramalingam (31) was shot by unidentified men on 11 September 2006 while returning to his work place on a motorcycle after having lunch with his family. According to a colleague, Ragunathan had some running problems with the Navy. On the day he was killed he had received an unusual call from the Navy asking him to come to their checkpoint and collect something. He was shot dead at Nilaveli during this mission. One report alleged the assailants to be Sinhala home guards.

Ragunathan was one of the first employees of World Concern in Sri Lanka, joining the organization in early 2005. Because of his work, hundreds of families received effective and rapid assistance—with adequate shelter restored, new access to water, restored livelihoods and emotional support.

World Concern is an international humanitarian relief and development agency, based in Seattle, U.S.A., working in 32 countries in Asia, Africa and South America, to relieve suffering and reduce poverty, and works in Sri Lanka to aid with relief in the wake of the 2004 tsunami and to provide emergency services to those displaced by escalating civil conflicts.

Ragunathan is survived by his wife and five children, the last of whom was born six days before he was killed.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Progress/outcome not known.

Sources (in order of publication):

- World Concern aid worker killed in Sri Lanka (12-Sep-2006)
<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/HMYT-6TKT5H?OpenDocument>
- World Concern worker killed in Sri Lanka (13-Sep-2006)
http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/284897_briefs13.html?source=myspi
- Another foreign aid worker shot dead (13-Sep-2006)
<http://anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=19578>
- Don't make another Darfur: Geneva talks for peace in S. Lanka, "Physical attacks on the aid workers" (25-Oct-06)
<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/LTIO-6V5T85?OpenDocument>
- The Choice between Anarchy and International Law with Monitoring, "North-East - A Killers' Paradise", UTHRJ Special Report #23 (07-Nov-2006)
<http://www.uthrj.org/SpecialReports/spreport23.htm>
- Intervene against threats to humanitarian workers in Sri Lanka (25-Apr-2007)
<http://www.achrweb.org/Review/2007/164-07.htm>
- Tamil Speaking Aid Workers Becoming an Endangered Species in Sri Lanka (30-Aug-2007)
<http://federalidea.com/focus/archives/143>

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INCIDENT #18 – 1 HALO Trust staff abducted in Chudikkuli (Jaffna) on 15-Nov.-2006

Incident Narrative with Background:

Charles Huston Ravindran (30) was forcibly abducted by unidentified gunmen from his home at Old Park Road, Chundikkuli in Jaffna town, around 11PM on 15 November 2006. Ten armed men arrived in a white van, broke into Ravindran's house and abducted him at gunpoint.

Ravindran was an employee of Halo Trust, an INGO involved in de-mining activities in Jaffna district. His abduction took place only 500 metres from the Halo Trust head office in Nalloor Cross Road. One report alleged that the armed abductors belonged to the EPDP.

Six employees from Halo Trust had been abducted or disappeared in Jaffna district in the months up to November 2006. Some reports stated that employees of Halo Trust had left the organization and gone underground fearing abduction by the Sri Lankan Army (SLA) and allied paramilitaries.

According to other news reports, administrative officials of the INGO had not publicized the threat to its employees, nor vigorously pursued with the military or law enforcement authorities to locate the whereabouts of those missing. Employees are reported to have expressed resentment at the silence of Halo Trust officials, although the employees were aware of the complicity of the SLA and collaborating paramilitaries in the abductions.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Ravindran's relatives registered a complaint at the Human Rights Commission (HRC) Jaffna branch.

Sources (in order of publication):

- White van squad abducts Jaffna deminer (17-Nov-2006)
[//anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=20302](http://anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=20302)
- Tamil Speaking Aid Workers Becoming an Endangered Species in Sri Lanka (30-Aug-2007)
[//federalidea.com/focus/archives/143](http://federalidea.com/focus/archives/143)

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INCIDENT #19 – 1 TDH staff killed in Periyaneelavanai (Ampara) on 23-Nov.-2006

Incident Narrative with Background:

Sabaratnam Rubesh (30) was shot dead on 23 November 2006 night. Rubesh who works for Terre des homes (Tdh), was at home in Periyaneelavanai with his wife and 6-year-old daughter when the assailants called him out.

Rubesh was an active member of the local community who joined the Tdh and worked in the Kalmunai base with its water and sanitation team.

It was reported that the STF later used Rubesh's killing as an example to threaten another INGO office in Akkaraipattu, also in Ampara district. Threatening incidents in the east have become routine in the context of official hostility towards INGOs that provide essential services to IDPs, crucial in the wake of swelling displacement due to conflict in the Eastern Province.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Progress/outcome not known.

Sources (in order of publication):

- The Race for Infamy in Sri Lanka's North-East, "Ramifications of Impunity: Rape, IDPs and INGOs", UTHRJ Information Bulletin #44 (13-Mar-2007)
[//www.uthr.org/bulletins/bul44.htm](http://www.uthr.org/bulletins/bul44.htm)

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**INCIDENT #20 – 1 HALO Trust demining staff abducted in Racca Rd. (Jaffna)
on 04-Jan.-2007**

Incident Narrative with Background:

Subramaniam Parameswaran (29) of Racca Road, Jaffna, was at home with his wife and two children when unidentified persons came in a white van, held his wife and children at gunpoint and abducted him on 04 January 2007. As in incident #17 above, the abductors are alleged to belong to the EPDP.

Parameswaran worked for the humanitarian de-mining organization Halo Trust, an international non-governmental organization functioning in Jaffna peninsula. Six Halo Trust employees have been either killed or disappeared in Jaffna Peninsula since January 2006.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Parameswaran's wife, Esther Marilyn Parameswaran, registered a complaint at the Human Rights Commission, Jaffna branch.

Sources (in order of publication):

- One more 'Halo Trust' employee abducted in Jaffna (05-Jan-2007)
<http://anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=20822>
- Intervene against threats to humanitarian workers in Sri Lanka (25-Apr-2007)
<http://www.achrweb.org/Review/2007/164-07.htm>
- Tamil Speaking Aid Workers Becoming an Endangered Species in Sri Lanka (30-Aug-2007)
<http://federalidea.com/focus/archives/143>

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INCIDENT #21 – 1 HALO Trust demining staff abducted in Kellner Rd., Nallur (Jaffna) on 09-Jan.-2007

Incident Narrative with Background:

C. Rajendran (35) has been missing since 7:30AM on 09 January 2007 after he had left his house at Kellner Road in Nallur, then left his son at the school near the Halo Trust office near Old Park Road, and reported for work at Halo Trust office. Rajendran works as a driver of 'Halo Trust,' a humanitarian demining international non-governmental organization in Jaffna peninsula.

Rajendran was the fourth Halo Trust employee to be targeted by violence. Five other Halo Trust workers were either killed or disappeared in Jaffna Peninsula in 2006-2007. Employees of Halo Trust are reportedly fear stricken by the continuing killings and abductions targeting their fellow staff. The organization continues with its de-mining activities in the peninsula despite the violence directed towards its staff.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Progress/outcome not known.

Sources (in order of publication):

- Halo Trust employee feared abducted in Jaffna (14-Jan-2007)
[//anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=20920](http://anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=20920)
- Intervene against threats to humanitarian workers in Sri Lanka (25-Apr-2007)
[//www.achrweb.org/Review/2007/164-07.htm](http://www.achrweb.org/Review/2007/164-07.htm)
- Tamil Speaking Aid Workers Becoming an Endangered Species in Sri Lanka (30-Aug-2007)
[//federalidea.com/focus/archives/143](http://federalidea.com/focus/archives/143)

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INCIDENT #22 – 1 HALO Trust demining staff abducted in Temple Rd., Nallur (Jaffna) on 09-Feb.-2007

Incident Narrative with Background:

Nagarasa Narenthiran (27) of Temple road, Nallur went missing in Jaffna on the morning of 9 February 2007. Narenthiran had left home as usual to go to work at the head office of Halo Trust situated at Nallur Cross road before he went missing.

Four Halo Trust workers were reported disappeared or killed during the 6 months up to February 2007.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Narenthiran's wife, Sarojini Narenthiran, registered a complaint at the Human Rights Commission in Jaffna.

Sources (in order of publication):

- NGO worker reported “missing” in Jaffna (12-Feb-2007)
[//anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=21232](http://anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=21232)
- Intervene against threats to humanitarian workers in Sri Lanka (25-Apr-2007)
[//www.achrweb.org/Review/2007/164-07.htm](http://www.achrweb.org/Review/2007/164-07.htm)
- Tamil Speaking Aid Workers Becoming an Endangered Species in Sri Lanka (30-Aug-2007)
[//federalidea.com/focus/archives/143](http://federalidea.com/focus/archives/143)

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INCIDENT #23 – 1 TRO staff killed in Periyamadu (Mannar) on 24-Mar.-2007

Incident Narrative with Background:

Muthuraja Aruleswaran (30) died in a claymore attack allegedly carried out by a Deep Penetration Unit of the Sri Lanka army at Periyamadu in Mannar district around 12:30PM on 24 March 2007. Four other humanitarian workers of the TRO, namely the Assistant Executive Director Vadivel Ravichandran, International Planning Director Seenithamby Parameswaran (41), Mannar Deputy Director Thevasakampillai Maththiyas, and Mullikulam Divisional Director Selvaratnam Nixon (37) were wounded in the explosion.

The TRO officials were returning after monitoring the relief assistance to the displaced civilians following the Sri Lanka Army operation in Mannar-Vavuniya border. Aruleswaran is an Emergency Assistance worker for TRO and was driving the TRO vehicle when the attack took place. He is from Mudkompan in Pooneryn and is father to a 1-year-old child.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Progress/outcome not known.

Sources (in order of publication):

- More assassinations of NGO workers in Sri Lanka (not dated)
<http://www.tamilsydney.com/content/view/521/37/>
- NGO worker killed, directors wounded in DPU attack in Mannar (24-Mar-2007)
<http://anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=21658>
- TRO condemns the killing of TRO staff by SL DPU attack in Mannar [TRO Statement] (30-Mar-2007)
<http://lrrp.wordpress.com/2007/03/30/tro-condemns-the-killing-of-tro-staff-by-sl-dpu-attack-in-mannar/>
- Intervene against threats to humanitarian workers in Sri Lanka (25-Apr-2007)
<http://www.achrweb.org/Review/2007/164-07.htm>
- Tamil Speaking Aid Workers Becoming an Endangered Species in Sri Lanka (30-Aug-2007)
<http://federalidea.com/focus/archives/143>

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INCIDENT #24 – 6 post-tsunami building constructors killed in Mailampaaveli (Batticaloa) on 01-Apr.-2007

Incident Narrative with Background:

Six Sinhala civilians working on a post-tsunami construction project were shot dead and one Sinhala and two Tamil workers were seriously wounded, when unknown gunmen attacked at Mailampaaveli in Batticaloa district around 7:30PM on 1 April 2007.

Those who were killed were: two brothers **Liyanamohottilage Dayananda Cabral (33)** and **Liyanamohottilage Thushara Madusanka Cabral (17)** from Kurunagala; **Thoranahena Gedara Susantha Ranjith Abeykoon (24)** from Mahiyangana; **Tissa Walan Mudiyanseelage Danapala (54)** and his son **Tissa Walan Mudiyanseelage Wijethunga (17)** from Maha-Oya; and **Wele Pendige Chandrasiri (45)** from Kelaniya.

One Sinhala worker Wijesinghe Mudiyanseelage Nandasena (41) from Welimada and two Tamil workers Indran Pirapaharan and Maduramuththu Nagarasa (28) from Savukkadi were injured in the attack and admitted to Batticaloa hospital.

The assailants had entered the children home under construction and took the construction workers 200 meters away and shot them. The massacre took place 300 meters from the Sri Lankan counter-insurgency Special Task Force (STF) camp at Mailampaaveli, 8km north of the Batticaloa town.

According one news report, the attackers had said they are STF troopers and first shot at the electricity transformer rendering it useless before cutting and shooting the victims to death. The government blamed the LTTE for the killings but the LTTE denied its involvement and accused the Karuna group as responsible for the attack.

The workers were employed by the organization 'Village of Hope' to build a children's home for survivors of the 2004 tsunami capable of housing 40 children. The workers were living there for the last one and a half years engaged in constructing the children's home. Village of Hope takes care of tsunami affected children and widows, and six mothers and 40 children were in the newly built children's home where English and computer classes are held along with standard educational activities. This children home is located between Mailampaaveli STF camp and Eravur police station, about one km from the predominantly Muslim Eravur town.

The bodies of those killed were brought to Eravur hospital on the 1st, and then taken to Batticaloa Teaching hospital for an inquest into deaths. Thereafter they were taken to Polonnaruwa from where they were sent to the family of each victim.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Eravur Police is conducting investigations into the massacre.

Sources (in order of publication):

- Sri Lanka says rebels kill 6 tsunami project workers (01-Apr-2007)
[//www.reuters.com/article/homepageCrisis/idUSCOL142728.CH_2400](http://www.reuters.com/article/homepageCrisis/idUSCOL142728.CH_2400)
- Sinhalese aid workers shot and hacked to death by The LTTE (02-Apr-2007) [Government Statement]
[//www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/RMOI-6ZVMLV?OpenDocument](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/RMOI-6ZVMLV?OpenDocument)
- Southern construction workers massacred in Batticaloa (02-Apr-2007)
[//anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=21747](http://anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=21747)
- Sri Lanka blast 'kills civilians' (02-Apr-2007)
[//news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/6517167.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/6517167.stm)
- Sri Lanka says at least 17 killed as civil war rages on (02-Apr-2007)
[//www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSCOL14272820070402](http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSCOL14272820070402)

- LTTE kills six innocent civilians–Batticaloa (02-Apr-2007)
[//www.defence.lk/new.asp?fname=20070401_04](http://www.defence.lk/new.asp?fname=20070401_04)
- Peace Secretariat of LTTE Situation Report (02-Apr-2007)
[//www.ltteps.org/?folder=5&view=1919](http://www.ltteps.org/?folder=5&view=1919)
- Intervene against threats to humanitarian workers in Sri Lanka (25-Apr-2007)
[//www.achrweb.org/Review/2007/164-07.htm](http://www.achrweb.org/Review/2007/164-07.htm)

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INCIDENT #25 – 1 Buddhist priest killed in Morawewa (Trincomalee) on 13-May-2007

Incident Narrative with Background:

Ven. Handungamuwe Nandarathna Thera was gunned down allegedly by the LTTE pistol gang around 9:15AM on 13 May 2007. Ven. Nandarathna was the Chief Incumbent of Sri Pabbatharamaya in Morawewa in Trincomalee District.

Eyewitnesses have reported of three men who came on two motor cycles and opened fire at Nandarathna Thera at his temple premises while the Thera was about to leave the temple for a religious ceremony. Farmers on their way to the paddy fields had seen the gunmen on two motor cycles fleeing from the scene, and wonder how the gunmen escaped the barriers of the armed forces nearby.

The slain monk was actively engaged in social work in the area and was prominent among those who worked tirelessly to help the people in the area badly affected due to ongoing conflict. The venerable Thera worked closely with Tamil civilians in the area and was a very popular religious leader in both Sinhala and Tamil communities.

The Thera was a rare Buddhist monk who preached in Tamil and had ordained several Tamil youth as Buddhists monks. The monk had taken a strong anti-war stance and even joined fasts to protest against injustices.

The motive for the killing is not known.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Morawewa police are conducting investigations.

Sources (in order of publication):

- Unidentified gunmen slay Buddhist monk in eastern Sri Lanka (13-May-2007)
[//www.colombopage.com/archive_07/May13145657CH.html](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_07/May13145657CH.html)
- Ven. Nandarathna Thero was gunned down by LTTE (14-May-2007)
[//www.sinhale.com/May2007.html](http://www.sinhale.com/May2007.html)
- Human Rights Council must act on killings and forced disappearances in Sri Lanka (03-Sep-2007)
[//www.alrc.net/doc/mainfile.php/alrc_statements/437/](http://www.alrc.net/doc/mainfile.php/alrc_statements/437/)
- Killing and Enforced Disappearances of Religious Leaders and Attacks on Places of Religious Worship in Sri Lanka (not dated)
[//www.google.lk/search?hl=en&q=%22Handungamuwe+Nandarathna%22&meta=](http://www.google.lk/search?hl=en&q=%22Handungamuwe+Nandarathna%22&meta=)

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INCIDENT #26 – 2 Red Cross staff abducted in Colombo and found killed in Dumbara Estate (Ratnapura) on 01 & 03-Jun.-2007

Incident Narrative with Background:



Kartheesu Chandramohan (26) and **Sinnarasa Shanmugalingam (32)** were abducted by men claiming to be police on 1 June 2007 at the Colombo Fort railway station, and their bodies were found a day later in Kiriella in Ratnapura district, shot in the head execution-style. Both Chandramohan and Shanmugalingam are staffers of Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, and had come to Colombo to attend a two-day

workshop on tsunami reconstruction along with four other colleagues.

On 1 June around 6:30PM the six humanitarian workers were waiting for the train to Batticaloa to return home soon after the training workshop. Chandramohan and Shanmugalingam were accosted at the country's main central railway station in Colombo Fort in the presence of their colleagues and many onlookers. The abductors in civilian clothes had shown identity cards of themselves purporting to be from the Police Crimes Investigations Department (CID). The abductors nabbed Chandramohan and Shanmugalingam from among the six SLRCS staffers, saying they wanted to question the two and that they would be soon released at the Fort Police Station. They were then put in a white van and driven away in full gaze of the general public.

Thereafter they were killed execution-style each with a single gunshot injury in the head, and their bodies were discovered in the Dumbara Estate in Kiriella in Ratnapura district, nearly 100km away from the place of abduction.

Chandramohan is from Kaluwankerni in Batticaloa and joined the Red Cross in 1999 while still schooling and a member of the Red Cross Society. While his main interests were First Aid and disaster management, he was actively involved in the Batticaloa Branch activities as well.

Shanmuganathan is from Vilaavettaan, Vavunatheevu and joined the Red Cross in 1997. While being active as a First Aid instructor, he was engaged in relief activity and disaster management for the last five years in the Batticaloa Branch.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Police investigations immediately after the killing, revealed that the white van used by the abductors, belonged to the Karuna group. According to military intelligence, the first message that the RC delegation was in Colombo, had come from Batticaloa itself. Thereafter, the delegation was allegedly followed by men attached to the Karuna group with the assistance of the military. Finally, it is believed that Shanmugalingam and Chandramogan were incorrectly identified by the Karuna group.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa said the killing was part of a conspiracy to discredit his government and to tarnish Sri Lanka's image internationally vis-à-vis human rights.

In mid-August the police publicized the name of a person said to be belonging to the Karuna group as responsible for the killings, with a one million rupee reward for assistance in apprehending him. This followed the exposure by an Opposition parliamentarian details of the Tamils abduction spree, including that of the two Red Cross workers. However, since no arrests have been made so far, the popular belief is that the so identified 'wanted person' is a fictitious name publicized to distract attention from the real perpetrators who are allegedly linked to the armed forces.

Sources (in order of publication):

- Brutal murder of two Red Cross Volunteers (not dated)
http://www.redcross.lk/ch_news51.html
- 2 Red Cross Workers Killed In Sri Lanka: Abducted Two Days Ago By Men Claiming To Be Police, They Were Found Executed (03-Jun-2007)
http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/06/03/world/main2878773.shtml?source=RSSattr=World_2878773

- Two Tamil Red Cross workers abducted, killed (03-Jun-2007)
<http://anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=22354>
- Statement on the execution of two Sri Lanka Red Cross workers (not dated)
<http://www.nccaslanka.com/Statement%20on%20the%20execution%20of%20two%20srilanka%20red%20cross%20workers.htm>
- Brutal murder of two Red Cross Volunteers (04-Jun-2007) [SLRCS Press Release]
<http://www.medico-international.de/en/projects/srilanka/watch/20070604redcross.pdf>
- Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement condemns murder of Sri Lanka Red Cross staff (04-Jun-2007)
<http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/sri-lanka-news-040607!OpenDocument>
- U.N. Secretary-General mourns deaths of two aid workers in Sri Lanka (04-Jun-2007)
<http://www.un.org/apps/sg/sgstats.asp?nid=2598>
- Continued unrest hampers aid effort in Sri Lanka (04-Jun-2007)
<http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0604/p99s01-duts.html>
- Abducted Red Cross workers in Sri Lanka found dead (05-Jun-2007)
<http://www.hindu.com/2007/06/05/stories/2007060503351300.htm>
- Sri Lanka volunteer killings worry UN head (05-Jun-2007)
<http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/browse/countries/sri-lanka/doc/sri-lanka-volunteer-killings.html>
- Red Cross killings highlight worsening civilian security (07-Jun-2007)
http://www.peace-srilanka.org/media_statements_detail.php?id=161
- ICRC Workers Murdered: Symptoms of a Failing Justice System (07-Jun-2007)
http://www.forum-asia.org/index.php?Itemid=42&id=335&option=com_content&task=view
- Red Cross / Red Crescent officials meet with Sri Lankan president in Geneva (14-Jun-2007)
<http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/sri-lanka-news-140607>
- Brutal and senseless killing of Red Cross workers (16-Jun-2007)
<http://www.lankalibrary.com/phpBB/viewtopic.php?t=3521>
- Sri Lanka – ICRC Bulletin No. 14 / 2007 (27-Jun-2007)
<http://www.icrc.ch/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/sri-lanka-news-270607>
- 31st Day Remembrance Ceremony for late Mr S Shanmugalingam and Mr K Chandramohan, SLRCS Volunteers, Batticaloa Branch (04-Jul-2007)
http://www.redcross.lk/eh_news52.html
- Sri Lanka names suspects in killings of Red Cross workers (17-Aug-2007)
<http://www.ihf.com/articles/ap/2007/08/17/asia/AS-GEN-Sri-Lanka-Red-Cross.php>
- Breakthrough in Red Cross killings probe (20-Aug-2007)
http://www.defence.lk/new.asp?fname=20070818_02
- Tamil Speaking Aid Workers Becoming an Endangered Species in Sri Lanka (30-Aug-2007)
<http://federalidea.com/focus/archives/143>

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**INCIDENT #27 – 1 DDG demining staff abducted in Kuppilaan (Jaffna)
on 18-Jun.-2006**

Incident Narrative with Background:

Sivarasa Vimalarasa (20) was abducted on 18 June 2006 morning on his way to work in the Danish Demining Group (DDG) in Jaffna. Unidentified men waylaid and abducted the staffer while riding a motor cycle, in broad day light at Kuppilaan, an area near the Palaly High Security Zone, in the presence of onlookers.

Vimalarasa is from Kuppilaan in Mayilangkaadu in Valikaamam.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

DDG officials complained to the Government Agent, the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) and Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission (SLHRC) in Jaffna on Tuesday. DDG officials also made representations to defence authorities in Colombo. Meanwhile DDG staffers continue to be targeted time and again.

Sources (in order of publication):

- Danish humanitarian local staffer abducted in Jaffna (19-Jun-2007)
[//anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=22516](http://anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=22516)
- EPDP News Flash (20-Jun-2007)
[//www.epdpnews.com/Archive/2007/2007-June-English/news-english-2007-06-20.html](http://www.epdpnews.com/Archive/2007/2007-June-English/news-english-2007-06-20.html)
- Dansk demining Groups lokale humanitær medarbejder bortført i Jaffna halvøen skrevet af Tamilvoice (20-juni-2007)
[//www.tamilvoice.dk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=790&Itemid=38](http://www.tamilvoice.dk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=790&Itemid=38)
- Tamil Speaking Aid Workers Becoming an Endangered Species in Sri Lanka (30-Aug-2007)
[//federalidea.com/focus/archives/143](http://federalidea.com/focus/archives/143)

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INCIDENT #28 – 1 DDG demining staff abducted in Ariyaalai (Jaffna) on 18-Jul.-2007

Incident Narrative with Background:

Sivalingam Prabakaran (34) was forcibly abducted from his house at Mulliveethi in Ariyaalai in Jaffna, allegedly by SLA troops in a white van on 18 July 2007 around 12:30PM. Prabakaran is a national staffer at the Danish Humanitarian Demining Organization (DDG) in Jaffna.

Prabakaran is a father of 2 children.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Progress/outcome not known.

Sources (in order of publication):

- 3 abducted, 2 reported missing in 4 days in Jaffna (18-Jul-2007)
[//anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=22759](http://anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=22759)
- LankaNewspapers.com Situation Report in Tamil Areas on 20th July 2007 (22-Jul-2007)
[//www.lankanewspapers.com/news/2007/7/17222_space.html](http://www.lankanewspapers.com/news/2007/7/17222_space.html)
- Civilian casualties due to military action in Sri Lanka, 01-31 July 2007 [not dated]
[//www.nitharsanam.com/public/HWR/julyy.pdf](http://www.nitharsanam.com/public/HWR/julyy.pdf)

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INCIDENT #29 – 1 DRC staff killed in Jaffna on 23-Jul.-2007

Incident Narrative with Background:



Arumainayagam Alloysius (26) from Chillaalai south, Pandaittharippu was shot dead by unidentified gunmen on 23 July 2007 around 8:30AM at Anaikoaddai in Jaffna. Alloysius was a field officer of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), an International humanitarian organization in Jaffna, and was shot when he was on his way to work at the DRC Jaffna office. One news report alleges that gunmen from the Sri Lankan Army backed by paramilitaries shot dead Arumainayagam Alloysius.

Prior to joining DRC, Alloysius had been a staff of Halo Trust, another International Humanitarian Organization working on demining in Jaffna, and had left Halo Trust when it discontinued 17 of its staffers unannounced recently. More than 13 Halo Trust staffers had been either killed, abducted or gone missing in the recent past.

Alloysius was married for ten months and his wife is expecting.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Mallaakam District Magistrate Ms Sarojini Illankovan conducted the inquest into death and postmortem examinations conducted at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital.

Sources (in order of publication):

- NGO worker shot dead in Jaffna (23-Jul-2007)
[//anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=22812](http://anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=22812)
- NGO worker shot dead in Jaffna (24-Jul-2007) [Lanka news of Newsgroups: alt.war.terrorism, soc.culture.sri-lanka, soc.culture.canada, soc.culture.usa, soc.culture.british]
[//groups.google.com/group/soc.culture.sri-lanka/browse_thread/thread/bbeb4f38e4c5e8f7](http://groups.google.com/group/soc.culture.sri-lanka/browse_thread/thread/bbeb4f38e4c5e8f7)
- Humanitarian situation worsens (01 August 2007)
[//www.tamilguardian.com/article.asp?articleid=1351](http://www.tamilguardian.com/article.asp?articleid=1351)
- Civilian casualties due to military action in Sri Lanka, 01-31 July 2007 [not dated]
[//www.nitharsanam.com/public/HWR/julyy.pdf](http://www.nitharsanam.com/public/HWR/julyy.pdf)

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INCIDENT #30 – 1 UMCOR staff abducted in Trincomalee on 06-Jul.-2007

Incident Narrative with Background:

Mohamed Zavahir Mohamed Rizvi was abducted by unidentified persons on 6 July 2007 afternoon in Trincomalee. Zavahir was an employee of the United Methodist Community Organization for Refugees (UMCOR), an INGO, and was abducted from his Trincomalee office in Arunagiri Road.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Zavahir's father lodged a complaint about the abduction at the Trincomalee police and the police in turn notified the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) about the abduction.

Sources (in order of publication):

- NGO worker abducted in Trincomalee (07-Aug-2007)
<http://anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=22945>
- INGO Aid worker Abducted in Sri Lanka (07-Aug-2007)
http://www.tamilcelamnews.com/news/publish/tns_8435.shtml
- Sinhala terror SUBHUMANS abducted another NGO worker to kill - NGO worker abducted in Trincomalee (07-Aug-2007)
<http://www.topix.com/forum/world/sri-lanka/TT1RQKJMBL2GFR49E>
- Unknown men abduct NGO worker in Trincomalee (07-Aug-2007)
http://www.eelamnation.net/headlines_details.php?secid=69&newsid=1602
- Un employé de l'ONG blessé à Trincomalee (07-août-2007)
<http://www.tamoul.net/article.php?sid=449>

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**INCIDENT #31 – 1 DDG demining staff killed in Kasthooriar Rd., (Jaffna)
on 20-Aug.-2007**

Incident Narrative with Background:



Sivasamy Sritharan (31) was with other colleagues when chased by gunmen on a motorcycle along Kasthooriyaar road in Jaffna and shot dead on 20 August 2007. Sritharan was an employee of the Danish Demining Group (DDG) and was shot very close to Jaffna town's army brigade headquarters.

Four DDG staff members were traveling to work on two motorcycles when three people also on motorbikes came after them. Shots were fired towards the DDG staff. The passenger on one bike was hit in the back by a bullet, so the DDG staff on that motorcycle stopped. Those who were shooting and chasing caught up with the moving DDG motorcycle and killed Sritharan, the driver of that motorcycle. One news report alleged Sritharan was shot dead by army intelligence while another alleged the EPDP was responsible.

The DDG staffer who was hit in the back and suffered serious injuries is Vijeyenthiran (/A. Sujithan, 26?). He was taken to Jaffna Teaching Hospital.

Sritharan was a resident of Puliyanakoodal South (/Naranthanai north?) in Kayts.

Soon after this incident DDG, which has 300 staff in Jaffna, suspended its work on the peninsula to determine how to improve staff security. Six DDG staff have disappeared or been killed between January 2006 and December 2007.

The Danish Demining Group (DDG) and the British HALO Trust were brought to work in Jaffna after the 2002 ceasefire. Their employees came under suspicion of the security forces after an incident on 27 December 2005, when 43 sensing devices were stolen by the LTTE from HALO Trust's Nallur office. The Trust accused some current and former (dismissed) employees of being party to the theft. The Army ordered all the equipment to be stored in the High Security Zone thereafter. Then followed mounting killings and abductions of HALO Trust employees – six in the 2006-7 period (the total for all demining NGOs during this period was 13). In mid-2007, 17 employees of HALO Trust were dismissed on orders from the Army command. Most of these employees were thus, on mere suspicion, deprived of any protection they may have had as aid workers.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

No information is available.

Sources (in order of publication):

- Youth shot dead, his friend injured in Kayts (20-Aug-2007)
[//www.eelamnation.net/headlines_details.php?secid=69&newsid=1676](http://www.eelamnation.net/headlines_details.php?secid=69&newsid=1676)
- EPDP News Flash – NGO employee shot dead in Jaffna (20-Aug-2007)
[//www.epdpnews.com/Archive/2007/2007-August-English/news-english-2007-08-20.html](http://www.epdpnews.com/Archive/2007/2007-August-English/news-english-2007-08-20.html)
- Demining suspended following killing of NGO staffer (22-Aug-2007)
[//anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=23062](http://anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=23062)
- Demining in Jaffna suspended following killing of NGO staffer (22-Aug-2007)
[//www.eelamnation.net/headlines_details.php?secid=69&newsid=1689](http://www.eelamnation.net/headlines_details.php?secid=69&newsid=1689)
- Killings must be halted (22-Aug-2007)
[//www.sibernews.com/news/featured-article/-200708229334/](http://www.sibernews.com/news/featured-article/-200708229334/)
[//www.sibernews.com/index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=9334](http://www.sibernews.com/index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=9334)
- NESOHR Human Rights Report for the month of August, 2007 (12-Sep-2007)
[//www.disappearances.org/reports/NESOHR_aug2007.pdf](http://www.disappearances.org/reports/NESOHR_aug2007.pdf)
- Further list of victims of extrajudicial killings and disappearance in Sri Lanka (20-Sep-2007)
[//desaparecidos.org/notas/2007/09/sri-lanka-further-list-of-vict.html](http://desaparecidos.org/notas/2007/09/sri-lanka-further-list-of-vict.html)

- Slow Strangulation of Jaffna: Trashing General Larry Wijeratne's Legacy and Enthroning Barbarism, "Violations by the State Forces", UTHR(J) Special Report #28 (04-Dec-2007)
[//www.uthr.org/SpecialReports/spreport28.htm](http://www.uthr.org/SpecialReports/spreport28.htm)
- Uthayam Sept 2007 – Another month of war, misery and hopelessness
[//www.uthayam.net/sep2007/sep2007p8.pdf](http://www.uthayam.net/sep2007/sep2007p8.pdf) OR <http://www.uthayam.net/sep2007.pdf>
- Nitharsanam.info (Web Genocide Documentation Centre; The Forgotten Genocide)
[//nitharsanam.info/?damid=10401](http://nitharsanam.info/?damid=10401)

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INCIDENT #32 – 1 Catholic priest killed in Mannar on 26-Sep.-2007

Incident Narrative with Background:



Reverend **Fr. Nicholaspillai Pakiaranjith (40)** was killed in the blast from a claymore mine while delivering food to people left homeless by the war and living in an IDP camp in the Mallavi area near Kilinochchi on 26 September 2007. The claymore blast occurred when Fr Packiaranjith was driving humanitarian supplies to a camp and orphanage at Vidathalvu for people affected by the war. The priest's assistant was injured by the blast. Claymore mines are used extensively by both parties to Sri Lanka's ethnopolitical conflict.

Fr. Packiyananjith worked for the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and had been serving as a priest for the past 10 years. He was also the District Coordinator of Mannar for the Jesuit Refugee Service.

For Toronto's Fr. Joseph Chandrakanthan, Pakiaranjith was the second former student lost in just over a year. Fr. Thiruchchelvam Nihal Jim Brown disappeared at an army check point on 20 August 2006, and is presumed killed. Chandrakanthan taught moral theology at St. Xavier's Seminary in Colombo to both young priests.

In a statement, the Caritas Confederation strongly condemned the brutal attack and called on all sides in the conflict to safeguard the security of aid workers. In the meantime, Fr. Pakiaranjith's bishop praised his priest's commitment to the poor and marginalized.

Caritas International's Secretary General Lesley Anne Knight said, "Humanitarian aid workers and the religious personnel are the ones who accompany, serve and plead the cause of the innocent victims of war and violence in this country. All sides in the conflict must ensure their lives are protected and that they have the security to be able to provide humanitarian assistance."

Fr. Packiyananjith is not the first priest the Jesuit Refugee Service has lost to the Sri Lankan civil war. The first was American Jesuit Father John Herbert, who was killed on 27 June 1990.

The priest leaves behind a brother and widowed mother living in Toronto, Canada.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

No one has been prosecuted in relation to the incident though relevant authorities were called on to ensure an independent investigation and prosecute those responsible.

Sources (in order of publication):

- Condolence Messages & Tributes to Rev. Fr. Nicholaspillai Packiyananjith
[//www.archdioceseofcolombo.com/TributesfrPackiyananjith2.php](http://www.archdioceseofcolombo.com/TributesfrPackiyananjith2.php)
- Sri Lankan church worker killed in attack while delivering aid (Vatican City, 28-Sep-2007)
[//www.caritas.org/jumpNews.asp?idLang=ENG&idUser=0&idChannel=109&idNews=5300](http://www.caritas.org/jumpNews.asp?idLang=ENG&idUser=0&idChannel=109&idNews=5300)
- Another religious leader / aid worker killed in Sri Lanka (01-Oct-2007)
[//www.muthamilmantram.com/viewtopic.php?f=150&t=24575](http://www.muthamilmantram.com/viewtopic.php?f=150&t=24575)
- Priest from Jesuit Refugee Service killed in Sri Lankan blast (01-Oct-2007)
[//theonlineangelus.wordpress.com/2007/10/01/today-100107/](http://theonlineangelus.wordpress.com/2007/10/01/today-100107/) OR
[//www.americancatholic.org/Features/DailyNews/todays.asp?date=9/28/2007](http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/DailyNews/todays.asp?date=9/28/2007)
- Abductions and killings continue in North-East report SLMM (07-Oct 2007)
[//www.thesundayleader.lk/20071007/news.htm](http://www.thesundayleader.lk/20071007/news.htm) OR
[//www.telo.org/October2007.html](http://www.telo.org/October2007.html)
- Tamil priest with Toronto connections killed (12-Oct-2007)
[//www.catholicregister.org/content/view/1172/90/](http://www.catholicregister.org/content/view/1172/90/)

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**INCIDENT #33 – 1 DDG demining staff killed in Naranthanai, Kayts (Jaffna)
on 28-Oct.-2007**

Incident Narrative with Background:

Shanmuganathan Pakeerathanathan (28) was shot dead at home by unknown gunmen who arrived in a motorbike on Sunday 28 October 2007 around 7:30P.M. The de-mining worker, attached to the Danish De-Mining Group (DDG), was living with his father in Naaraantha'nai North near Thaanthoan'ri Amman Kovil in Kayts island off the Jaffna peninsula.

Pakeerathanathan's father reported that he was locked up in a room with legs and hands tied, while the assailants shot his son and escaped.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Pakeerathanathan's father, after freeing himself, informed Kayts police, who later recovered his son's body with hands tied behind the back and several gunshot wounds to body and head.

Sources (in order of publication):

- De-mining worker shot dead in Kayts (30-Oct-2007)
[//anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=23625](http://anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=23625)
or [//www.tamilnet.de/art.html?catid=13&artid=23625](http://www.tamilnet.de/art.html?catid=13&artid=23625)
or [//anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.fr/art.html?catid=13&artid=23625](http://anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.fr/art.html?catid=13&artid=23625)
- Den 3. minerydder fra Dansk flygtningehjælp dræbt i Sri Lanka, organisationen fralægger sig ansvaret. skrevet af Tamilvoice (31-oktober-2007)
[//www.tamilvoice.dk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=872&Itemid=38](http://www.tamilvoice.dk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=872&Itemid=38)
or [//tamilvoice.dk/index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=872](http://tamilvoice.dk/index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=872)
- Salient killings of Human Rights Defenders by the Security forces and paramilitary since 2000 (Jan-2008)
[//www.tchr.net/press_rel_urg_act_tchr-List-HR-defenders.pdf](http://www.tchr.net/press_rel_urg_act_tchr-List-HR-defenders.pdf)

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INCIDENT #34 – 1 RDF staff killed in Veerapura (Mannar) on 10-Nov.-2007

Incident Narrative with Background:



S.A. Gouthu Jalaltheen (38) was abducted on 10 November 2007 at Veerapuram (Vavuniya district) and found dead on 11 November at Periyapuliyankulam in Vavuniya district. He had worked in the Rural Development Foundation (RDF)'s Trincomalee office as District Manager for four years.

Gouthu Jalaltheen belonged to the community of Muslims evicted by the LTTE from Mannar in 1990. Now living in Puttalam, he still had many Tamil friends. Jalaltheen was

an aid worker and had worked in RDF branches in Mannar, Vavuniya, Trincomalee and Mulaiteevu for over 17 years. He was involved in resettlement projects relating to IDPs and IDP welfare, mainly among the Tamil population.

On 10 November 2007, Jalaltheen took his older brother, S.A. Sameer Fardiwes (43), on his motorbike to visit Sameer's daughter in Mangkulam, in the Chettikulam area of rural Mannar District. On the way back towards Madavachchiya, they stopped at Veerapuram, which is 15 minutes away, to pay a Deepavali visit to an old friend, a retired Tamil doctor. He was not home so they waited for his return at the request of his wife.

While they were waiting, five LTTE men armed with T56 rifles came to the doctor's house and called out for them. The doctor then arrived and explained to the LTTE that the Muslim men were his friends and not suspicious persons, but to no avail. The LTTE men then took Jalaltheen's motorcycle and drove them to a camp about 10 kilometres from Veerapuram. There, about 15 LTTE cadres armed with T56 rifles surrounded the two Muslims. The LTTE accused the men of lighting firecrackers in celebration when Thamilselvan, LTTE intelligence head, died. It was a false allegation, and all attempts by the two captives to explain their innocence failed. The LTTE men took the brothers' identity cards and said not a single Muslim in the North East would be spared once Eelam was achieved, because local Muslims supported Pakistan who supplies weapons to hit the LTTE.

After stripping the two captives to their underwear the captors assaulted and kicked them, all the time asking about one Aslam of Mangkulam. When Jalaltheen fainted the LTTE men poured water on him, then put a foot on his mouth and continued asking about Aslam. Around 9PM all LTTE men excluding five of them had left the camp on the orders of the leadership. The remaining cadres told the captives that they should prepare for the last journey and that they were free to say their last words.

The older brother Sameer at this point told Jalaltheen that they must escape. Jalaltheen did not encourage Sameer, saying that the LTTE men would release them because he worked for the benefit of Tamils. Before anything could happen the LTTE men appeared and took the two on motorcycles to a jungle area with their hands trussed up with the shirts. Sameer managed to loosen the knot and free his hands. Passing through thick forest and reaching the edge of a paddy field, one LTTE man said it is time they finished this business. On the way Sameer heard a shot fired from the motorcycle that was following, and he realized that the LTTE men had shot Jalaltheen.

Sameer then managed to topple the motorcycle along with the LTTE cadre and then ran for his life amidst a shower of shots that missed him because it was dark. After running for a while he climbed on to a tree by the main road where he spent the night. Towards dawn when Sameer saw a tractor coming along the main road he climbed off the tree and requested the tractor driver to help him. The driver directed the surviving brother to a nearby Muslim village where the people gave him food and allowed him to rest. Around 8AM Sameer reached Pavatkulam where a Muslim man helped him and contacted his daughter at Mangkulam. He learnt then that Jalaltheen had been murdered.

While the men were being held by the LTTE, the displaced Tamil community in Veerapuram went on a delegation to Mangkulam and explained to the Muslim elders what had happened. Around 4AM the next

morning, a search party organized by the Mosque found Jalaltheen's body. Meanwhile, Jalaltheen's relatives went to the doctor's house at Veerapuram to inquire about them. Later the doctor was shot dead by the LTTE.

The incident seems to have arisen out of the aerial bombing that killed the LTTE political leader Thamilselvan, for which the LTTE had called a hartal. The LTTE were angry that the hartal had not been completely observed in Mangkulam and associated this with a man named Aslam. The LTTE had apparently been looking for Aslam, and had told the two captured men that Aslam spied for the Sri Lankan Army from Mangkulam. They charged the Muslim community in Mangkulam with working against the LTTE and helping the Sri Lankan Army.

Gothu Jalaltheen was a Muslim trying to heal the wound created by the expulsion of Muslims from the North in 1990. Due to his murder by the LTTE, two local NGOs working in war torn areas were forced to recall their Muslim staff from Tamil areas. According to an aid worker, the local NGOs that deployed Muslims to work in the North used the opportunity strategically to ameliorate the tension and distrust between the two communities resulting from the LTTE's eviction of Northern Muslims. With Jalaltheen's murder, the little space that had existed for reconciliation was closed.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Sameer made a complaint at the Settikulam police post.

Sources (in order of publication):

- Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Country Team, Colombo Sri Lanka, Situation Report #100, (09-15 Nov-2007)
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- Unarmed people killed by LTTE in Puttalam (29-Nov-2007)
[//peacemuslims.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=492&Itemid=64](http://peacemuslims.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=492&Itemid=64)
- Slow Strangulation of Jaffna: Trashing General Larry Wijeratne's Legacy and Enthroning Barbarism, "Killings and Attacks by the LTTE", UTHR(J) Special Report #28 (04-Dec-2007)
[//www.uthr.org/SpecialReports/spreport28.htm](http://www.uthr.org/SpecialReports/spreport28.htm)

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INCIDENT #35 – 1 HALO Trust demining staff killed in Jaffna on 16-Nov.-2007

Incident Narrative with Background:

Thangarajah Sujeevan (26) was shot and killed inside the High Security Zone (HSZ) in Aathiyadi near Stanley Road, Jaffna on the night of 16 November 2007. Sujeevan was an employee of the Halo Trust, a British-demining group working in Jaffna.

Sujeevan was returning after prayers at the Nallur Murugan Temple to his mother's residence in Stanley Road when two gunmen lying in ambush close to Brigade HQ and the EPDP office shot him and escaped. This incident was the sixth abduction or killing of a Halo Trust employee.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Progress/outcome not known.

Sources (in order of publication):

- Halo Trust employee shot dead in Jaffna (17-Nov-2007)
[//anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=23804](http://anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=23804)
- British-Demining group Employee Killed in Jaffna, Sri Lanka (18-Nov-2007)
[//www.tamilcelamnews.com/news/publish/tns_8965.shtml](http://www.tamilcelamnews.com/news/publish/tns_8965.shtml)
- TELO, “Halo Trust employee shot dead in Jaffna” (19-Nov-2007)
[//www.telo.org/November2007.html](http://www.telo.org/November2007.html) [LIST]
- Slow Strangulation of Jaffna: Trashing General Larry Wijeratne’s Legacy and Enthroning Barbarism, “Violations by the State Forces”, UTHR(J) Special Report #28 (04-Dec-2007)
[//www.uthr.org/SpecialReports/spreport28.htm](http://www.uthr.org/SpecialReports/spreport28.htm)
- Lists of those disappeared, abducted or killed, Vol.1-No.2 (December 2007)
[//www.eia.rghr.net/archive/2007/vol.-1-no.-2/lists-of-those-disappeared-abducted-or-killed](http://www.eia.rghr.net/archive/2007/vol.-1-no.-2/lists-of-those-disappeared-abducted-or-killed)

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INCIDENT #36 – 1 World Vision staff killed in Navatkuda (Batticaloa)
on 28-Nov.-2007

Incident Narrative with Background:

Sinnathamby Sathananthan (28) of World Vision was abducted on the main road in Navatkuda on 28 Nov. 2007 around 9AM.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

Progress/outcome not known.

Sources (in order of publication):

- The Second Fascist Front in Sri Lanka – Towards Crushing the Minorities and Disenfranchising the Sinhalese; Appendix I : Cases, Reports and Trends (UTHRJ, Sp.Rp.#29, “2.3 Killings and Other Violations” (21-Feb-2008)
[//www.uthr.org/SpecialReports/Appendix%20I%20Cases,%20Reports%20and%20Trends.htm](http://www.uthr.org/SpecialReports/Appendix%20I%20Cases,%20Reports%20and%20Trends.htm)

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INCIDENT #37 – 1 SLRCS staff killed in Jaffna on 14-Dec.-2007

Incident Narrative with Background:

Sooriyakanthu Thavarajah (43) was abducted by unidentified gunmen from his home in Kalviwan Kadu, Jaffna, in the presence of his family on 14 December 2007. His decapitated body was found two days later in Kaithadi in Thenmaraadchy, with severe cut wounds and signs of being tortured. Thavarajah worked as a volunteer for the Jaffna branch of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS).

During the tsunami tragedy three years ago, the Red Cross worker put in long hours to alleviate the suffering of those affected. For his immense contribution during the tragedy, Thavarajah was selected by the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society for an award for “Best Volunteer.”

Thavarajah led the Red Cross for more than ten years and served as chairman of the Point Pedro Division for the three years up to the time of his death. Due to death threats from government-backed paramilitaries, Thavarajah had lived in hiding for several months before his abduction.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in a statement called upon the Sri Lankan authorities to carry out an immediate and comprehensive investigation into the killing.

In the statement, the Red Cross and Red Crescent reminded all parties to the conflict that they must respect the work of humanitarian agencies and refrain from any acts that might jeopardize humanitarian workers or activities. It also urged the conflicting parties to take all necessary measures to ensure that aid workers assisting the civilian population and other persons no longer or not taking part in the hostilities were spared from attack and that aid workers may move freely and safely.

There was no immediate reaction to the killing either from the Sri Lankan military or the LTTE. As with the double-murders six months before this, paramilitaries are the suspected perpetrators, with the security forces turning a blind eye.

Despite the murder of Thavarajah, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society together with its partners from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement will continue its efforts to help victims of the conflict and the tsunami.

Thavarajah is survived by his wife and five children.

Complaints, Inquiries, Investigations:

According to Thavaraja's near relatives, he had complained to the Jaffna Human Rights Commission about the treats to his life.

Sources (in order of publication):

- Red Cross Red Crescent Movement condemns murder of Sri Lanka Red Cross volunteer
http://www.redcross.lk/eh_news65.html
- Red Cross Red Crescent Movement condemns murder of Sri Lanka Red Cross volunteer
<http://www.protectiononline.org/Sooriyakanthu-Thavarajah-murder,5739.html>
- Sri Lanka (LTTE) Timeline 2007, “Kidnappings/abductions” (16-Dec-2007)
http://acd.iiss.org/armedconflict/Mainpages/dsp_ConflictTimeline.asp?ConflictID=174&YearID=0&DisplayYear=2007
- Red Cross says volunteer abducted, slain in Sri Lanka (17-Dec-2007)
<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSCOL148316>
- Red Cross worker abducted and killed in Sri Lanka (17-Dec-2007)
<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5gcIxfUcmhnW7o-YNETpRRhr9DbdQ>
- Sri Lankan Red Cross Volunteer Abducted, Murdered in Jaffna (17-Dec-2007)
<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601080&sid=a8wSzEaJuM4c&refer=asia>
- Red Cross worker abducted and killed in Jaffna (Updated) (17-Dec-2007)
http://www.eelamnation.net/headlines_details.php?secid=69&newsid=2508

- Daily Human Security Situation Report (18-Dec-2007)
[//www.fce.lk/Image/DailyReport/65.pdf](http://www.fce.lk/Image/DailyReport/65.pdf)
- Spare the messenger! Hands off the humanitarian worker! (18-Dec-2007)
[//tamilweek.com/news-features/archives/1184](http://tamilweek.com/news-features/archives/1184)
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5. ABBREVIATIONS

ACF	Action Contre la Faim [Action Against Hunger]
CID	Crimes Investigation Department [of the Sri Lanka Police]
DDG	Danish Demining Group
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
EPDP	Eelam People's Democratic Party
GoSL	Government of Sri Lanka
HRC	Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka
HSZ	High Security Zone [controlled by Sri Lanka military]
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
INGO	International Non Governmental Organization
ITRO	International Tamils Rehabilitation Organization
JRS	Jesuit Refugee Service
Karuna Group	Breakaway faction of the LTTE since March 2004; see TMVP below
LTTE	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
MAG	Mines Advisory Group
NEIAP	North East Irrigated Agriculture Project
NESOHR	North East Secretariat of Human Rights
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
RDF	Rural Development Foundation
SLA	Sri Lanka Army
SLN	Sri Lanka Navy
SLMM	Sri Lanka [Ceasefire] Monitoring Mission
SLRCS	Sri Lanka Red Cross Society
STF	Special Task Force [Sri Lanka Military]
TDH	Terre des hommes
TMVP	<i>Thamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulihal</i> [Political party formed by Karuna, who broke away from the LTTE]
TRO	Tamils Rehabilitation Organization
UMCOR	United Methodist Committee on Relief
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services