



வடகிழக்கு மனித உரிமைகள் செயலகம்

## North East Secretariat on Human Rights - NESOHR

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### Report on the claymore attack on temple goes on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2008

On 2 June 2008, a car carrying three families of pilgrims returning from a temple festival of the locally famous Nahathambiran Hindu temple in the Vanni region came under the claymore attack of the Deep Penetration Unit (DPU) of the Sri Lanka military. Six people were killed and four more were injured.

During normalcy this temple festival would attract huge crowds. However, in the present situation, due to the frequent claymore attacks and aerial bombing, such temple festivals and other public functions do not attract huge crowd in the Vanni area. This was also true for this temple festival. This particular car was, however, returning from the temple festival and was carrying ten people including women and children from three families. As the car was traveling on the Oddusuddan-Mankulam road around 8.00pm it came under a claymore attack eight kilometers from Mankulam in the village called Karippaddamurippu. All six of the victims were killed on the spot. The four injured people were transferred to Mullaithivu hospital after a long delay. The details of the victims and their relationships are as follows.

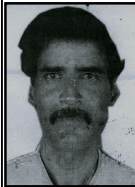
#### **Nilavan, his father and grandfather killed, sister injured**



Name: Muruhathas Nilavan  
Age: 4 years old



Name: Kanapathipillai Muruhathas (father)  
Age: 36 years  
Address: Uduthurai, Thalayadi, Vadamardchi east, Jaffna,  
was living in Ambalavanan Pokkanai



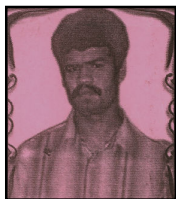
Name: Kaththapillai Naharasa (Grandfather)  
Age: 57 years

Injured sister is Shalini Muruhathas aged 12.

#### ***Nilavan's mother, Nahananthini, a survivor in the family,***

*"We are from Thalayadi. We displaced in 1995 are presently living in Ampalavanpokkanai. My husband drives and hires out the car for our living. My husband, father and two of my children left for the temple festival. We heard of the claymore attack at 1.00am. How am I going to take care of my surviving two children now?"*

**Sujinthan and his mother injured, his father killed**



Name: Vasanthakumar Sujintha (injured)

Age: 1 year old

Name: Iyathurai Vasanthakumar (father)

Age: 28 years

Address: Uduthurai, Thalayadi, Vadamardchi east, Jaffna,  
was living in Mullivaikal west

Name: Vasanthakumar Chitra (mother) aged 26 injured.

***Sujanthan's Grandpa Iyathurai,***

*"We displaced to Mullivaikal from Uduthurai in 1995 and my son got married here. How will his wife and child survive without him. I will take care of them as long as I live but what will they do after I die. They are both so young".*

**Kanishta and her grandma killed, her aunt injured**



Name: Kaneshalingam Kanishta

Age: 9 years old

Name: Tharmalingam Yogeswari (Grandma)

Age: 42 years

Address: Uduthurai, Thalayadi, Vadamardchi east, Jaffna,  
was living in Mullivaikal west



Name: Tharmalingam Vinothini (aunt and daughter) aged 17 injured

***Kanista's Grandpa Tharmalingam***

*"I could not see the face of my daughter. It was all completely burnt. I lost my granddaughter as well. We will have peace only in death now".*

These are the typical victims of the numerous claymore attacks on public transport services, ambulances, and private vehicles that are carried out by the Sri Lanka military in the Vanni region. Typically, these people would have already lost life and property within their families as a result of past attacks over the last three decades and displacement. Sadly, these tragedies do not receive the international media attention due to the blockade of media from the Vanni region.