

Massacres of Tamils

1956 - 2008



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Acknowledgements

A work such as this involves innumerable people whose contributions authenticated as well as enriched this book. It is impossible to name them all in this acknowledgement. We, therefore, have avoided naming the contributors.

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Events which occurred several decades earlier were not only sourced from other publications and oral statements of eyewitnesses but were also collated from the private notes of dedicated individuals who had maintained hand written notes. Thanks are due to the eyewitnesses who spoke out and these individuals who carefully kept notes. Younger members of the Tamil Diaspora also pitched in at various phases of this project and thanks are due them. Several well informed scholars read the material in this book and pointed out omissions and suggested improvements. They are also thanked for their help. SNE thanks its staff and everyone else who helped towards this project.

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NESOHR also thanks its staff and volunteers who contributed towards this book.

We regret that the first edition of this book did not include the massacres committed by the Indian forces during 1987-1989. This serious error has now been rectified. This book, also available in Tamil, has also been translated to the German language. Translations to other languages are also underway.

We thank all those propagating the material in this book through many translations and publications.

First Electronic Edition in English and Tamil – 2008

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This Book is dedicated to the thousands of Eelam Tamils who lost their life at the hands of the Sri Lankan and Indian State Armed Forces.

Introduction

The Sri Lankan State sponsored violence against the Tamil people in the island of Sri Lanka has a very long history. A startling aspect of this State violence is the large scale massacres of Tamils. Some of them are so spectacular that they are etched in the Tamil psyche. Prior to the signing of the internationally brokered February 2002 ceasefire agreement, there have been hundreds of such massacres. After a two year lull, the violent campaign by the military was re-launched in 2004. This report documents a selected number the massacres during these two periods ending at the end of 2008.

The events of early 2009 that are the subject of many war crimes investigations. NESOHR was forced to stop functioning in Vanni by the end of 2008 due to the prevailing situation of massive displacement and incessant and indiscriminate artillery attacks and aerial bombardments. We therefore did not collect on the spot reports of the events in 2009. We have added a very brief note and some pictures from this period at the end.

From 1987-1989 the Indian forces that were stationed in the Tamil homeland were also responsible for a large number of massacres. These are also documented separately at the end of the book as Part II.

Background

As the instances of large scale massacres reported in this book demonstrates, Tamils were subjected to genocide by the Sri Lankan State long before a single shot was fired by a Tamil militant against the Sri Lankan State's armed forces. Massacres were only a part of this genocide program carried out by the Sri Lankan State against the Tamils. Huge swaths of land that traditionally belonged to the Tamils were settled by Sinhala people who were brought there from faraway places in the Sinhala areas. The motive behind many of the massacres described here was to evict the Tamils from their land in order to colonise it with Sinhala people. Upcountry Tamils were disenfranchised en masse and Tamils were stripped of their language rights.

The problems came to the fore after the British colonial powers withdrew from the island in 1948 giving it a unitary constitution. In effect this constitution handed over the power to the Sinhala majority. It is this unitary constitution and the power in the hands of the Sinhalese that lead to the unrestrained violence against the Tamils and large scale violations of their basic human rights.

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The island was under three consecutive colonial rulers the Portuguese, Dutch and the British since the 16th century. Documented history during these three periods reveals that the colonial rulers maintained a separation of the Tamil and Sinhala communities in their administrative systems. This separation was eventually eroded by the final constitution left by the last colonial ruler, Britain. This constitution was opposed by the Tamils even at that time.

The first victims of the Sinhala majoritarianism were the Tamil plantation workers in the central regions of the island. These Tamils were brought from India by the British colonial rulers to work in the tea plantations that they have started. A million of this working people, contributing to the prosperity of the island for more than a century, were disenfranchised by an infamous law in 1949.

This was soon followed by the 'Sinhala only' Language Act that made the Tamil speaking people stripped of their right to use their language in their jobs, in their courts, and in their communications with the State. The sense of alienation from the State was further intensified when Tamils were faced with discrimination in education and jobs as well.

Since the British left the island, Tamil political representatives have negotiated with successive governments to draw up new models of governance that will give some powers to the Tamil areas to manage their own affairs. However, the two major political parties that dominated the politics of the Sinhala people fed on the anti-Tamil sentiments of the Sinhala people to gain votes among them. In other words whenever the party in power came to a negotiated agreement with Tamil representatives for power sharing, the Sinhala party in opposition would whip up the animosity of the Sinhala people against the Tamils forcing the party in power to abrogate the agreement.

This violence, land grab, discrimination and abrogated agreements lead the Tamil youth of the 1970's to take up arms to fight for the independence of Tamil Eelam. The nearly thirty year history since the armed struggle was launched by the Tamil youth for an independent Tamil Eelam is also scattered with many peace negotiations between the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil political and militant groups. The last of which was the internationally brokered 2002 ceasefire agreement. All of these agreements broke down due to the intransigence of the Sinhala leaders and their polity. The struggle by the Tamils continues.

The history of the Tamil and Sinhala people prior to the arrival of the colonial powers more than 500 years ago, is marred in controversy. At the root of this confusion is a Sinhala Buddhist text called Mahavamsa, written around 600 CE ago. Early western historians, in the absence of any other

evidence, taking much of this text to be true, propagated theories based on them. This text was further reinterpreted in the 20th century by Buddhist revivalists. In their reinterpretation the Tamil presence in the island was relegated as late coming invaders and it also elevated the Sinhala people as the rightful owners of the island. This has had profound effect on the thinking of the contemporary Sinhala people leading to their intransigence to share power with the Tamils.

Recent archaeological research in the Tamil homeland has thrown much light on the presence of a civilization in this island several millenniums ago and predating the arrival of Buddhism in this island. This archaeological evidence show much in common with what has been unearthed in Tamilnadu in India. They have demonstrated the presence of Tamil people in this island for several millenniums. A lot more linguistic and archaeological research needs to be done to map the development of the Tamil and Sinhala people as well as the Muslim people in this island. However, there is no doubt that the Tamil and Sinhala peoples lived in this island for several thousand years.

Data Collection and reporting details

Each of the selected massacres is described briefly. The circumstances surrounding the massacre, an eyewitness account where ever possible, and available names of those killed are also included. It is important to remember that the eye witnesses only report what they saw. In reality one eye witness sees only a small part of the larger atrocity that is planned and carried out by the State forces.

The data collection for what is described in this book has two distinct phases. The first phase was conducted mostly during the first two years after the 2002 ceasefire agreement, which was a small window of time without the pervasive fear created by the military in the Tamil homeland. This phase was started by SNE prior to the launch of NESOHR. Data collectors were employed on contract basis. A university graduate was appointed as the coordinator for each district. Permission was obtained from the District Secretariat and the help of the Grama Sevakar was sought. In addition to collecting data on victims, affidavits were collected from families.

The questioner used to collect data is a table printed over both sides of a large sheet of paper with 21 columns in it. Data on each affected person is entered in one row. The columns in the table are, 1) Row number; 2) Full name of informant; 3) Full name of affected person; 4) Relationship to informant; 5) Age of the affected person at the time of incident; 6)Sex; 7) Permanent address; 8) Temporary address; 9)Location of incident; 10)Year of incident; 11)Occupation of the affected person at the time of incident; 12)

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Number of dependents on the affected person under the age of 18 at that time; 13) Incident on Land or Sea; 14) In what form the person is affected; 15) What type of violence was used; 16) Offender; 17) Occasion of arrest; 18) Occasion of disappearance; 19) Type of limb lost; 20) Other type of injury; 21) Notes.

All of this data collection maintained in Vanni was lost as a result of the 2009 destruction. This book is based on the reports in the NESOHR website that has survived the destruction. In the description of the massacres that occurred prior to 2002, a map is included pinpointing the exact location of the incident. Local people remembered many of the massacres prior to 2002 by building a monument for those killed. Pictures of some of these monuments are also included in the pages.

For the massacres that occurred after 2002, the data collection was carried out on the spot. As such there were difficulties in collecting data about some of the incidents that occurred in the Sri Lankan military areas. Many such incidents are missing from this report. Maps are also not provided for incidents that occurred in this period due to time constraints. People have not yet had a chance to build monuments for these massacres. Thus there are no photos of monuments for the massacres of this period. A photo of the incident or a photo of the victims is provided for these cases.

Large scale displacement had taken place among the Tamil community since the late 1970's. Therefore this report could not include incidents that were witnessed by those who have moved to places outside the Tamil homeland. Also missing are information about families that were killed en masse because no one is left in the villages to report about them.

Detailed reporting of the events of 2009 leading to the largest ever massacre of Tamil civilians during the second week of May 2009 is presently beyond the capacity of NESOHR, which ceased to function by January 2009 due to the prevailing situation in Vanni. A favourable environment in the Tamil homeland is needed to accurately document the events in this period. Efforts by other groups are, however, underway to map the incidents in this period based on whatever sources available. There is a brief description of this period in the very last section of this book.

WE, THEREFORE STRONGLY CAUTION THE READERS NOT TO CONSIDER THIS BOOK AS A COMPLETE RECORD OF THE MASSACRES OF TAMILS BY THE SRI LANKAN AND THE INDIAN FORCES. CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THIS COLLATION, AS THEY COME TO LIGHT, WILL CONTINUE TO BE ADDED AT THE END.

The massacres are ordered by date in most cases but a few of them, around ten, appear outside this order. We hope the reader will tolerate this inconsistency in the order. NESOHR has published in depth reports on two massacres that occurred prior to 2002 and many of the massacres that occurred after 2002. These can be downloaded from the NESOHR website.

Abbreviations

ID - National identity card

IPKF – Indian Peace Keeping Forces

Kfir – Israeli made aerial bomber planes

LTTE – Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

NESOHR – North-East Secretariat On Human Rights

SLA – Sri Lankan Army

SLAF – Sri Lankan Air Force

SLAFs – Sri Lankan Armed Forces

SLFP – Sri Lankan Freedom Party

SLN – Sri Lankan Navy

SNE – Statistical Centre for North East

UNP – United National Party

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1. Igniyagala massacre 05 June 1956



In the 1940s, the Minister of Agriculture at that time created several Sinhala settlements in the Amparai district using state funds. The minister created the GalOya development scheme in the Amparai district and the Kanthalai and Allai development scheme in the Trincomalee district and brought Sinhala

settlers for these schemes from other districts. They were given several incentives. Police and military protection were given as well. Buddhist temples were built and big bells were fixed to these temples. An arbitrary declaration was made that wherever the ringing of these bells could be heard are lands belonging to Sinhala Buddhist people. In this land grab, land belonging to Tamils and Muslims were confiscated.

Thikavabi is a Sinhala settlement created in this manner. In the parliamentary elections of 1956, S W R D Bandaranayake was elected as the new prime minister. He submitted to the parliament the Sinhala Only law which was his campaign promise. The main Tamil political party of that time decided to protest this law peacefully. On 05.06.1956, it launched a Satyagraha protest in front of the old parliament building in the Gale Face beach in Colombo. Tamil politicians from all political parties joined in this protest. Fr Thaninayagam, a priest and a world famous Tamil language expert also joined the protest.

This protest was attacked by Sinhala thugs on that same day it was launched. Following this attack shops in Colombo owned by Tamils were looted and then the shops were burnt down. Tamil people were attacked. Echoing this violence, pogrom against Tamils broke out throughout the island. In the Amparai district the recently settled Sinhala thugs started violent attacks against the Tamils. 150 Tamils working in a sugar cane farm and factory in Igniyagala under the GalOya scheme were killed. The bodies of the dead and injured were thrown on a fire.

This is the first large scale massacre of Tamil in the island and many more followed over the following decades. The book "Emergency 58" by Tarzi Vittachi stated that 150 Tamils were killed in this pogrom.

2. 1958 pogrom

In 1956, peaceful protest by Tamils in Colombo, against the Sinhala Only Act that was recently in passed by the parliament, was attacked by Sinhala mobs. Tamils followed this protest with a long march to Trincomalee and held a large meeting. At this meeting some demands were placed for the Sri Lankan government regarding equal status for Tamil language and re the development of Tamil areas. It was after this the Banda-Chelvanayagam pact was signed. This was quickly abrogated when the opposition party, the UNP, launched an anti-Tamil campaign. In May 1958, plans were ahead for one of the Tamil Political Party conference to be held in Vavuniya. Tamils travelling by train from Batticaloa and Amparai for the conference were attacked by Sinhala mobs in Polonnaruwa. Following this incident, further violence against Tamils was let loose throughout the island.

Women were raped and Tamil property was damaged. A priest was burnt alive inside his Kathirvelayutha temple in Pananthura. The Sri Lankan government looked on as the violence against Tamils continued. Many Tamil homes were set alight. Babies were dropped in hot tar.

Well known journalist Tarzi Vittachchi wrote the famous book, Emergency 58, about this pogrom after he was expelled from the country.

More than 300 Tamils were killed in this pogrom.

3. Tamil research conference massacre 10 Jan 1974

Tamils were preparing on a grand scale to hold a Tamil Research conference in Jaffna during 3-10 January in 1974. The government of Sri Lanka at that time did not like holding this Tamil research conference in Jaffna. The government continued to place hurdles to the organizers in Colombo and also in Jaffna through the Mayor of Jaffna. Permission to



construct the open air platforms for the conference was held back until the very last minute. Many researchers who wanted to travel to Jaffna for the conference from other countries were refused visa.

In spite of these hurdles, the conference organizers and the Tamil people were determined to persist with the arrangements. Seeing the support of the Tamil people for holding the conference the government came down a little and issued visas to a limited number of researchers.



The President of the conference organizing committee, Thambaih, did not like holding the conference in Jaffna. He, therefore, resigned from his post. Prof Vidhyanandan took over the responsibility of the President. The conference started on 3 January. Hundreds of thousands of people from

different parts of Jaffna came into town to attend the conference. Conference proceeded on a grand scale. No conferences of the past were conducted in such a scale and with such enthusiasm. The entire Jaffna town was in festival mood.

10 January was being celebrated as the final day of the conference. The last item was speeches made by experts in Tamil language about the greatness of the language and the culture based on it. Prof Naina Mohammad from Tamilnadu in India was delivering the final speech. At that instant, the police lead by the Deputy Inspector of Police for Jaffna, Chandrasekara, started to attack the people at the conference. The police also opened fire. Nine civilians were killed, the stages were destroyed. The same Inspector of Police Chandrasekara was later promoted to the post of Inspector of Police by the then Prime Minister Srimavo Bandaranayke.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Velupillai Kesavarajan, Student, 15
2. Paramsoothy Saravanapavan, -, 26
3. Vaithianathan Yoganathan, -, 32
4. John Pidalis Sickmaringham, Teacher, 52
5. Pulendran Arulappu, Worker, 53
6. Rasathurai Sivanantham, Student, 21
7. Rajan Thevaratnam, -, 26
8. Sinnathurai Ponnuthurai, Native doctor, 56
9. Sinnaththamby Nandakumar, Student, 14

4. 1977 communal pogrom

In the July 1977 parliamentary elections the United National Party received a landslide victory capturing 5/6 of the parliamentary seats amounting to 140 seats. The party that was in government, the SLFP, received only 8 seats. Tamil Alliance group campaigning on an election platform of working towards an independent Tamil Eelam state won 18 seats by receiving the vast majority of the Tamil votes. This was not well received by the Sinhala polity.

It was in this context that the Sri Lankan police in Jaffna was pulled up by the public for sexual harassment of school girls at a school exhibition. Armed police later arrived at the scene in large numbers and began threatening people.

Following this, the Jaffna-Colombo and the Colombo-Jaffna night mail trains were attacked when it stopped at the Anuradhapuram railway station. Following these attacks, violence against Tamils spread throughout the island. Tamils in Trincomalee, Vavuniya, Ratmalana, Badhulla and Colombo were badly affected. Tamil Alliance members of parliament raised the violence in parliament. Yet, the then Presidential in Colombo J R Jayawardhana did not even declare curfew or emergency. He said that he does not like to rule the country under an Emergency Regulation.

The Sansoni Commission investigated the 1977 communal violence and submitted its report in 1980. The Sansoni commission reported that the police acted irresponsibly during the violence. Sansoni report said that more than 300 civilians were killed during this pogrom. However, statistics collected by other nongovernmental organizations put the number killed at more than 1500. These reports also said that many were injured with knife, iron bars, and logs. The report recommended compensation to the victims. It said, "Incidents which occurred during the specified period were of such an extreme nature and so widespread that an exception should be made as regards the payment of compensation". The committee appointed by the government on this recommendation to assess the compensation never sat.

5. 1981 communal pogrom

This pogrom surrounds the events in which the Jaffna library was burnt down with its irreplaceable book. It was during a period of election campaign. Ministers of the then UNP government, Gemini Tissanayake and Cyril Mathew were in Jaffna. Large police force was brought to Jaffna

together with many Sinhala thugs and was accommodated in the Jaffna Thuriappa Stadium.

At an election campaign meeting on 31.05.1981, in Jaffna, a Sinhala police was killed. Following this the police set fire to the Nachchimar Temple outside of which the campaign meeting was taking place.

Following this the police burnt down the large Jaffna market building with shops and stocks. Many statues representing Tamil culture were destroyed. The memorial built for those killed in the Tamil Research Conference was also destroyed.

The thugs went into the home of Member of Parliament, Yogeswaran, and inquired about the location of his house. Realising what the thugs were after, Yogeswaran, escaped through the back door with his family. His house was burnt by the Sinhala thugs. Yogeswaran in a statement published in India Today of June 1981 said that those who burnt down his house were Sinhalese. The same thugs burnt down the office of the Tamil Alliance party. Several other homes and public buildings were set alight.

The Jaffna library was burnt the day after the above arson. Rev Fr Thaveethu, who watched the Jaffna library burning from the second storey of the Bishop's House, died of heart attack on the spot.

6. Burning of the Jaffna library 01 June 1981



Jaffna library was considered the largest library with the rarest collection of books and manuscripts in the whole of South Asia. It was the educational heritage of the people in the North of the island. It was located south of the Jaffna town on the eastern end of a famous sports ground. Close to it is the Jaffna Central College and the clock tower built during the British rule.

The library housed more than 97,000 rare books and was unique in the entire island. For its time, it was a library well designed for study and was sought by students and academics as well as by foreign diplomats.

On 1 June 1981 at 10.00 pm, all three armed forces of the Sri Lankan government entered the library premises and chased away the security guard. They broke open the library door and started burning books. A rare collection of 97,000 books were burnt in a few minutes. The building was also set alight. The burning of the Jaffna library is one clear example of the intent of the Sri Lankan government to destroy the Tamil culture in the island. This book burning of the rarest collection of books in South Asia must be engraved as a tragic episode in the human history.

7. 1983 communal pogrom

The precursors

Local government elections were held in the Northern district of that time in May 1983. This turned out to be a contest between the Tamil moderate party and the emerging Tamil nationalist sections which boycotted the elections. 98% of the voters boycotted. Following the elections the Sri Lankan military which by now has been sent in numbers to Jaffna burnt down shops in the Kandarmadam area and entered private homes and stole valuable properties. The troubles spread to Vavuniya and Tamil shops were burnt there as well.

The worst hit was Trincomalee where during the month of June 1983, every day a village was attacked and at least one civilian was murdered by the military and Sinhala thugs supported by the military

On 01.07.1983, many Tamil Nationalist organizations called a protest against the massacres in Trincomalee. A train from Colombo was burnt by Tamil militant youths. Two senior protest leaders, Dr Tharmalingam and Kovai Maheson, were arrested and taken to Colombo. Two press offices in Jaffna that of the Suthanthiran and Saturday Review publications were sealed off by the military.

Using the claymore attack on 23.07.1983 in Thirunelveli that killed 13 Sri Lankan soldiers, as a pretext, an island wide pogrom against Tamils was let loose organized by the government ministers.

In Colombo

On Sunday 24th of July 1983 several persons boarded public and private buses in Colombo and began to make racist remarks designed to whip up animosity towards the Tamil community. Some shops belonging to Tamil traders were burnt and some people beaten and killed. Troubles spread quickly. By Monday morning the attacks has spread to several outlying areas of Colombo. Violence continued with increased intensity throughout

Monday. Vehicles driving on the road were stopped. If the occupants were Tamil they were beaten and sometimes killed. Thugs with electoral lists in their hands went from house to house, killing Tamils and burning property owned by Tamils. The electoral lists helped them to identify Tamil houses. Some Sinhalese people at great risk to their own safety hid Tamil friends in their houses.

Several eye witnesses including tourists have reported that the security personnel looked on as the violence was perpetrated. There are reports that the Army even threatened Police not to harass the rioters. On Monday 25th of July at 4.00 p.m. the government imposed curfew and this stayed in force throughout Tuesday the 26th. It was again imposed on 27th from 4.00 p.m. to 5.00 a.m. In spite of the curfew attacks on Tamil people continued throughout this period.

Rest of the island

The communal violence against Tamils was not restricted to Colombo. Thugs roamed the city of Kandy looking for Tamils on the streets and in the buses. In Trincomalee on 26th of July, 200 houses of Tamils were burned. Violence in Trincomalee town has been continuing for over a month by the time the violence broke out in Colombo on the 23rd of July. The Trincomalee town has a Sri Lankan naval base. The violence against Tamils here was assisted by Sri Lankan Navy as well as the Army and the Police. In Jaffna on the 23rd of July, the Army went on a rampage shooting, on the road, in the houses and in buses killing a total of 50 civilians.

Welikade prison massacre

On 25th July Sinhala prisoners attacked and murdered 35 Tamil detainees in a section of the Welikade prison in Colombo. Another 28 Tamil detainees in a different section was immediately transferred to the Youth Ward. On the 27th armed Sinhala prisoners scaled the walls and appeared in front of the Youth Ward. Dr. Rajasundaram respected for his tireless work among the downtrodden sections of the Tamil community was one of the detainees in the Youth ward. He came forward and pleaded with the attackers to spare them. Door suddenly opened and Dr Rajasundaram was dragged out and beaten to death. The rest of the detainees broke the chairs and tables and used it to keep the attackers at bay.

ICJ report

International Commission of Jurists issued a report on the pogrom. It was written by Paul Sieghart. This report suggests that the riots of July 1983 began even before the reports of the killing of 13 Sri Lankan soldiers in a claymore attack in Jaffna appeared in the local newspapers.

Massacres of Tamils

Only on the fifth day, on 28th July the President of Sri Lanka appeared on television. In a brief address he blamed the violence and destruction exclusively on the reaction of "the Sinhala people" to the movement for the establishment of a separate Tamil state, and announced the Cabinet decision to bring in what in the event became the Sixth Amendment to the country's constitution.

Following is from Paul Sieghart's report,

``In his address to the nation on the 5th day of rioting president did not see it fit to utter one single word of sympathy for the victims of the violence and destruction which he lamented. If his concern was to re-establish communal harmony in the Island whose national unity he was anxious to preserve by law that was a misjudgement of monumental proportions...

But what I find most extraordinary is that, to this day, there has been no attempt to find out the truth through an official, public and impartial enquiry, when the situation in the country cries out for nothing less."

Casualty figures

Due to the absence of any public inquiry following the riots the actual number of deaths and the cost of damage to property were never established. 200,000 Tamils were immediately rendered refugees. Tamil organizations that have carried out their own survey estimate that nearly 3000 Tamils were killed. All non government reports on the riots came to the conclusion that the violence was deliberately started by the government and was carried out through the use of thugs, controlled and organized by members of the governing United National Party.

References:

- Sri Lanka: A Mounting Tragedy of Error by Paul Sieghart. Report of a mission to Sri Lanka in January 1984 on behalf of the International Commission of Jurists and its British section Justice, March 1984.
- Detention, Torture and Murder - Sri Lanka by S A David (Survivor of the Prison Massacre).
- Sri Lanka Hired Thugs by Amrit Wilson in New Statesman, 26 July 1983.
- Race & Class Vol 26 No 4 1985

8. Thirunelveli massacre 24, 25 July 1983



Thirunelveli comes under the Nallur Assistant Government Agent Division in the Jaffna district. It is located north of the Jaffna town, 3 Kms from it, along the Palaly road. Jaffna University, Jaffna Technical College and several Government offices are located in Thirunelveli.

On 23.07.1983 at 11.45 am, a Sri Lankan military vehicle on patrol came under a landmine attack on Palaly Road between Parameshwara Junction and Thirunelveli Junction. Thirteen Sri Lankan military soldiers were killed in this attack. That night and on the following day, the military entered the homes of civilians in Palaly Road and Sivan Amman village and in total they shot dead 51 people. Many homes were set alight.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Nagalingam Sivalingam, Supervisor, 35
2. Sinnaiya Sathanathan, Watch repairer, 40
3. Kanthaiya Sanmukanathan, 60
4. Seevaratnam Thaventhiran, Student, 19
5. Kanakaratnam Kirusnanantham, Business, 33
6. Sanmukanathan Saththiyathevan, Salesman, 18
7. Palachchanthiran Ajith, Child, 6
8. Thankarasa Kajendhiran, Student, 9
9. Selvakanthini, Child, 11
10. Pilip Alociyas Santhirasekaram, Business, 34
11. Ponnaiya Bararayasingam, Teacher, -
12. Ramasami Nagarasa, Labourer, 24
13. Supramaniam Barameswaran, Manager, 39
14. Sinnaththampi Saravanamuththu, Teacher, 39

9. Sampalthoddam massacre 1984

Sampalthoddam is a village three miles along Mannar road from Vavuniya town. Today this is called Navalarpennai. The time was early 1984 prior to the Thimbu talks which was late 1984.

A survivor who remains anonymous describes the event as she remembers it:



“People were returning from a wedding in a privately hired bus. The SLA stopped the bus near Pambaimadu and took all 70 people on the bus to a teak estate called Thekkavaththai. There, the SLA sent the 15 women and children who were in the bus and made the remaining 55 men look at the teak trees and

then sprayed them with bullets.

The SLA then kicked the bodies that have fallen to see if they were still alive, those who made any noise in pain were shot again. One person fell to the ground in shock and was not hit by any of the bullets. Two of the men, who were shot, fell on top of him and died. He was thus lying in a pool of blood. When the SLA kicked his body he did not make any noise and the SLA thought he was dead too. When the SLA left, he ran to a village called Thalampokkanai. In this village there was a Muslim community leader who was very close to the Tamils and was a strong supporter of the LTTE. He owned a shop. The man ran to his shop and told the Muslim leader what has happened. From there the man went to Jaffna without telling the police, as he was so scared. The villagers went to the sight of the massacre and the news of the incident soon spread.

I heard that the man was given protection and sent somewhere safe. I do not know what happened to him after that. We went and looked at the massacre sight. It was very close to where we were living. We noticed that there were no bodies of women there. The man had said that the women were made to get off the bus. We do not know what happened to the women. The women did not give any statements.”

10. Chunnakam Police station massacre 08 Jan1984

Chunnakam is in the Uduvil Assistant Government Agent Division in the Jaffna district. Ten Kms from Jaffna town, on the KKS road, travelling towards Kankesanthurai, there is the Chunnakam junction. The Chunnakam Police station was located 250 metres south from this junction.

Many young men arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act without any evidence against them were kept in remand in the Chunnakam Police Station. On 08.01.1984, during the period when Tamil militant attacks on the Sri Lankan military started to spread, the Police placed a time bomb in



the room where the young men were kept and left the building. When the bomb exploded all 19 young men inside was killed. Sanjeevan who went in to save the young men was also killed.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Sellar Sivalingham, Student, 22
2. Vaithilingham Nigethanan, Student, 21
3. Kandiah Palan, Farmer, 25
4. Appaiah Nagarasa, Salesman, 38
5. Aaseervatham Vijith Vimalarasa, Electrician, 20

11. Chunnakam market massacre 28 Mar 1984



Chunnakam market is situated 7 Kms from Jaffna town on Chunnakam road. This is a central market where most agricultural products grown in Jaffna, Kilinochchi and also other district are brought for sale. On 28.03.1984, Sri Lankan military arrived in tanks and jeeps at the Chunnakam market and the bus stop

and started opening fire at the people crowded in these two places. Eight civilians were killed and about 50 were injured. The military set fire to the market and many shops were burnt down.

The military then left the location and drove through Mallakam along KKS road. There they started shooting everyone who came within their sight. One civilian was killed. From here the military went to Tellipalai. There, students from the Union College, who were coming out of the school after writing an examination, were attacked. 26 students were injured in this attack. Another 20 civilians who happened to be on the same road were also injured.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Kanthaiya Balasupramaniam, Security, 52
2. Nagalinkam Sivasupramaniam, Supervisor, 54
3. Thampimuththu Suntharalingam, Labourer, 38
4. Vallipuram Suntharalingam, Business, 68
5. Vairavi Thiyakarasa, Business, 42

6. Basubathi Thavamani, Home maker, 43
7. Nadarasa Yokarasa, Business, 27

12. Mathawachchi – Rampawa September 1984



Mathawachchi is located south of Vavuniya on the A9 road. The village is populated mainly by Sinhala and Muslim people. Following the 1983 pogrom against Tamils, Tamil passengers travelling from Colombo to Jaffna have been attacked on several occasions.

One day in the first week of September 1984 a passenger bus which was going to Jaffna from Colombo was stopped at Mathawachchi junction by the Sri Lankan military and the bus with the passengers were taken to Mannar road and there 15 civilians in the bus were killed including the driver and 31 civilians were wounded.

13. Point Pedro – Thikkam massacre 16 Sept 1984

On 16.09.1984, four Sri Lankan soldiers were killed in a land mine explosion. In a revenge attack, the Sri Lankan Police attacked and killed 16 civilians. Hartley College Library and its laboratory were burnt down.



14. Othiyamalai massacre 01 Dec 1984

This is a remote village on the border of Mullaithivu district. More or less the entire population worked in their own paddy fields and they had ample farming produce to live by. However, Sinhalese settlers were settling in Ken

Farm and Dollar Farm and displacing the Upcountry Tamils in these places who had already been displaced from the Upcountry as a result of ethnic violence. From 29th November 1984 until 2nd December 1984 the SLAFs declared a curfew. A SLAFs regiment moved from Pathaviya to



Othiyamalai on 1st December 1984. The SLAFs rounded up the people of Othiyamalai village. When the villagers opened their door at 5.00 am on that day, they saw the Sri Lankan soldiers standing in green attire. The soldiers spoke fluent Tamil and asked for all the men in the village to come to the Development Society building managed by the LTTE, and demanded that they assist the struggle waged by the LTTE. Deceived by the pretension of the Sri Lankan army soldiers 32 men went. Sithambarapillai Sagunthararasa otherwise known as Rasa lost his father and five uncles in the Othiyamalai Nedunkerni Massacre. His account is as follows:



“On 2nd December 1984, 32 people were massacred here. My father and five of my uncles were killed. Around 5:00 or 5:30 in the morning, the SLA came to our village. We were small children then. We only know what people told us, we don't remember much. My father was listening to the radio. It was only when they caught

him that we realized they were the SLA. They caught our uncle at our house. They tore up his shirt in front of us and tied his hands. Like this, the SLA went in twos and threes to every house and caught each family head. On Puthukkudiyiruppu Road, they saw a tractor. They took hold of the tractor and put everyone they had brought on this tractor. They tied up everyone's hands and eyes. They shot everyone whilst the men remained still tied. The watching villagers told us, that they put five people, all of them over fifty years old in the back of a tractor. They took off the side doors of the tractor, placed them on top of the five old men and the soldiers then stood on top of the men singing and dancing as they drove away.”

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Nakamani Sinnaiya, -, 50
2. Nakaratnam Ketheeswaran, -, 23
3. Nalaiya Navaratnam, -, 17
4. Kanthaiya Kanakaiya, -, -
5. Kanthaiya Ponnampalam, -, 48
6. Kanthaiya Sivasithamparam, -, 35
7. Kirusnapillai Rasalingam, -, 29

8. Karuppaiya Thankarasa, -, 18
9. Kanapathippillai Sinnaiya, -, 35
10. Kanapathippilai Sivapatham, -, 28
11. Thanmotharampillai, -, 51
12. Thamotharampillai Sathasivam, -, 46
13. Thampiyaija Kasippillai, -, 45
14. Thampiyaija Veluppillai, -, 38
15. Thampiyaija Supramaniyam, -, 26
16. Thampiyaija Sivanganam, -, 23
17. Alakaiya Jekanathan, -, 17
18. Kovinthar Kanavathippillai, -, 55
19. Ponnampalam Thevarasa, -, 25
20. Veluppillai Sithambarampillai, -, 36
21. Suppaiya Kenkatharan, -, 26
22. Sinnaya Rasenthiram, -, 21
23. Sithamparampillai Rasaiya, -, 27
24. Sankarappillai Saparatnam, -, 40
25. Sankarappillai Sanmukasuntharam, -, 25
26. Sanmukarasa Ravichchanthiran, -, 16
27. Veerakaththi Thillainadarasa, -, 25

15. Kumulamunai massacre 02 Dec1984

Kumulamunai is in the Mullaithivu district. Farming and rearing livestock are the main occupation of the village. During the 1984, it was common for the Sri Lankan military to round up the Kumulamunai village and arrest people and torment them. On



01.10.1984, the village was rounded up by the Sri Lankan military and two people from the same family were arrested. Following this on 29.11.1984 several more villagers were arrested. Military released most of the people it had arrested except the four brothers of the two people arrested earlier and

another person from Kumulamunai named Mohan. The families of these men persisted in seeking the release of the men. The military promised to release them after inquiry. On 01.12.1984, the military told the families that they have shot dead all seven men.

Six of the seven men shot dead are brothers. Six of the men were married.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Ponnampalam Namasivayam, -, 51
2. Ponnampalam Ananthan, -, 53

3. Ponnampalam Kenkatharan, -, 45
4. Ponnampalam Ponrasa, -, 43
5. Ponnampalam Santhiralinkam, -, 49
6. Ponnampalam Vivekanantham, -, 47
7. Mokaathash, -, 32

16. Cheddikulam massacre 02 Dec1984



Cheddikulam is a border village in the Vavuniya district and is located 20 Kms from the Vavuniya town along the Vavuniya-Mannar Road. Farmers, business people, labourers and government employees live in this area.

On 02.12.1984, the Sri Lankan military imposed curfew throughout Cheddikulam. The military began cordoning off the Cheddikulam area at 5.30am in the morning. Most of the people in the village were still asleep. The military that came into the village took the males for inquiries. 52 men were taken in the military vehicles to the adjacent town of Mathawachchi. There has been no information about these 52 men since. The people of the Cheddikulam village are saying that the 52 men were taken to a Sinhala village in Mathawachchi, and there they were chopped up with sharp knives and heavy vehicles were run over them. As a result, the Cheddikulam villagers say all 52 men died.

T Yesuthasan, teacher at Cheddikulam Mahavidhyalayam says,

“Following the incident people displaced to Vanni, Madhu and India. Among the 52 people killed were my younger brother, my brother-in-law and two more people living with us.”

Mayilvahanam of Cheddikulam says,

“On that day many of us ran into the forest and hid. My home was completely destroyed by the Sri Lankan army”

17. Manalaru massacre 03 Dec1984

On 03.12.1984, Sri Lankan military rounded up Manalaru area and fired randomly at the civilians. Civilians from Manalaru and Amaravayal were chased away by the Sri Lankan military and their houses were set on fire.

Massacres of Tamils

People who have lived in the villages for generations were thus displaced. Many civilians were killed including women and children. Hundreds of families were displaced from these areas. Sinhalese were settled in these



villages later.

18. Blood soaked Mannar 04 Dec1984

Mannar is one of the eight districts of the Northeast province. The main occupation of the Mannar people is fishing. The historical Hindu temple, Thiruketheeswaram, and the famous Catholic Madhu church are located in this district. On 4 December 1984 the Sri Lankan military conducted an attack on the people of Nanaddan and Manthai areas in the district.



On 04.12.1984, the military arrested a young man from Isaimalaithivu and were taking him to their camp when the military vehicle came under a landmine attack. There were no serious damages. The military went to its Thalladi military camp and started to shell civilian areas from there.

The military burnt 15 men alive who were previously arrested by them. The military also arrested 30 more people who were travelling on the road in front of their camp and burnt them alive as well. People in the Mannar town were able to observe the smoke arising from the 45 burning bodies.

On the same day, the military from the Thalladi and Silavaththai military camps rounded up several residential areas. The military that left from Mannar travelled on the Mathawachchi road through the villages of, Sirunavatkulam, Nochchikulam, Kallikkaddaikadu, Uyilankulam, Parapankandal, Uyirththarasankulam, Aththikkuli, Chemmanthivu, Murunkan and went up to the Madhu road. All along they attacked and burnt homes and offices and shot and killed people. Employees of the Chemmanthivu Cooperative Society and the employees of the Murunkan post office were killed in these atrocities. The military that left Silavaththai also carried out atrocities along the way.

NESOHR

Information collected by SNE

The military from the Thalladi camp after arriving at Madhu road stopped a bus full of passengers. They ordered everyone to get off the bus and all the passengers and the driver were shot dead. Two days after this the Bishop of Mannar and the Mannar Government Agent collected 90 bodies and took them to the Mannar hospital. More than 200 people were killed in this episode of violence by the military.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Anthoni Kurusuthasan, Farmer, 23
2. Alakaiya Kalimuththu, Farmer, 31
3. Muththuchchami Supramaniyam, Mechanic, 58
4. Mansan Sivanappan, Labourer, 34
5. Murukesu Navaratnam, Farmer, 54
6. Murukesu Sellamma, Home maker, 60
7. Manaval Alexs, Farmer, 52
8. Maiyilvakanam Jeyakkumar, Farmer, 32
9. Anthoni Sebamalai, Clerk, 48
10. Kentimariyathas Miyes, Farmer, 57
11. Anthoni Yokanatha, Student, 18
12. Anthoni Yokanathanmiral, Student, 18
13. Appuththurai Veerasingam, Mechanic, 40
14. Susaiyappu Inmanuvellembet, Farmer, 24
15. Imanuvel Susaiyappulembet, Labourer, 24
16. Ramaiya Kanthasami, Labourer, 50
17. Ramalingam Rakunathan, Audit, 40
18. Ramalingam Laxmanan, Labourer, 50
19. Mukamad Kaniva Sullththan, Labourer, 36
20. Kuppusami Sellaththurai, Audit, 55
21. ArulmalarJohnpappisd, Home maker, 28
22. K.T.Rajaradnam, Doctor, 67
23. Karuppaiya Achchuthan, Engineer, 34
24. Karuppaiya Perumal, Labourer, 60
25. Pilip Pilenthiran, Farmer, 56
26. Alpiratpol Noyalimmanu, Farmer, 45
27. Alpons Susainathankuru, Manager, 34
28. Andiarumukam Sunthararaj, Farmer, 45
29. Yakkovu Manuval, Farmer, 50
30. Pethuru Ariyaratnam, Postman, 42
31. Alakan Kalemuththu, Labourer, 65
32. Savariyan Santhiyekuparuna, Farmer, 32
33. Savariyan Santhiyekuparinanthu, Farmer, 33
34. Vallipuram Thiyakarasa Postmaster, , -40
35. Richchartkulas Thekkilayark, -, 48
36. Milasakipu Appulmajithu, Farmer, 43
37. Sinnaththampi Suppiramaniyam, Farmer, 51

38. Pusari Kanthasami, Labourer, 46
39. S Kathiraban Arumukam, Govt employee, 72
40. Santhiya Susainathan, Business, 36
41. Akkinimuththu Ramasami, Labourer, 34
42. Bransisavari Saram, Farmer, 54
43. Sebamalai Merikarmilarani, Home maker, 28
44. Loranspillai Bavaluppillai, Farmer, 47
45. Santhiyappillai Mariyampillai, Farmer, 30
46. Saminathan Kannusami, Watcher, 28
47. Kappaneyina Najimutheen, Labourer, 32
48. Velu Banneerchchelvam, Business, 31
49. Ponnampalam, Business, 40
50. Arulanantham Thurairaja, Govt employee, 32
51. Ponnaiya Alakaiya, Farmer, 65
52. Pensameen Thavaratnam, Prison Guard, 45
53. Sellaiya Sanmukanathan, Nurse, 45
54. Velu Rajalingam, Labourer, 25
55. Seemanpillai Santhiyampillai, Farmer, 58
56. Velu Kanapathippillai, Farmer, 58
57. Pilenthiran Alpons, Farmer, 55
58. Veluppillai Kanapathippillai, Farmer, 58
59. Susai Neekkilas, Labourer, 38

19. Kokkilai Kokkuthoduvai massacre 15 Dec1984



On 15.12.1984, Sri Lankan military entered the villages of Kokkilai, Kokkuthoduvai, Karunaddukerni, Nayaru, Kumulamunai, and Alampil in the Mullaitivu district. The military killed many civilians and destroyed property. 131 civilians were killed including 31 women and 21 children. More than 2000 families were displaced

following this operation and they remain displaced to this date in 2006.

20. Mulliyavalai massacre 16 Jan1985

Mulliyavalai village is situated on the Mullaitivu-Vavuniya road in the Mullaitivu district. It is an ancient village with fertile land and has retained many of the folk culture of time past.



16.01.1985 was a festive day, the day after Thaipongal. Thaipongal is thanks giving festival for the sun and on the following day the farm animals are honoured for their role in the farmer's life. At 4.00 am on that morning the Sri Lankan military rounded up this village.

The military arrested 17 people. One of them was a pregnant woman and another was a young mother of three children. Before they left, the military burnt down many homes. About 30 minutes later, people heard several gunshots. News started to spread that all the 17 people who were arrested have been shot dead. The villagers kept this news from the relatives of the 17 arrested.

A while later military vehicles started moving towards the Mullaithivu town. The relatives stared into the military vehicles looking for their loved ones. When their relatives did not return even the next day, the families, accompanied by a local Justice of Peace, Thiagaraja, went to the military camp in Mullaithivu.

There the families saw the bodies of their loved ones thrown on the ground. The bodies had no clothes on them. The hand, legs and heads were chopped off. There were many torture marks on the body. The body of one woman had many cigarette burns. When the families asked to take the bodies of their loved ones, the military demanded that the families sign a statement that those killed were terrorists. When the families refused to do this the military refused to hand over the bodies.

Thavaratnam Thilakavathy of Mulliyavalai says,

“On 16.01.1985, the Sri Lankan military arrested 17 people including my husband and my son and took them towards the forest nearby. The military burnt many homes and stole many properties.”

Pushparanee says,

“The Sri Lankan military entered our home and arrested my brother and my mother and killed them both. The army said that they killed the people who were Tigers. One woman, Kumarasamy Vijayakumari who was 7 months pregnant was also killed. Many of us here were affected by this. Since this happened the day after Thaipongal festival, we do not celebrate Thaipongal any more”.

Massacres of Tamils

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Nagaratnam Sriskantharasa, -, 35
2. Thambaiya Vivekanantham, Student, 17
3. Sinnappan Annalaxmi, Home maker, 35
4. Suppan Sinnan, Self Employed, 40
5. Pilippaiya Yokarasa, Fisherman, 17
6. Sellaththurai Kumarasami, Farmer, 35
7. Sellaththurai Navaratnam, Farmer, 38
8. Kumarasami Vijayakumari, Home maker, 27
9. Markkandu Thadsanamoorththi, Fisherman, 19
10. Thambaiya Balasubramaniam, Farmer, 30
11. Navaratnam Thayaparan, Student, -, 15

21. Vaddakandal massacre 30 Jan 1985

Vaddakandal is situated in the Mannar district and it is a farming area. On 30.01.1985, around 5.00am in the morning, 200 Sri Lankan military men stationed in the Thalladi military camp came out and moved into the Vaddakandal village through Mathawachchi road and along the Kaddukarai Lake.



At 6.30 am they entered the homes of the villagers and began shooting and stabbing people. During this massacre the Sri Lankan Air Force helicopters also strafed the village. The military entered the Vaddakandal Government Tamil Mixed School and attacked the principal, teachers and

students. Eighteen people were killed in the school.

While this killing was going on, the military also attacked people working in the fields and people on the street. This attack went on for six hours. At 2.00pm the military ordered the people to load the military vehicles with the dead bodies and took the bodies to the Thalladi military camp. 52 people died in this massacre and 40 were injured.

Mayilvahanam Mohan's account of what happened is as follows,

“The SLA from Thalladi Army Camp surrounded the following 3 villages, Palaperuman Kattu and Vaddakandal and Parapankandal. Around 1.00am, we heard vehicle noise. We had no idea they were coming or what they would do. At about 5am in the morning – we heard gun fire from all directions. People woke up and started running everywhere. There was a helicopter in the air which started firing.

They did not worry about a person’s age. Young or old – they were all shot and killed that day. They went into the paddy fields and picked up people with both hands, held them up and shot them for others to see. This is the first time we saw this happen. 35 people were shot in the fields, 15 people were shot in town. At the school there were about 250 children studying. They dragged the principle and all the teachers out, tortured and shot them in front of the villagers. They were all asked to stand in a line – when they were shot. A few people escaped. I was one of them. 18 people were shot there.

Mayilvaganam Ganesh was made to shoot his cousin and asked to drink his blood. He was beaten severely. Every time he refused to drink the blood – they hit him some more. His legs were broken.

After all of this happened, the Army brought a villager’s lorry. Three of us had been captured and not yet shot. They made us put all the bodies in the lorry and took us with them. A little while away – they told us that since we had helped them, they would spare us our lives. We ran away and escaped. They took some of the bodies to Thalladi Army camp and took some to Mannar Hospital. The Grama Sevakar helped the villagers to carry out the investigation.

Beside this village there was a Muslim village – but nothing happened to them. Three days later, there were funerals happening in every house. The army returned and surrounded the forest. At that time we did not have any associations with the LTTE. They may have been there, but we did not know where they were. The SLA kept coming back after that and tormented all the villagers who had to live in constant fear.”

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Ponnar Ponnappan, Fisherman, 30
2. Santhan Thombaimiyes, Farmer, 28
3. Savariyan Alponsparula, Farmer, 25
4. Madaiyappan Pandiyappan, Farmer, 24
5. Muththannathevar Nadarasa, -, 39
6. Murukesu Thambappillai, -, 55
7. Rasu Selvarasa, Driver, 30
8. Kannikkavundar Suntharalinkam, Farmer, 23
9. Karuppaiya Jeyaratnam, -, 25

10. Piransi Kaiththan, Farmer, 27
11. Piransi Saminathan, Farmer, 37
12. Thirumal Ramachchanderan, -, 26
13. Manaval Victor, Salesman, 45
14. Alexsandar Parnanthu, -, 72
15. Arunasalam Suntharamoorththi, -, 45
16. Sebamalai Pernando, Business, 21
17. Sellaiya Ramasami, Farmer, 35
18. Vellaichchami Muththurasa, Farmer, 20
19. Sellaiya Ramasami, -, 30
20. Venkadasalam Thevaraj, Farmer, 34
21. Vellaichchami Muththurasa, -, 35
22. Ganappirakasam Sebmalai, Farmer, 22
23. Santhiyeku Anthoni, Farmer, 40
24. Suppan Palani, -, 42
25. Suppiramaniyam Sanmukanathan, Labourer, 33
26. Sinnaya Seruvarajan, Labourer, 33
27. Srikori Radnathurai, -, 32
28. Raman Thankarasa, -, 56
29. Ramasami Atputharasa, -, 19
30. Ramasami Selvarasa, -, 22
31. Raman Thankarasa, Farmer, 35
32. Ramachchandiran Theyvenduran, Farmer, 18
33. Ramasami Selvarasa, Farmer, 27
34. Piransi Saminathan, Farmer, 36
35. Muththusami Saththiyaseelan, Farmer, 42

22. Udumbankulam massacre 19 Feb 1985



Udumbankulam and Thankavelayuthapuram are situated near the Thirukovil area in the Amparai district. On 19.02.1985, early in the morning, 85 Sri Lankan military personnel from the Amparai military camp arrived in six military vehicles in Thankavelayuthapuram and

Udumbankulam villages. Some of the military were in camouflage uniform and others in blue uniform. They went into the paddy fields where hundreds of poor farmers were busy with harvesting work. They were carrying weapons. They rounded up 103 people in the fields and took them to the forest nearby. There they raped and cut the breasts off from the women and killed them. Others were lined up and shot dead. In total 103 people were killed including many children. The military spread the harvested hay over the bodies and set fire to it.

Ms. TK, who was a victim of rape and eye witness to the massacres that took place in the paddy fields of Udumbankulam, related her story:

“On the night, the Army which came from Kondavedduvan camp rounded up all the people working in the paddy field. Then they started shooting the men. They raped five of us. We pleaded with the soldiers not to do anything to us. But they all raped us, in line in the paddy field itself. As we couldn't bear-up the pain, gradually we lost consciousness.

After an hour or so we recovered and ran into a cave of a mountain. From there we saw the soldiers covering all the bodies with paddy sacks and dried grass and setting fire to those bodies.

After two days Akaraipattu Citizen Committee President Mr. Ahamad Lebbai, General Secretary, S. T. Moorthy, Deputy President, Rev. Fr. Philip, and Batticaloa Citizen committee President, Rev. Chandra Fernando, accompanied by press reporters came to the paddy field. The air in that area was laden with repulsive smell of decomposing bodies and they saw bodies half burnt.

They found that there were 66 people massacred. They took photographs of all the bodies. They recorded our statements as well. Even Kalawana Member of Parliament, Sarath Muthugama, spoke about this massacre in the parliament. All those efforts were of no avail. There is no justice here. No compensation was paid either to members of the family of the victims or to us who were raped by the soldiers.”

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Rasaiya Thaventhiran, -, 18
2. Ponnas Rasathurai
3. Markkandu Raveendiran
4. Bathmanathan
5. Ramasami Kanthaiya, -, 48
6. Tharman, -, 22
7. Suntharam Sinnavan, -, 20
8. Mailan Thiyakarasa, -, 18
9. Seeniththampi Thavanagan, -, 30
10. Sillvasrar Innachchi, -, 32
11. A.Nallathampi
12. Visvakethu Rasha, -, 23
13. Kaneshamoorththi Perinban, -, 28
14. Kanesapillai Mokanarasa, -, 22
15. Visvakethu Rasharam, -, 23
16. Ponnampalam Yokarasha, -, 18
17. Kanapathi Vadivel, -, 27

18. Suvami Devit, -, 29
19. Kumaravel Nakarasa, -, 27
20. Mayilvakanam Thiyakarasa, Student, 13
21. Venkittan Kulanthai
22. Varnakulasinkam Punniyamoorththi, -, 21
23. Seeniththampi
24. Somasuntharam Karunanithee, -, 21
25. Muththupodi Suvanavathi
26. Thurai Ramalinkam
27. Rankan Pol
28. Masanna Jeyaraj
29. Thasappu Sellaiya
30. Seeththampi Arudsellvan, -, 18
31. Thasappu Sebamalai
32. Ganapuththu Puvanenthiran
33. A.Somasuntharam
34. Vairamuththu Suntharalinkam
35. Kathiresappillai Vairamuththu
36. Thampippillai Kumaravel
37. K.Pakkiyarasa
38. N.Kobalakirusnan
39. N.Vinayakamoorththi
40. Muththusami Muththulinkam

23. Puthukkudiyiruppu Iyankovilady massacre 21 Apr 1985



Puthukkudiyiruppu is situated in the Mullaithivu district 20 Kms from Mullaithivu town. On 21.04.1985, SLAFs from Mullaithivu as usual rounded up the village of Puthukkudiyiruppu.

Government employees were identified among them and released. People who did

labour work for daily wages were taken in a military vehicle towards Oddisuddan.

Sivananthan Megambalam narrowly escaped death on that fateful day. His account of the incident is as follows:

“They would come in the middle of the night and early in the morning and surround the roads, shrubs and bushes in hope of catching the locals. They would come from Mullaithivu.

On the 21st April 1985, they arrived very early in the morning and took their positions. We were still asleep. Previously if we found out that the SLA were going to come, we would go and hide in the forest and remain there without food for a few days. However that morning, we were unaware. As our house was right next to Oddisuddan Road, we were unable to run anywhere.

They rounded up people and took them to Puthupalavu Shop at Puthukkudiyiruppu market. They arrested me too. But because my mother came running towards them screaming and pleading to let me go – they for some unknown and lucky reason did. Once they had finished their round up, they started leaving in their army vehicles. They took the people they had arrested in the back of their armoured vehicle. About half a kilometer from our house, by the side of Oddisuddan road, there were some very thick bushes. We heard a big explosion and continued to hear smaller noises. We later found out that over 30 people were taken to a lane near Oddisuddan Road and shot. Most of the people died. Thurairatnam, the head of the Multi Purpose Cooperative Society managed to escape with great difficulty and courage. The bodies were taken in one of the SLA vehicles to Oddisuddan Road and burnt with kerosene and tar.”

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Kanakasunthram Karunanantham, Self employed, -, 39
2. Seeni Josep, -, 32
3. Seeni Thevathas, -, 24
4. Athiriyam Amalathas, -, 19
5. Appaiya Inthiran, -, 32
6. Raimenthu Iruthayanathan, -, 45
7. Thamotharampillai, -, 20
8. Manikkam Poulinrasa, -, 21
9. Kiddinan, -, 32
10. Sankarappillai Saththiyaseelan, Student, 21
11. Anthonippillai Suvamippillai, Farmer, 32
12. Sinkaratnam Ilanko, Student, 18
13. Anthinippillai Daidinssi, Student, 16
14. Appaiya Puvanendiran, Farmer, 32
15. Vinayakamoorththi Rakunathan, Self employed, 28
16. Periyathampi Balasuntharam, Labourer, 30
17. Laxmanan, -, 30

24. Trincomalee massacres in 1985



On 03.05.1985, 50 civilians were killed by Sinhala mobs and the Sri Lankan military in Mahindapura and Dehiwaththa.

On 03.06.1985, 13 civilians were killed in a bus in Trincomalee. Thankathurai, a former Member of Parliament, aged 70 at that time, was an eye witness and the only survivor of this massacre.

On 23.05.1985, eight civilians were shot dead by the Sri Lankan military in Nilaveli.

More than ten people, from Anpuvalipuram, who went to collect fire wood in different directions, in May 1985 never returned home. Their bulls and carts were found later. They are suspected to have been killed by the home guards and the Sri Lankan military.

On 24.05.1985, 9 civilians were shot dead in Pankulam. Two civilians who went to Dehiwaththa to purchase items were also killed on the same day.

A father and his 12 year old son who went to visit relatives in Kankuveli were hacked to death by the Sri Lankan home guards and the bodies were buried in the Kankuveli tank.

On 26.05.1985, 40 houses and property belonging to Tamils in Poonakar in Echchilampattu were set fire. Two civilians who went hunting on the same day did not return home. Home guards in Allai-Kanthalai road are suspected to have killed the pair.

On the same day, three fishermen from Kunikuda were shot dead by the Sri Lankan military while they were fishing.

On 27.05.1985, a bus belonging to the State bus service, CTB, was stopped at 52nd Milepost in Mahinthapura and 7 Tamil civilians including driver Pushparaja were shot dead and their bodies were burnt by the Sinhala home guards.

Krishnapillai who worked at Echchilampattu Village Council escaped with gunshot and burn injuries.

25. Valvai85 massacre 10 May 1985



Valvai is situated in Point Pedro region in the Jaffna district. On 10.05.1985, Sri Lankan military rounded up Valvai and arrested 24 young men. They were locked up in a community hall. A grenade was thrown on the building and all 24 young men died. At the temple water tank a further 12 civilians were shot dead. Another 34 civilians were also killed that day.

The number of people killed that day in Valvai is 70.

26. Kumuthini Boat massacre 15 May 1985

For the people of Deft Island, located off the coast of Jaffna, the boat “Kumuthini” provided an indispensable service. People had to travel to Jaffna using the boat service to obtain many essential services and items. On the 15.05.1985, about 72 people were travelling in the boat from Delft Island to Jaffna. Sri Lankan Navy (SLN) soldiers from the camp in another islet, Nainathivu, boarded the Kumuthini and massacred the people in the boat with knives. Many died during the violence. Some died as the boat sped to the Jaffna coast. It was evening by the time the Kumuthini reached the Jaffna coast. Injured people were admitted to hospital. The people of Delft Island heard the fate of their relatives only through the news media. Kumuthini is today a symbol for all Jaffna islets. She symbolizes the insecurity that people in the islets feel by the Sri Lankan Navy occupation. Her sight today reminds people of a lone mother who had lost her children.

(a) Saro Rasaratnam, a survivor, recounts her experience,



“We were travelling on Kumuthini boat for about 30 minutes when we stopped at mid-sea. Navy men climbed up into the boat. They took all of us to the front of the boat while they sat at the entrance. One of them had a gun. They asked if there was anyone who knew how to speak Sinhala and Jesuthasan knew. They asked us where we were going. There was a big noise at the back of the boat. Jesuthasan and the five who worked in the Kumuthini were the first to go toward the back.”

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We didn't know what was happening, but the Navy men ordered us to shout our names and our villages. We shouted in vain hope. Then people were called one by one by the Navy men. First all the men went, then the women started going. I was the last one to go and Nirmala was with me till then. Nirmala told me that they won't do anything and to just go. She said they would just look at our ID card. I looked behind me and there was no one. I didn't want to go, but I was forced to. One Navy man was up there, where I went. He pushed me, and another one stabbed me in my neck, chest and head. After that I don't remember well, but I was pulled and thrown on top of others who were lying on the ground. These are my wounds on my head and neck."

(b) Annaladchmi Sivalingam, survivor whose baby was killed, recounts her experience,

"I sat with my baby and showed the Navy man my ID card. He told me not to sit and took me upstairs.



One Navy man took me by the hand, and stabbed me. I don't remember what happened after that. The next thing I realized, I was in a hospital and was tied down with chains. I kept asking for my baby. They told me my baby was at home and feeding on cow's milk. I was unable to open my mouth from my injuries and was on a liquid diet for one year. I only found out that my baby was killed six weeks after the incident"



Kanapathypillai Anandakumar was on the boat at that time. His account is as follows,

"When we were stopped, we were on the boat and were told to go inside. As we went inside, we were shut in a room. They asked us if anyone inside

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Information collected by SNE

knew Sinhala. A few said yes and went forward. We don't know what happened to them. Outside our room there were two Navy members standing as sentry with AKs [guns]. Outside there were two more people with grenades.

They asked all the people inside to say their names loudly. So we all did. They did this so that the sound would hide what was happening in the room. They started asking people to move towards the back. As I walked towards the back, they hit my forehead with a stick. I don't know what happened after this. Inside this room, there were very small children there under the age of one. They stabbed a 6 month old baby and ripped open her chest. Girls were also raped along with other acts of violation. People were killed. 72 people were in the boat, 36 were killed and 36 survived. But the survivors were all tortured.



I was taken to the hospital and regained conscious after 4 days. I was unable to go to work. I became very sick and was unable to find work after this.”

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Basubathi Nirmaladevi, -, 20
2. Kanthaiya Sathasivam, Teacher, 56
3. Jesuthas, Fisherman, -, 46
4. Mariyamma
5. A.Kanakalinkam, Fisherman, -, 34
6. Thillainathan, Fisherman, 32
7. Ganappirakasam Mariyamanikkam, Fisherman, 45
8. Sadaiyar Kovinthan, Fisherman, 46
9. Sebamalai Anthonippillai, Fisherman, 45
10. Sebamalai Kirusdi, -, 24
11. Nimali, -, 18
12. Anushiya, -, 23
13. Penart Kirar
14. Pooranam, -, 22
15. V.Kanthaiya, Fisherman, 44
16. S.Santhirakumar, Fisherman, 30
17. Tharmalingam Babu, Student, 13
18. Kumarasami Vinayakam, Fisherman, 38
19. Sabavathi Theyvanai, Fisherman, 68
20. Ganappirakasam Thevasakayam, Fisherman, 42
21. Vaiththilingam Sathasivam, Fisherman, 45
22. Raman urugan, Fisherman, 52
23. Karaiyur Sinnaiya, Government employee, 35
24. Muththan Manivannan, Student, 13

25. Rokesiyan Sandirakumar, Student, 18
26. Thoppai Nagenthiram, -, 23
27. Sinnnavan Anthoni, -, 65
28. Ramanathan, -, 16
29. Veluppillai Pusparasa, -, 22
30. Ganasekaram, Postmaster, 28
31. Visuvalingam Subajini, Child, 0
32. Kanakamma, Home maker, 55
33. Palani Mokanathan, Fisherman, 27
34. Tharmalinkam Amirthalinkam, -, 18
35. Basubathi Nirmaladevi, Student, 19
36. Namasivayam Kanthaiya, Driver, 45
37. Ramalinkam Paralokanathan, Farmer, 35
38. Karththikesu, -, 45
39. K.Barvathippillai, -, 40
40. S.Nakendiran, Fisherman, 32
41. Kusalakumari, -, 28
42. Santhalinkam, Child, 1
43. G.Sarojadevi, Teacher, -, 24

27. Kiliveddi massacre in 1985

Kiliveddi is a Tamil village in the Muthur region of the Trincomalee district. In 1977 it was annexed to the Seruwela electoral division. Following this, the people of this village was attacked by the military and the Sinhala leadership forcing the people to gradually leave the village.



On 01.01.1985, the Sri Lankan military, its home guards, and Sinhala thugs entered the Kiliveddi village at 2.00 pm. Kanagasabai was working as coroner for the area at that time and he has travelled to neighbouring villages on duty. When he saw the invaders he hid in a hay stack. He could identify many of the Sinhala thugs from the neighbouring Sinhala village of Dehiwaththa among the thugs. On that day 10 people were killed including 4 women.

Among the dead women were Kamala Rasaih and her daughter and Rajeswary Sharma and her daughter. 125 houses were burnt that day. A further 13 people, eight men and five women, were taken to the Dehiwaththa village. The men were murdered and the women were raped. Among these women were Mrs. Sinniah and her daughter. The women were

left naked after they were raped. When some Kiliveddi people with the help of the Sinhala people in the Dehiwaththa village went to see, they saw one of the Kiliveddi women naked and tied up.

Member of Parliament Thangathurai made a statement about the incident to the Daily Mirror paper. It was reported widely in the international media. Thangathurai was accused of false propaganda for making the statement. The then Minister of Defence ordered his arrest. Thangathurai heard this and escaped to India.

The day after the above incident, on 02.06.1985, the bus leaving Trincomalee to Jaffna was shot at and 13 people died and 9 people were injured.

On 03.06.1985, the Sinhala home guards with the help of the Sri Lankan military attacked several villages between Muthur and Kiliveddi. 35 people died. 200 people were abducted. The following villages were all set on fire, Menkamam, Kankuveli, Paddithidal, Palathadichenai, Arippu, Poonahar, Peruveli, Mulampodivaththai, Parathipuram, Lingapuram, Eechchilampattu, Karunkalmuani, Mavadichenai, Muththuchenai and Valaithoddam. In total 1000 houses were set on fire. In the fourteen days ending on 14.06.1985, a total of 150 people were killed. People from these villages displaced en masse. About 100 people crossed the Veruhal River and went to Vaharai. Another 2500 went to Muthur.

28. Thiriyai massacre 08 June 1985



Thiriyai is situated in the northeast region of the Trincomalee district. On 08.06.1985, around 5.30am in the morning, Sri Lankan Air force helicopters flew at low level and began shooting. Sri Lankan military came in vehicles and told the people to leave the area before they begin shooting. After people left, 700 houses, 400 houses in Thiriyai

and 300 houses in Kallapattu were burnt down. Stored paddy and farming equipments were burnt with the houses. Following this incident, displaced people stayed in schools. On 08.08.1985, the Sri Lankan military attacked the civilians in the schools. Ten civilians were killed including retired Grama Sevakar, Narayanapillai, President of the Thiriyai Multi Purpose Society, K Thurainayagam, Secretary of Thiriyai refugees rehabilitation centre, K.Ekamparam, and the Principal of Thiriyai Vidhyalayam, P

Mahadeva. In addition, on 14.08.1985, 6 civilians were pulled out of a bus and hacked to death.

29. Sampalthivu 04 to 09 Aug 1985



A major military operation was launched between 04.09.1985 and 09.09.1985. This operation was aiming to chase away the Tamils from northern parts of Trincomalee. The three forces of the government of Sri Lanka (land, sea and air) were engaged in this attack on the civilians.

The Sri Lankan armed forces and home guards with heavy weapons were deployed in large numbers in the Central road, Ekamparam road, Veeranagar, Thirukadalur, Uppuveli, 3rd Milepost, Navalar road and Uppuveli junction. They started attacking Tamils. 1500 houses including the building of Sivanantha Thabovanam which sheltered 200 children and several shops were destroyed. Fishing equipment belonging to Tamil fishermen was stolen. More than 25 civilians were killed in this attack. No local or international journalists were allowed into these areas.

A report by a local school principal, who was also the President of the Citizens Committee at that time, documented that in June 1985 alone 311 civilian were killed in Trincomalee district and in the month of September 383 civilians were killed. News about this report was published in the 21.12.1985 Saturday Review paper published from Jaffna.

30. Vayaloor massacre 24 Aug 1985



Vayaloor is situated in the Amparai district. Vayaloor, Sagamam was a colony of the landless poor who were settled in 1972 under the government's plan to give "the highest priority to the development of land for the production of food and other crops". To reach Vayaloor, one has to travel eight miles on foot as there is only a jungle path leading to the village. There were 200 families living in the village and they had no

access to clean drinking water, no shops and the nearest government dispensary was 10 miles away. Yet they continued to stay and cultivate crops like maize, kurakkan, manioc, yams and other vegetables, depending on rainwater. Traders from distant places went there in bullock carts to collect agricultural produce from the chenas. The people built their homes with poles and mud, thatched them with either coconut cadjan, or grass.

After the attack, which occurred during a ceasefire period, the settlement was deserted and now the land has been taken over by the jungle. When people left Vayaloor, they did not carry any of their belongings. They fled with what they were wearing. They had lost all their possessions including animals, crops and savings. The attack on the people at Vayaloor started in the early hours on the 24th August 1985. S.Vijeya widowed by the Vayaloor attack, is a mother of five. She says,

“It was about 6 o’clock in the early house of the day: I was at the hearth trying to light the fire to prepare the tea. All of a sudden I noticed that there were a number of men in army fatigues carrying guns standing around our hut. I was terrified – much afraid of the visitors. I began to tremble.

The soldiers found that I had seen them and observing my nervousness, approached me with a volley of questions, (in Sinhala), which I did not understand. Just then my husband walked in and the soldiers spoke to him and through friendly gestures and show of hands asked him to join them with the bucket we use for drawing water from the well. My husband was asked to follow them and I joined them too. The soldiers rounded all the males above 18 years from the huts but allowed the aged, the sick and the weak to remain. They took all the able bodied youths with them. Even woman were taken along. We walked through the jungle path towards the East.

The soldiers wanted the men to fetch some water for them to wash before breakfast. It was around 8 o’clock. The men obliged and the soldiers ate their food and we starved – did not even have a cup of plain tea.

When their breakfast was over, they asked the people to accompany them on their journey but never told us as to where they were taking us to. We complied with their orders and proceeded along the jungle path when we met another group of soldiers, and the officer commanding that group found fault with the soldiers who had taken women together with men. The second group leader came up to the women and spoke in Tamil and said, “Do not proceed further with the men. The soldiers are in an unfamiliar area. We need men. Wait there under the tree until noon and get back to your places and your men will return to you after showing us the way.” We remained at that place waiting for our men who went in the direction of Kumarankulam, but they did not return.

The sun came vertically over our heads and there were no signs of the men returning. Since we had to prepare food for our children and for the men who had gone with the soldiers, we returned to our huts and busied ourselves cooking food that we did not eat.

As we were waiting for the men to return, a message came of killing. The messenger, who himself had escaped death, said the remains of those killed were scattered in the Kumarankulam area. I could not believe the message but when the other women started going to the homes of relatives at Kolavil, Panankadu and Akkaraipattu in search of safety, I too left Vayaloor. I left everything behind as they were and went to my people.

The elderly persons whom the army left in their chenas proceeded to the place where the men were slaughtered. Grief-stricken relatives went to Kumarankulam in tractor-driven trailers and brought the dead to our ancestral villages who were buried according to customary rituals. We lost all that we owned at Vayaloor." A trader who went to Vayaloor frequently on business, Vyramuthu Kanagasabai, said,

"I went to Vayaloor - Periyatalawe on the 23rd evening with the hired double bullock cart to bring goods for the Sunday fair at TirukkoviI. I spent the night and helped to uproot the mature manioc. As I was preparing to leave the area on the 24th, I found the entire settlement rounded up. I remained in a hut with the farmers. I was taken into custody, but released. I don't know what happened to the cart, the bulls and the carter I took to Vayaloor. I lost all the money I carried and the bicycle I used for my journey. When the soldiers asked me to run away, I went, but remained hiding a little away from Kumarankulam.

A little after I left the farmers, I heard the gunshots. When the soldiers left in their vehicles, I went to the place and saw the men shot dead. However, there were two who were injured. One was shot through the mouth. He did not die and the other was named Nadarasa. I returned to Vayaloor and conveyed the fate of the men. Kanagasabai confirmed that as many as 40 were killed."

31. Nilaveli massacre 16 Sept 1985

Nilaveli is located in the Kuchchaveli Assistant Government Agent Division in Trincomalee district. Nilaveli is 10 Kms from the Trincomalee town. Following the 1983 ethnic pogrom the Nilaveli refugee camp was overflowing with people. On 16.09.1985, the Sri Lankan army and home guards armed by the military that were stationed in Nilaveli rounded up the



Nilaveli refugee camp. They arrested 24 civilians at the refugee camp and shot them dead on the spot.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Murukesu Thankarasa, Farmer, 46
2. Kachchumukatheen Mukamathukalith, Business, 33
3. Velu Sivasuntharam, Business, 24
4. Velu Sithamparanathan, Business, 25
5. Sellaththampi Nirmalanathan, Business, 26
6. Somasuntharalinkam Arudkumaran, Business, 20
7. Anthonippillai Rajendiran, Business, 29
8. Seyyathupukari Apthurasak, Business, 32
9. Kanthaya Kanthasami, Driver, 28
10. Kanapaththippillai Sountharajan, Driver, 28
11. Sellaththampi Ratnaraja Mechanic, 41
12. Nesathurai Rerans Mechanic, 19
13. Kathirkamaththambi Kanakasapai, Labourer, 39
14. Mukamad Kashim Mukamadrasik, Labourer
15. Thamotheampillai Neminathan, Student, 19
16. Vallipuram Tharmalingam, Student, 18
17. Tharmathas Uthayanesan, Fisherman, 19
18. Subramaniam Kaliraja, Fisherman, 20
19. Selvavinayagam Jeyagoban, Fisherman, 26
20. Rasaiya Thurainayagam, Farmer, 36
21. Thamotheampilla, Sanmokatthasan, Farmer, 24
22. Mamankam Ranjanesan, Farmer, 21
23. Apusalipu Apthulnagar, Farmer, 28
24. Siththiravel Marimuththu, Watcher, 53
25. Sinthiravel Marimuththu, Watcher, 60
26. Sinkarajar Kilisras, -, 20
27. Sivabalan Kenkatharan, Clerk, 34
28. Ponnuththurai Parththeepan, Labourer, 27
29. Yokarasa, Labourer, 23
30. Ratnasami Barvathi, Home maker, 30

32. Piramanthanaru massacre 02 Oct 1985

Piramanthanaru Village, Kilinochchi is an agricultural area and many people who have settled here came through a scheme set up in the 1950s to provide land for people from poor families. They were innocent people working hard to earn a living.

Massacres of Tamils



In the early morning on 2nd October 1985, five helicopters landed on the bund of the tank with around 200 SLA personal. Some of the army hid in the bushes until 3pm in the afternoon and captured and tied up passing villagers. Others went into the Piramanthanaru Village and shot people. They destroyed agricultural products and burnt the houses. Many of the villagers were injured by the army as they were hit with the butt of rifles or kicked with the army's heavy boots. Some were even tied upside down whilst water was poured down their nose. Some villagers were interrogated as to their connections with the LTTE.

Thurairasa Saradha Devi's brother, Ponnuthurai Pakiyathan, was massacred on that day. She says,

“Early in the morning at 7am on 2nd October 1985, I was preparing breakfast. My husband had gone to Pulliyampokkani to buy paddy. Suddenly one helicopter came and landed by the side of my house. We ran into the house and hid. The army surrounded my house. They ordered us to come out and kneel. There was another child with us who also knelt on the floor. They captured my brother and tied his hands. They took him by the side of the helicopter and gave him a rifle to hold and took video footage and a photo. Afterwards they brought my brother to the house and asked me if he was an LTTE man. I denied this and said ‘he is not an LTTE man - we are farmers – we are poor people doing farm work here only. We don't know about LTTE movement.’ But the army said that they had a photo with a weapon – so how could we say that he was not a terrorist.

We were hit by guns and boots. They threatened me saying they were going to shoot us and therefore we should tell the truth. They said that my brother was LTTE and that they had a photo of him with a gun. The army threatened that if we did not agree with them, they would kill us and all the children. With that they burnt our house down. We were all shouting and begging them for mercy. They took my brother with them. I followed them and cried and asked the army several times to release him. One army member kicked me with his boots and I fell on the floor. After sometime I opened my eyes. I did not see my brother. Our house and other houses were burnt. There was smoke everywhere. My children and I went to Puliampokkanai and returned the next morning. We saw so many dead bodies but could not find my brother. We went to Mullaithivu and asked the army commander about my brother. He denied any knowledge of my brother. Finally somebody told us that my brother's body was in the forest. We immediately went there and

saw the body. They had stabbed and pushed him from the helicopter. All his bones were broken. We burnt his body at the site.”

Kathirgamarasa a resident says,

“I had many friends in the area where the helicopters were flying low. We wanted to go there, but it was impossible. The helicopters landed a quarter of a mile from my home. My brother-in-law (Sakthivel alias Mahan) was living in a house one mile from my home. For two hours the helicopters were flying and there were gunshot sounds. When the activities of the army appeared to have stopped, a friend and I started walking that way.

We saw another friend, 22 year old Rasan, returning after tapping toddy with his vessel. His home was in the area where the helicopters had landed. I told him it is not safe to go. He did not listen to me and proceeded towards his house. The army shot him on his way to home. He must have been the first to be shot by the army. Rasan is originally from Nunavil and his wife is from Piramanthanaru. I saw Rasan’s vessel by the side of the road. I could also see the shoe marks of the army (no one in the village wore covered shoes like the army). I became suspicious. I saw Rasan’s body in front of a temple among the bushes.

We saw shoe marks walking in both directions and we concluded that the army must have gone back. We started to walk towards the 40th Canal. We saw bodies of Sivapatham, Kamini, Sathyalingam, Kanesamoorthy, Selvarasa, Ramasamy, and Yogarasa as we walked. We walked on to inform the families. They would not come out due to fear.

I wanted to go and see my brother-in-law, Mahan, but there was some suspicion that the army may have camped there. I hesitated for a while about what to do next and then I proceeded towards my brother-in-law’s house. I met Anton on the way. Anton told me what had happened. Mahan was working in a joint farm with three others, Nagappan Sathyalingam (Kanna), Vallipuram Ganesamoorthy (Appan) and Vallipuram Vivekananthan (Ananthan). Appan and Ananthan are brothers. All four of them were living in one house and doing farming. They were all dead. We both walked on.

We saw a house that had been burnt together with the vehicle parked inside. We saw two more bodies. One was that of Sathyaseelan and I cannot remember the name of the other one. The army had arrested a person named Pakyam and was taking him with them. When they had come across Sathyaseelan, they had taken two-thousand rupees from his pocket and his expensive (to Sathyaseelan’s means) wristwatch and chased him away. Sathyaseelan being poor and unable to accept the huge loss decided to go back to ask for his possessions from the army. The army shot him dead.

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They shot Pakyam and left his body in the forest. No one knew until people started looking and the smell of the decaying body became noticeable. I took a tractor machine belonging to one of the villagers to move the bodies to their family home. One man Peran was badly wounded. We changed his clothes and gave him first aid. Then Anton and others carried him home to Yakkachchi twenty miles away by foot through lakes. I gave the bodies to the families and finally took the body of my brother-in-law, Mahan, home.”

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Kiddinan Sivapathasuntharam, Farmer, 33
2. Vallipuram Kanesamoorththi, Farmer, 30
3. Ponnuthurai Pakkiyanathan, Farmer, 21
4. Vansanatha Kopiyathilake Kamini, Fish Business, 26
5. Suppaiya Arunasalam, Labourer, 29
6. Sinnaiya Sounthararasan, Employee, 24
7. Kanthasami Tharmasinkam, Farmer, 23
8. Nakappan Saththiyalinkam, Farmer, 21
9. Sribanraj Saththiyaseelan, Farmer, 26
10. Karuppaiya Tharmalinkam, Farmer, 23
11. Karuppaiya Selvarasa, Farmer, 24

33. Kanthalai85 massacre 09 Nov 1985

Kanthalai is situated in the Trincomalee district. On 09.11.1985, Sri Lankan military went to the home of Mayilvakanam near Kanthalai Pillayar temple and abducted all six people from the house. Their bodies were later found in 4th Milepost area in Allai road. Among the six were two daughters of Mayilvakanam. Post-mortem revealed that the two girls were raped before being killed.



34. Muthur Kadatkarachenai 08, 09, 10 Nov 1985

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All three divisions of the Sri Lankan Armed Forces attacked Muthur and Kadatkarai areas by land, air and sea on 08.11.1986, 09.11.1985 and 10.11.1985. Civilians were shot and killed and burnt with their houses. More than 70 civilians who sought refuge in temples were arrested and disappeared. More than 100 houses were set fire.

More than 30 civilians were killed in this attack.

35. Periyapullumalai massacre in 1986



Pullumalai village had faced many atrocities by the Sri Lankan military. On 20.05.1980 the Sri Lankan military and its home guards burnt down more than 100 homes in Pullumalai. 25 young men from Pullumalai was arrested by Col Veeratunge of the Sri Lankan military and taken to Koduvamadhu and

killed.

On 08.05.1986, the military arrived from Mahaoya and began attacking the village. 18 civilians were stood on a line and shot and killed by the military. 51 civilians disappeared. Many families were killed en masse. The mother four children and an eight month old baby from the family Nagalingam Rajaratnam were killed that day. Children died when the military stepped on them with their boots. Kanthasamy his Sinhala wife and their child were killed. The military let two civilians known to them to escape. They ran and arrived at Senkalady.

On 10.11.1986, more people were killed including a three month old baby. Six of the women who were killed were raped before being murdered. 24 people arrested on this day disappeared. A planned identification parade to identify the military men who carried out these massacres was stopped from proceeding.

36. Kilinochchi Railway Station massacre 25 Jan 1986

Kilinochchi town is a hustling business centre for the Kilinochchi district. It has a big market, a railway station and a hospital that draws the people to the town from all around the district. Farmers, business people, government employees and self employed people contribute to its economic activity.



The Sri Lankan military was stationed in the Kilinochchi Irrigation Department hostel in 1986. The military was harassing people through arrests and threats. On 25.01.1986, five Sri Lankan military personnel were hiding behind the trees south of the Kilinochchi Railway station. The train from Jaffna carrying passengers

to Colombo stopped at the Kilinochchi railway station to pick up passengers.

As the passengers were boarding the train, one of the military soldiers opened fire at the passengers. Frightened people started to run in all directions. People hid inside the railway station and inside the train.

At the end of the shooting, 12 people were dead including four women and two children.

The government of Sri Lanka made the following statement after this massacre, “A soldier suffering from mental illness opened fire at the passengers and killed some of them. We apologize for the incident”.

There were no other steps taken by the government regarding the incident.

Sinnaiyah Nallaiyah,

“We lived near the Church at 8th milepost. My wife was a teacher. She had received a letter inviting her to Anuradhapura Education Department. So we were preparing to go there. We were not able to catch the bus. We planned to go by train. When we were at the station we heard the gunshots and we hid ourselves. Nine SLA soldiers came there. They began to shoot randomly from the platform. Nine people were killed immediately. My wife and son and many others were injured. I shouted “water! water!”. My 5 year old son fetched me water from the pot. I found my 9 year old son and wife dead. After I drank water, I fainted. I was taken from Kilinochchi hospital to Jaffna hospital. Then we heard that the SLA



had told that only one soldier was involved in this attack and he had a mental disorder. Is it usual for SLA personnel to have a mental disturbance?"

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Somasekaram Jeyaseelan, Student, 16
2. Thavarasa Sinnamani, Home maker, 40
3. Thuraisami Kathirkamu, Labourer, 18
4. Thavarasa Suganthini, Student, 11
5. Bandiyan Sivakuru, Business, 26
6. Kulasekaram Thankamma, Home maker, 64

37. Vankalai church massacre 06 Jan1986

Vankalai village is in the Mannar district. The Vankalai church served the villagers of Vankalai.

On 06.01.1986, at 12.30 pm, military surrounded the Vankalai village and began shelling and continued shelling till 10.00 am the next day. When the military began firing in the direction of the residence of the church priest, Rev Mary Bastion, he came out in his robes with his prayer beads and begged them to stop shooting. The priest was shot. The military dragged his body to the front of the sister's residents. People hiding in the first story of the church saw this. Many of other civilians who were running in fear were also shot and killed. Following this carnage the military was celebrating their achievement. The military then took all the dead bodies in their vehicle and left. All eight bodies except



that of Mary Bastian were handed over to the hospital by the military. Many young men who were injured in the shooting were treated secretly.

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A woman eye witness from Vankalai:

“Our house is near the Vankalai church. I was sleeping at that time. At around 11pm I heard bullet noises all around our house. Some fell on our house. We could hear these sounds till 6am the next morning. I could hear sounds of torture in one of the rooms.

I thought that the army had left and went to the Church. The Sisters inside told me to run away as the army were still there. So I did.

When they finally left, I went back and went into the Father - Mary Bastion’s room. There were two boys there. They were dead and their blood had mixed in with kerosene on the floor.

Seven people died in total. Six people were in the hospital. The SLA were dancing and singing that night. It seemed that they were all drunk or on drugs.

I was told that the Father had been shot dead. His body had been dragged outside and his photo taken. The Father’s body was taken to Thalladi Army Camp. That day we could see smoke coming from the Army camp. We feared that the Father’s body was being burnt.

The Bishop and the other Fathers went to the Thalladi Army Camp the next day to ask for the Father’s body. But the SLA denied any knowledge of the body.”

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Mariathalmaida Thashan, Worker, 26
2. Soosaiyappu Menperis, Student, 20
3. Gnanasegaram Rubankurui, Fisherman, 24
4. Saviriyen Antony, Fisherman, 23
5. Muniyappan Neelamegam, Fisherman, 28
6. Santhiya Alexshanthar, Fisherman, 34
7. St.Mery Pastiyen Father
8. Luyisamma Piranda, -, 60

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38. Eddimurichan massacre 19, 20 Mar 1986



Eddimurichan village is situated in the Vavuniya district. Most people in the village are farmers. In the 1970's upcountry Tamils displaced from their homes due to violence by the Sinhala mobs were settled in the settlements of Dollar farm, Ken farm, Ceylon Theater and others like it in Vavuniya. In the 1980's the Sri

Lankan military chased these upcountry Tamils from their homes in these settlements and settled Sinhala prisoners in their homes and armed them as well.

These Sinhala prisoners tormented the long term residents of the area with thefts of their livestock, farm products and homes. The prisoners also started to attack the people.

On 19.03.1986, the Sri Lankan military and the settled Sinhala prisoners came through the jungle in many military vehicles and arrived at Eddimurichan village at 4.30 pm. They started shooting the people and burning their homes. They also took away all valuable things from the homes.

On the next day the military and Sinhala groups rounded up the Nedunkerni village early in the morning. They started shooting everyone including old people and children. 20 people were killed in the two days of violence. Property worth hundreds of thousands of rupees was also damaged. The Sri Lankan Air Force helicopter provided cover for the military on land to carry out the massacre. The strafing by the helicopter damaged houses in Periyakulam, 3 Kms away as well. Frightened people took refuge in the jungles. Fearing the military, relatives took the bodies of their family members and buried them in the jungle.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Soosaipillai Mikkes Lakkees, Labourer, 39
2. Ponnampalam Kukathas, Farmer, 26
3. Ponnampalam Vaiththeswaran, Farmer, 24
4. Perumal Srirankan, Farmer, 59
5. K.Kailaikkuddi, -, 35
6. Appuththurai Neru, -, 45

7. Raveenthiran Kamalakumar, -, 25

39. Anandapuram shelling 04 June 1986



Anandapuram is a small village situated in the Kilinochchi district. The main occupation of the people is farming. In 1986, the Sri Lankan military began expanding their military camps in civilian areas and also was shelling the civilian areas. On 04.06.1984, at 5.00 am, the shelling began from the military camp in Kilinochchi town towards Anandapuram. One of the shells fell on the house of Ramaih Periyampillai located on Selva road and completely destroyed his house. Five young children were sleeping in one room with their mother. Four of the children were killed, their bodies broken to smithereens. The fifth child was taken to hospital with serious injuries to the head and the body. He died in the hospital. Mother also sustained serious injuries.



All the people displaced from Anandapuram due to the heavy shelling. When the people returned to their village they had to bury the bodies of the four dead children in their own yard.

A memorial stone was installed at the place where the children were buried. A clock tower was also built in memory of the five children. Both of these memorials were destroyed by the Sri Lankan military in its later attacks. Four of the five children killed were students of the Kilinochchi central college.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Periyampillai Puspakanthan, Student, 15
2. Periyampillai Senthilkumar, Student, 18
3. Periyampillai Kamalanathan, Student, 20
4. Periyampillai Kirupani, Student, 11
5. Periyampillai Vamadevi, Student, 13

40. Kanthalai-86 massacre 04, 05 June 1986



Kanthalai is situated in the Trincomalee district. On 04,05.06 1986, near the 4th Milepost, Sri Lankan Air Force and home guards armed by them, stopped the buses and identified the Tamils and attacked them. Many were killed, disappeared and injured.

On 05.06.1986, a bus with 25 passengers going from Trincomalee to Vavuniya was stopped and attacked. The bus was burnt. From the ashes 10 bodies were recovered including that of a child and a baby.

Over the two days, more than 50 civilians were killed and the fate of more than 35 civilians is not known.

41. Mandaithivu sea massacre 10 June 1986



Kurunagar, Pasaiyur and Mandaithivu are situated off the southern coast of the Jaffna peninsula. Surrounded on three sides by the sea and on one side by land, Mandaithivu village had 1200 families living in it. All the people in the village depended on fishing for their livelihood.



On 10.06.1986, Sri Lankan Navy men wearing black clothes approached the fishermen who were in the sea. The fishermen raised their hands to show that they are civilians. However, the Navy men attacked and tortured the fishermen before murdering them. The eyes of some of the fishermen were

dug out. Stomachs of some fishermen were cut open. 32 fishermen from Kurunagar and one fisherman from Mandaithivu were killed in the incident. Boats and nets belonging to the fishermen were destroyed.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Thamiyan Erumin Rubet Uthayakumar, Fisherman, 26
2. Manuval Mariyanayakam, Fisherman, 38
3. Savariyan Jesuthasan Niksan, Fisherman, 13
4. Somasuntharam Sothinathan, Fisherman, 62
5. Visuvanathan Vimalanathan, Fisherman, 23
6. Sebathesu Seviyar, Fisherman, 62
7. Subramaniyam Kobalakirusnan, Fisherman, 20
8. Bankiras Tharsiyas, Fisherman, 30
9. Manuval Mariyanayakam, Fisherman, 38
10. Mudiappu Anranithas Rajakumar, Fisherman, 32
11. Penadict Masila Makenthiran, Fisherman, 25
12. Penadict Likori, Fisherman, 27
13. Kanthaiya Muththusami, Fisherman, 55
14. Alosiyas Dyuri Dorasdyuk, Fisherman, 24
15. Antan Selron Veen, Fisherman, 21
16. Alosiyas Likori Donas Mount, Fisherman, 34
17. Asheervathm Anthonippillai, Fisherman, 68
18. Pankiras Antan Vimalathas Thavam, Fisherman, 23
19. Yon Yorj Fisherman, , 56
20. Penadict Alistan, Fisherman, 30
21. Yosapparnanthu Anthonippillaiparnanthu, Fisherman, 62
22. Pankiras Antani Yuliyas, Fisherman, 33
23. Manuval Bayars, Fisherman, 56
24. Emiliyanus Maximas Eswaran, Fisherman, 21
25. Penadic Hubert Resan Rames, Fisherman, 19
26. Pattic Alosiyass Donas, Fisherman, 58
27. Arulanantham Penadict, Fisherman, 32
28. Muththaiya Suvaminathan Sebamalai Josab, Fisherman, 57
29. Arulanantham Ponibas, Fisherman, 60
30. Ganappirakasam Edved Kelinsion Jeyakanthan, Fisherman, 17
31. Manuval Battic, Fisherman, 60
32. Krishopar Snachchi, Fisherman, 54

42. Seruvila massacre 12 June 1986

Seruvila is situated in the Trincomalee district. On 12.06.1986, two village headmen, three state employees, and 20 workers who were transporting relief food for the refugees were attacked by the home-guards in Mahindapuram. 21 civilians were killed and 2 injured in this attack. The

victims were taking relief for the refugees who have displaced as a result of the violence against Tamils in Eechilampattu.



43. Thampalakamam massacres 1985, 1986

Thampalakamam is a famous village in the Trincomalee district. The main economic base of this village is agriculture.



On 12.11.1985, Sri Lankan military rounded up Thampalakamam and 9 people were shot dead.

On 26.11.1985, three farmers were shot dead and their bodies were burnt by the military.

In another incident near the temple five people were shut in shop and burnt. Two, Kubenthiran and Navaratnam died. The other three were rescued with severe burns. On 25.05.1986, three refugees, a mother and two sons, who went to check on their homes, were shot dead.

On 30.05.1986, military in black uniform entered the home in Thampalakamam and killed the father, mother and two children. A 13 year old girl and another woman escaped with injuries.

On 17.06.1986, 8 farmers disappeared from their fields in Puthukkudiyiruppu in Thampalakamam.

On 20.06.86, the Sri Lankan Air Force and the Sri Lankan Army, stationed at the Thampalakamam junction, made a joint attack on the Thampalakamam village.

People were forced to displace. More than 25 of the displaced villagers took refuge in the Potkerni rice mill in the village. The military that arrived at the rice mill arrested all the people in the rice mill and took them. The owner

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was spared. The bodies of those taken were recovered in the forest nearby. 34 people died in this incident.

On the same day in Sampalthivu five civilians were shot dead. One Thankarasa was set alight inside his car.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Kanapathipillai Sithambaranathan, Worker
2. Suppiah Santhakumar, Sheller
3. Kanapathipillai Sabanayakam, Worker, 51
4. Segar Kanapathipillai
5. Kanagasabapathy Puvaneswary
6. Kanagasabapathy Ranji
7. Kanagasabapathy Thasan
8. Kanagasabapathy Theesan
9. Kanagasabapathy Theepan
10. Subramaniam Selvarani
11. Suvramaniam Suthakaran
12. Kanthasamy Kanagasabapathy
13. Subramaniam Jeyananth
14. Muniya Lexsumy, -, 37
15. Segar Vanitha
16. Segar Rathiga
17. Segar Kanthamuthu
18. Subramaniam Sasikaran
19. Subramaniam Jeyarani

44. Paranthan farmers massacre 28 June 1986



Paranthan is situated in the Kandavalai Assistant Government Agent Division in the Kilinochchi district. Paranthan is a key town in the Kilinochchi district. The main economic activity of the people is farming. Some also fish for additional income and some work as labourers. Paranthan was subjected to many military attacks has been badly

affected as a result during the war. In particular, this area faced the persistent attacks from the Elephant Pass military camp of the Sri Lankan military.

On 28.06.1986 at 5.15am, there was shelling from the Elephant Pass camp. The military moved forward into the Paranthan main road. Seven farmers who were irrigating their plots along the main road were arrested by the

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military for no apparent reason. They were tied together by a rope and tortured. Their bodies were later discovered in the nearby by waste water canal.

Those who arrived to work in the paddy fields that afternoon at 3.30 pm saw the bodies and informed the families. Many people in Paranthan displaced in the 1980's from their homes due to such persistent atrocities.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Joseph Sebastian, -, 44
2. Vaithilingham Palasubramaniam, -, 23
3. Munusamy Uthayasooriyan - 17
4. Narayanapillai Nadarasa - 75
5. Vinasithamby Sanmuganathan - 18
6. Subiah Kanagasaby - 39
7. Arumugam Sivagnanasuntharam - 22

45. Peruveli refugee camp massacre 15 July 1986

Peruveli is a Tamil village situated in Batticaloa, 1 Km to the right from the Mallihaithivu junction. The Peruveli Government Mixed School was converted into a refugee camp in 1985.



The Mallihaithivu Grama Sevakar (GS) division is made up mostly of Tamil villages. However, there were also a few Sinhala villages in this GS division. Large number home guards armed by the Sri Lankan military were stationed in the Sinhala villages of Dehiwaththa and Nilapola. Many locals in these two villages belonged to these home

guards. Since the Sinhalese villagers and Tamils in adjacent villages socialized well these home guards acted as informants to the military, which had a program of killing Tamil civilians.

On 15.07.1986, the home guards and the Sri Lankan military surrounded the Peruveli refugee camp at night and were lying in waiting. Since the adjacent Tamil villages to the refugee camp had already been destroyed by the military, and since the refugees did not move out at night due to fear, no one knew about the military and home guards lying in waiting. As early morning light started to appear the military and home guards entered the refugee camps and started to shoot at random. Some of the refugees who have gone to their homes to check were also attacked. In total, 48 people were shot

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dead and more 20 were injured. Many women were raped during this mayhem. The attack on the refugees lasted till mid-day.



One survivor recounts the experience,

“People from Mallihaithivu and some other villages were living in Peruveli refugee camp in fear of the army. That day, all people in the village were rounded up right throughout the night. At dawn, they shot, killed and tortured everyone they saw.

They went into the refugee camp and set fire to the cottages. Whilst the cottages were burning, people were grabbed by their heads and legs and thrown into the fire. They also threw people who were alive into the fire. People were scared and were all hiding in families of four and five in some houses. They took all the men out of the houses. They shot, cut them and threw them in the wells.

They shot and took away about twenty five bodies on a vehicle. The bodies were returned three days later. They had poured acid on their face - we could not recognize them. All the wells and pits had bodies dumped in them. We could not count the bodies that day because there were bodies everywhere.

Usually when the army comes, we hear fighting noises continuously. So we thought the same was happening. But it was only when the army left and we went into the village, we realised that nearly every well and pit had a body. People who had come to the village for work had also died there.

Those in the refugee camps were the most tortured. They were building separate huts to live. The huts were burnt and the people were all shot. People were also taken away. When these people returned they were in such a tragic state. Their arms and legs were broken and they could not walk.

We were too scared to stay in the village. If the army returned we too would be shot. We could not bury people in individual holes. We could not even touch the bodies - that's how badly disfigured they were. We dug a big hole with a machine, dumped the bodies and then closed up the hole.

The brutality that was done at the refugee camp was unimaginable. Some people are mentally affected by it.”

46. Thanduvan bus massacre 17 July 1986



Thanduvan is situated on the Mullaithivu-Vavuniya main road, 4 Kms from Nedunkerni, driving towards Mullaithivu. Thanduvan village is part of the Oddisuddan Assistant Government Agent division in the Mullaithivu district. The main occupation and income of the village is agriculture. People of the village

had to travel to Nedunkerni to buy their regular necessities.

On the fatal day of 17.07.1988, many people were in the bus connecting Mullaithivu to Nedunkerni. The bus belonged to the state operated bus service. On that day the Nedunkerni area was cordoned off and searched by the Sri Lankan military under the command of Gen Kobbekaduwa. Supporting and protecting the cordon and search was a military helicopter belonging to the Sri Lankan Air Force. In this situation, the Thanduvan people in the bus were unable to proceed to Nedunkerni. The bus driver turned back the bus and started to drive back to Mullaithivu. The military helicopter followed the bus and started to fire at the bus. One Km from the Thanduvan school in the direction of Mullaithivu, a rocket was fired at the bus. 17 people in the bus, including the bus driver were killed. A further 13 people in the bus were injured.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Segu Abdul Kathar, Farmer, 55
2. Nagamani Thatchanamoorthy, Government Staff, 30
3. Subramaniam Sabaratnam, -, 28
4. Sivalingham Viveganantham, -, 17
5. Kumarasamy Velauthampillai, -, 22
6. Muthukumar Kaneswary, -, 35

47. Muthur Manalchenai massacre 18 July 1986



On 18.07.1986, Sri Lankan military conducted a cordon and search operation in villages of Manalchenai and Peruveli in Muthur. 44 civilians were arrested and taken away and shot dead. Most of those killed were displaced people from the villages of Menkamam, Kankuveli and Mallihaithivu.

48. Adampan massacre 12 Oct 1986

Adampan village is situated in the Manthai West Assistant Government Agent Division in Mannar district. This is a farming village. The villagers have suffered endless atrocities at the hands of the nearby Thalladi Sri Lankan military camp for more than 20 years.



On 12.10.1986 at 4.00 am in the morning, the Sri Lankan military moved out from the camp through the Mallihaithivu village and rounded up the Adampan village. They shot and killed the sleeping villagers and burnt down several shops. The military that entered the village at 5.00am continued the attack until 11.00am. The military

threw the bodies into the rice fields and on the road and left. More than 20 civilian lost their lives and many shops were burnt down.

Suvannah Sabastianpillai's account of the event is as follows,



"I was sleeping at home and heard blasting noises around 4am. We woke up to see what had happened. There was a helicopter in the air. We started running and were surrounded by bomb blasts. We ran to a nearby Muslim village.

We returned around 12 pm. We hid in a tree and saw that the army were everywhere along with blasting sounds. The army had rounded up the whole place. Things were broken, people were crying. Everything was a mess. There were jeeps everywhere. Close behind a jeep were the Special Task Force. We heard rapid fire near where they had stopped. 22 vehicles had come to Thamarakulam. I counted them. Police and the SLA joined in on this. Two of my relations – Pasumai and Cheenan – were on their way back from a funeral. They were shot and left on the road.

The army left around 3pm and we came back to find wounded bodies and blood everywhere. I can't describe the situation. 11 people had died. I saw all of this with my own eyes.

They took boys from this village away to where the land mines were and hurt them. We were tortured like this in '94, '95 and '96. When they came to

shell, we would just leave everything and run. They would come at any time of the day - morning, evening and night.”

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Thangavel Raman, Seller
2. Vasthian Sagayanathan Kurus, Seller
3. Julian Jeyaseelan, Farmer, 22
4. Mamundi Selvaras, Student, 14
5. Antony Kaspar, Carpenter, 63
6. Antonipillai Mesiyas, Farmer, 28
7. Iyampillai Nagamuthu, -, 84
8. Kristhogu Jovan, Farmer, 65
9. Arokkiam Santhal, Farmer, 30
10. Rosais Pulendran, Farmer, 32
11. Sabapathipillai Thangamma, -, 70
12. Veerasingham Manoranjitham, Student, 24

49. Periyapandivirichchan massacre 15 Oct 1986



Periyapandivirichchan village is in the Madhu Assistant Government Agent division in Mannar district. The village has rice fields adjoining large forests.

On 15.10.1986, one of the villagers, Rasanayagam was working in his vegetable plot. His two daughters returned home from school. After having lunch the two girls took lunch for their father working in the farm. The person who guards the next farm, Joseph Francis aged 72, the father and two daughters were sitting in the small hut in the farm.

The Sri Lankan military that came through the forest fired towards the farm. A little later they arrived at the farm and started attacking Rasanayagam. His daughter was tortured and her breasts and vagina were cut. Joseph Francis was also cut into pieces.

The military left the place after this attack. Rasanayagam and the other daughter escaped with injuries.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Rasanayagam Maria Anasteen, Student, 11
2. Joseph Piransis, Labour, 72

50. Kokkadichcholai⁸⁷ massacre 28 Jan 1987



Kokkadichcholai is situated in the Batticaloa district. Farming, fishing and prawn farming were the main occupations of the people.

On 29.01.1987, Sri Lankan military began its attack on the village and continued it for three days. The military entered the village from Kondavedduvan, Kaluvanchikudi, Vellaveli, and Kallady camps in military trucks and helicopters. They took people aged from 14 to 40 and killed more than 200 of them.

A prawn farm was operated with aid from United States of America in Mahiladiththivu. It was employing a large number of workers. 135 workers in this prawn farm were among those killed on 28.01.1987. The military shot dead 24 people who took refuge in the Kokkadichcholai rice mill. Seven of those killed were aged 12 years old.

Sellathurai Ravinathan was a watchman at the Prawn Farm. On the day of the massacre, Ravinathan was on the day shift. His account of the incident is as follows:

"I left for work early in the morning. Unlike normal, that morning there were 2 or 3 helicopters circling in the air. I knew something was going to happen. I ran to the Prawn Farm, together with many other men. We all believed that because the Prawn Farm was owned by Westerners, we would be safe there. We had been caught and questioned twice before by the Army but we were allowed to go. We therefore ran there hoping it would give some protection.

At the junction, there was a large military vehicle. Army started jumping off and running onto the road. This was the first time we knew what the STF looked like. All the SLA that were on the road, were pointing their guns towards the Prawn Farm. One man stood up, pointed his gun and came towards us. The two or three people that were with us saw this and bent down and slowly went the other way through the water. Ambikaipatham said, "Don't run. If you do they will shoot everyone". We softly whispered and told them to come back. They came back.

People from Muthalaikuda, Munaikadu, Mahiladiththivu, and Ambalanthurai were all caught up in here. Narayanapillai was returning from the fields and ran into the Prawn Farm. The first bullet was aimed at him and it hit him. Three army personnel came to the place where we were. They shouted and told us all to gather in one place. Whilst everyone was trembling with fear, they fired their gun once. Everyone ran away from that spot. I took cover behind the little huts that were in the Prawn Farm. A young boy called Theivanayagam ran before us. We heard sudden gun fire. We don't know what happened to him. I immediately took protection in the small river. A young boy called Nesathurai did the same in front of me. In the meantime, the Army turned the vehicle towards the direction people had run and started fire. They shot the little children who were in the Prawn Farm looking after the little birds. These poor children would come very early in the morning to make sure that no birds attacked the prawns that were being farmed. They hoped that they would get something - however little - in return for this. How could they shoot such poor little children?

I removed the clothes that I was wearing and ran through the small Kanna Forest. As I was running, I heard gun fire. After a little while, I heard no noise from the direction of the Prawn Farm. I thought that I should return and have a look at what had happened. As I was about to do this, an old man stopped me and said, "Brother, please don't go back they have shot every one".

My elder brother, who witnessed this massacre, lost his mind for three or four days."

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. V.Vijayasingham
2. V.Yogeswaran
3. V.Muththuthamby
4. V.Kulanthaivel
5. V.Jeevaratnam
6. S.Lavan
7. S.Veelapoodi
8. S.Yoganathan
9. S.Mahendramoorthy
10. S.Mayiluppoodi
11. S.Mylvaganam
12. S.Thillainayakam
13. S.Puvaneswary
14. S.Eagamparam
15. S.Sivanesarasa
16. S.Suthakaran
17. S.Chanthosam
18. S.Mageswaran

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19. S.Thiyagarasa
20. S.Kunathunga
21. S.Rajeswary
22. G.Kurugulasingham
23. G.Nadesam
24. Velachchi Rasaiya
25. V.Valliyammai
26. V.Visumappodi
27. V.Ariyanayakam
28. V.Nallathamby
29. V.Rasaiya
30. S.Vijayalingham
31. S.Manikkappodi
32. S.Kapilan
33. S.Ilanthiraiyan
34. S.Pavani
35. K.Amirtharasa
36. K.Narayanapillai
37. K.Sownthararasa
38. K.Amirthalingham
39. K.Nadarasa
40. Y.Seethevipillai
41. A.Saththianantham
42. A.Santhirapillai
43. A.Revathy
44. A.Komanathas
45. A.Tharsana
46. A.Premalatha
47. A.Premasasikala
48. A.Pakkiarasa
49. A.Kunamani
50. M.Sellathamby
51. M.Jeyanthimalar
52. M.Mageswary
53. M.Paranchsoothy
54. M.Kanapathipillai
55. M.Nallaratnam
56. M.Vasantharasa
57. M.Sithamparanathan
58. M.Saththiaseelan
59. M.Palasubramaiam
60. M.Nadesan
61. T.Sasikaran
62. T.Santhirasegaram
63. T.Murugesu
64. T.Kanagasingham

65. T.Rasenthiran
66. T.Ilanko
67. P.Suthakaran
68. P.Ambikaipalan
69. P.Nadarasa
70. P.Shanmugarasa
71. P.Shanmugam
72. P.Venukaran
73. P.Kanga
74. K.Sivagnanasivam
75. K.Sinnamuthu
76. K.Romikaran
77. K.Poonnuthurai
78. K.Pavan
79. K.Palasundram
80. K.Palipoodi
81. K.Kumarathan
82. K.Kanthavanam
83. K.Kanthasamy
84. Kathirgamathamby Thayanantham
85. K.Raveendran
86. K.Vikanthan
87. K.Sivamani
88. K.Sinnathamby
89. K.Suvijini
90. K.Suthakaran
91. K.Santhalingham
92. K.Subramaniam
93. K.Suganthan
94. K.Santhirasegaran
95. K.Gnanamuthu
96. K.Sownthararasa
97. K.Somasuntharam
98. K.Theivanayagam
99. K.Kopalapillai
100. K.Malarvili
101. K.Parameswary
102. K.Puvaneswary
103. K.Palasanthiran
104. K.Krishnapillai
105. K.Kajenthiran
106. K.Kanthaperumal
107. K.Kandiah
108. K.Kandiah
109. K.Nallamma
110. K.Narumalathevy

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111. K.Nishanthan
112. K.Nagarasa
113. K.Ulaganathan
114. K.yugamini
115. K.Rupavathani
116. N.Vinothakumari
117. N.Suvajini
118. N.Subramaniam
119. N.Kopalapillai
120. N.Jogeswary
121. N.Kulanthaivel
122. N.Inparasa
123. D.Rajini
124. Rasaratnam Thambirasa
125. R.Sivapatham
126. R.Veelappodi
127. R.Mahalingham
128. R.Thangavel
129. R.Thangamma
130. R.Thampirasa
131. R.Kaneshamoorthy
132. R.Kamathevy
133. R.Uthayakumar

51. Paddithidal massacre 26 April 1987



Paddithidal is a Tamil village and it is situated 10 Kms from Muttur in Trincomalee. The village is in the Mallihaithivu Assistant Government Agent division. From the beginning of 1987 there were military attacks in the area.

On 26.04.1987, there were clashes between the Sri Lankan military and the LTTE near the Mallihaithivu junction. Three Sri Lankan military personnel were killed in this clash. Among these killed were Kanifa, a Muslim home guard. To take revenge for this the military entered the Paddithidal village and searched. People had already left the village suspecting that the military will attack the civilians if they face defeat at the hands of the LTTE. One Christian family of 16 members was praying as they continued to stay in the village.

The military opened fire at those praying. They burnt the people still struggling after the shooting. All 16 members of the family were killed. Three babies and several children were among those killed. One family member, Konan Ulaganatan escaped death.

“My name is Ulaganathan. I was born and I grew up in Paddithidal. On Sunday 24th of April 1987, I went to church on my own. My family did not accompany me. On the way back I saw that the families in the village were running and hiding. I tried to see if my family was amongst them. Thinking that perhaps my family had gone in another direction to hide, I decided that I would go home and check anyway. I heard bomb blasts. I was very scared of what might have happened.



I ran back to my house. I saw that my house was burning. As I was wondering where my family could have gone, I reached the front door step and saw that every single person in my family was dead. My wife, 2 daughters, big brother, his wife, his 5 kids, my wife's big sister and 3 kids, my mother and my younger sister were all in there.

In desperation, I tried to kill myself in the fire - but the two people with me – grabbed me before I could. They took me away to the place in which they were hiding and kept me there.

I returned the next day and tried to make sense of how they had died. My youngest daughter looked like she had been eating rice at the time. She was leaning against the door with a bullet through her head. I was just able to work out that it was my youngest daughter because it was a very small face.

There was no one left in the village, they had all run away. I put all the bodies in a cart, and took them to a forest. I dug a big pit. I tipped over the cart and all the bodies fell into the pit. I covered them all up with sand.

My elder aunty, who had come to the village as a refugee, told me that she was with my family at the time. This is her account of what happened. She ran to warn them to hide and then ran away and hid in the banana trees in our house.

Before the army got there, they (my family) all took out their identity cards. The army did not even look at their identity cards. The army took their guns and shot everyone. She could hear people pleading to not be killed and then there was silence. The army set the house alight and left.

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When she went back to house to see if anyone was even remotely alive, so that she could try and save any of them – they were all dead. Everyone had been shot or cut. As the house was burning, she did not stay there any longer than she had to”.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Ulaganathan Jeyapriya, -, 26
2. Ulaganathan Jeyarathy, Infant, 01
3. Ulaganathan Yogeswary, House wife, 26
4. Paththinian Krishanthi, Infant, 02
5. Paththinian Piragas, Student, 13
6. Paththinian Atputharasa, Infant, 02
7. Paththinian Nesan, Student, 17
8. Paththinian Sobana, Student, 12
9. Paththinian Seethiyamma, House wife, 34
10. Konan Paththinian, Worker, 42
11. Konan Ponnamma, House wife, 60
12. Konan Mery, -, 23
13. Sinnathurai Yogeswary, -, 29
14. Sinthamany Palamurugan, Student, 11
15. Sinthamany Yogarasa, Student, 14
16. Sinthamany Kokuleswary, Student, 15
17. Sinthamany Senthilmany, Farmer, 30

52. Thonithiddamadu massacre 27 May 1987

Thonithiddamadu village is situated in the Vaharai Assistant Government Agent Division in the Batticaloa district. This is a Tamil majority village. The main economic activities of the villagers are farming and fishing. This village had nurtured and safeguarded its own ancient art forms and culture. This village is one of those villages in Batticaloa that is bounded by Sinhala villages. People went to



the neighbouring Sinhala villages to purchase their daily needs.

On 25.05.1987, the Sri Lankan military opened fire in the Thonithiddamadu village. Frightened people kept to their homes.

On 27.05.1987 at 2.00am at night, the military entered the village and shot and killed people who were asleep. Thirteen people were killed in this massacre.

53. Alvai temple shelling 29 May 1987



Alvai village is situated in Jaffna district. The Muthumariamman temple in Alvai is one of the famous temples in Jaffna.

On 29.05.1987, the Sri Lankan military launched its operation liberation attack on Jaffna. Attacks were carried out from the Palaly military camp, and from air and sea. Through pamphlets dropped from air and through the announcement in the military radio service from Palaly, people were asked to take refuge in temples. Some people had taken refuge in the Muthumariamman temple. The temple was filled with around 10,000 people from the villages of Alvai, Inparuddi, Thikkam, Vathiri, Nellyadi, Thamapasiddi, Puloly and Karaveddi. Since the temple was big with broad corridors it was able to accommodate all the people.

On that fatal day the temple was overflowing with people. At 11.00pm a shell fired by the military fell on a tree in front of the temple. Some people sitting under the tree were injured. The next shell fell inside the temple many were killed including women and children. The following shells fell in another part of the temple killing two young men seated there. The three shells falling inside the temple causing deaths created panic among the people. 40 people died inside the temple and many were injured.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Kanapathipillai Sivagami, -, 69
2. Kumaran Nallathamby, Worker, 60
3. Thuraisingham Kalavathy, -, 26
4. Natkunasingham Chandrasegaram, Student, 08
5. Sanmugam Pologanathan, Student, 16
6. Kanthar Markandu, Worker, 67
7. Yogarasa Rathy, Infant, 01½
8. Sivanady Ramanathan, Doctor staff, 22
9. Visuvalingham Rasakopal, Farmer, 30
10. Kathirithamby Vallipillai, -, 77
11. Thambiiya Ramanan, Student, 18
12. Thangamayil Sujatha, Student, 16

13. Thavarasa Anupama, Student, 06
14. Thavarasasingham Kamaleswary, -, 38
15. Ratnam Manikam, House wife, 65
16. Tahnigasalam Tharmenthiram, Student, 08
17. Markandu Sellamma, Handicraft, 58
18. Kanthar Manrkandu, Worker, 67
19. Markandu Naguleswaran, Worker, 34
20. Selliah Nagamma, House wife, 50
21. Kathirgamathamby Yoganathan, Student, 12
22. Kathirgamathamby Selvanathan, Student, 14
23. Manikam Nagendraraja, Student, 13
24. Manikam Usharani, Infant, 03
25. Masilamani Suthan, Infant, 01
26. Kanesh Ampigapathy, -, 48
27. Kathrgamu Kidnapillai, Seller, 61
28. Kanesapathy Suthakaran, Agreculture, 16
29. Sivalingham Annammal, House wife, 65
30. S.Manikam, Worker, 57
31. Nagamuthu Sothilingham, Fisherman, 63
32. Manikam Malligathevy, House wife, 41
33. Premanantharasa, Worker, 27
34. Panchchadcharam Tharmakularasa, Farmer, 28
35. V.Marimuthu, Worker, 54
36. K.Saddanathan, Farmer, 54
37. Ravindran Sellamani, House wife, 30
38. Kanapathipillai Sinnathurai, Farmer, 60

54. Eastern University massacre 23 May 1990

The Eastern University is in the Vantharumoolai village in Batticaloa. This is one of the 13 universities in the island. At any given year about 3000 students will be enrolled in this university.

In 1990, following Sri Lankan military attacks on people, people from many regions of Batticaloa have taken refuge in the Eastern University.



On 23.05.1990, large number of Sri Lankan military arrived from the Saththurukondan military camp at the Eastern University. They arrested 58 young men tied their hands and legs and took them to the neighbouring villages. There they were all killed. The military came again on 24.05.1990 and arrested

another 168 people who had taken refuge at the Eastern University. They were also killed in a similar manner to the earlier massacre.

226 people were killed in these days by the Sri Lankan military.

55. Sammanthurai massacre 10 June 1990

Sammanthurai village is situated in the Sammanthurai Assistant Government Agent Division in the Amparai district. The village has large paddy fields. Ancient temples like the Kannaki Amman temple and the Kali temple are located in this village.



10.06.1990, Muslim groups with help from the Sri Lankan military attacked the people of this village. When the people attempted to escape by running away, the military opened fire at the people. 37 people were killed and many more were injured.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Thambirasa Uruthiran, Student, 16
2. Rasaratnam Ramachchandran, Labour, 19
3. M.Thasan
4. M.Kanapathipillai
5. K.Vadivel
6. S.Kaneshan
7. Sinnathamby Markandu

56. Veeramunai massacre 20 June 1990

Veeramunai is a village in the Amparai district. It is a traditional Tamil village. Sammanthurai is the adjacent Muslim village where the Muslim people who were chased away from the coastal areas by the Portuguese colonizers have settled. The Muslims and Tamils have historically lived side by side and together have built a prosperous and peaceful community

On the 20.06.1990, Sri Lankan military rounded up the Veeramunai village and ordered the people to go to the Veeramunai Pillaiyar temple. Everyone

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who stayed at home without going to the temple was shot dead. Later on that day the military arrived at the temple in large numbers. There were more than 1000 people who had gone to the temple on orders from the military. The military selected every male over the age of 15 from the temple. 69 young men, all civilian youths, were arrested in front of their relatives. The arrested men were taken to the Sammanthurai Marjan School where they were tortured. 50 men died and their bodies were taken to the forest nearby and burnt.



The military again took several more people from the temple on 29.06.1990 and all of them have disappeared.

Following these two incidents people displaced from the temple to the Karaithivu Mahavidhyalayam School. On 03.07.1990, the military again rounded up this school and took

11 young men. They too have disappeared.

Again on 05.07.1990, the military took away a further 13 men. All of them were tortured and killed and their bodies were burnt with tires.

People who went in search of those who were arrested were attacked by the military. Following this people displaced again to a refugee camp near Veeramunai. On 10.07.1990, the military arrested another 15 young men from this Veeramunai refugee camp and took them to the military camp. There they were tortured and killed and their bodies were burnt.

On 16.07.1990, eight women who went from the refugee camp to check their homes were arrested at the Malwaththa checkpoint. They were gang raped by more than 30 SLA men and killed. Their bodies were burnt.

On 26.07.1990, the military again arrested 32 young men. 23 of them were school children. All of them have disappeared.

On 29.07.1990, eight school teachers who were travelling with their family were arrested. All of them have disappeared.

On 01.08.1990, 18 civilians who were passing through the Savalakkadai road were arrested by the military and the home guards operated by it. Among them were four women and a baby. They were all killed using sharp weapons and their bodies were put inside the Savalakkadai temple and burnt.

NESOHR

Information collected by SNE

On 12.08.1990, Muslim groups that entered the Veeramunai refugee camp began attacking the people. Ten civilians were killed. Many more were injured. Among the dead are the temple manager Thambimuthu Sinnathurai and two babies. Those injured in the Muslim attack were taken to the Sammanthurai hospital where they were refused treatment. They were then taken to the Amparai hospital. The military came to the hospital and abducted three of the seven victims who were admitted to the hospital. The other four escaped back to Veeramunai.

In Veeramunai 600 houses were set alight. A further 1352 houses were set alight in the villages of Malwaththa, Mallihaithivu, Newtown, Kanapathypuram, Valaththapiddy, and Sammanthurai.

Between 20.06.1990 and 15.08.1990 more than 200 people were either killed or disappeared from Veeramunai and the adjacent villages. More 2000 houses were burnt.

Some accounts of witnesses to these incidents follows.

A resident of Ganapathipuram, who was a witness said:

“When the army entered the limits of Malwaththa, the soldiers shot people at sight, while houses were looted and burnt. We, on hearing gunshot and seeing flames rising from burning homes, fled with our family to save the women and children. We reached the Veeramunai Temple on foot and found people from other villages had arrived at the Temple earlier. Subsequently, people from Amparai, Mallihaithivu and Sammanthurai Tamil division joined us.”

A resident from Veeramunai said:

“We found the soldiers were creating a climate of terror. People were picked up from their homes, the road and the paddy fields. To escape from possible arrest and death, we went to the Temple that was made a refugee camp. I am aware that persons in the employment of the government on their way to work were seized and killed and burnt at a place called Aandhi junction.”



The operation of the army at Veeramunai was described by a mother who said:

“On 20th June 1990 at 2.00 p.m. a number of army vehicles drove into the Veeramunai temple, where thousands of people (Tamils) had taken refuge. The soldiers made an announcement

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through the loudspeakers requesting all males over the age of 15 to assemble in the temple courtyard. People were agitated since the refugees had left their homes because of fear of the soldiers who had gone on a killing spree there. One by one the men went out into the open space opposite the temple and stood. Women were the most disturbed and stood watching. The soldiers entered the temple and examined the inner sanctum to ascertain whether anyone was hiding inside. They found no one and began to inspect the youths standing opposite the temple. Of the number surveyed, the soldiers began picking some youths and able bodied children and got them to board a CTB bus they had brought.

The women went before the soldiers and asked them what they were trying to do. One of the officers said they were being taken for questioning and would be released after interrogation. The women pleaded with the soldiers stating that their children were never associated with any form of terrorism and that every one of those picked up by the army was an innocent youth. The soldiers ignored the tears of the women and started to leave the temple premises with the youths. We fell in front of the vehicles and worshiped the soldiers to leave our boys. The officer who led the raid spoke harshly to us wailing women that he would order his men to shoot every man and women who were obstructing the vehicle. The women fearing the worst retreated and the army carried away our children. A few returned later battered and bruised, following severe torture”.

A youth who escaped from sure death after arrest, made the following statement:

“I was one among those arrested on 20th June from the Veeramunai temple. The soldiers having picked up a number of young men, who were refugees at the Temple, took us to the Sammanthurai AI-Matjan Muslim School where we were beaten severely without any reason. The soldiers first attacked us with gun butts and thereafter kicked us and boxed our faces. The young men picked up at the refugee camp were later paraded before a fair, fat youthful stranger. When I was produced before him, he said "No" and I was taken aside. I found that the stranger saying "Yes" to most of the young men produced before him that evening. The people to whom he said, “Yes” were taken into another building. Those who were taken aside on the pronouncement of “No” were produced before another officer who made a speech in Tamil. I was in no mood to grasp what he said. The torture I had suffered a little while before had robbed me of my strength and vitality. I could hardly keep standing as I was assaulted by around 15 men simultaneously. The officer told us to get back to the Temple from where we were picked up. The others who were separated from us, we learnt were carried to a place called Malaikadu - a rocky place in shrub jungle - in army trucks and killed. Of the many picked up from the refugee camp at the Temple, only around 20 returned. We learnt that half burnt human bodies

were rotting at Malaikadu and the Muslims, unable to bear the stench of decomposing human flesh, carried several tractor loads of paddy husks to cover the rotting bodies and burnt them.”

Madasamy Kathirkamamoorthy

I was living in Veeramunai, a village in Amparai. We were very poor. We had no dad. When I did not go to school, I used to go to Amparai for work. One day on the way to work I heard there was trouble. So I returned home. My mother said that it was not safe for us to stay at home - there are beginning to hit everyone.

My sister who was married was living one kilo meter away. I told my mother to get ready and I went to get my sister. My sister too said that we had to leave with my mother. On the way to get my mother, five hundred meters before her house – an army truck had stopped. No one was in uniform. They were all in civil, but they were carrying weapons. I was living in a small village, with about ten or fifteen families. When I saw this truck I immediately felt scared. I stopped my bike and went into a relative’s house. These armed men started hitting people – they spoke in Sinhala and told me to get into the truck. There were 9 of us that were hit and made to get onto the truck. Some of the nine had blood dripping down them. Two of us were young, the rest were married men with children. When the wives came to stop them – they hit the wives and children that got in the way.

In the truck, they told us to lie down and took us to a big forest in Amparai. They made us take our sarong off and used it to tie our hands behind our back. They stood in front of us, loaded their machine guns and shot everyone.

I turned to my side – my leg and arm were hit by the bullets. I have a big scar on my leg. As people tried to get up, they were again shot till they were dead on the floor. So I just laid there with my eyes shut. My leg was badly hurt. I was not even sure I had a leg. I dragged my leg and slowly walked away”.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Namasivayam Thevarasa
2. T.Mathavan
3. Kanthakkuddy Tharumalingham
4. Rasalingham Alagaiah
5. N.Rasan
6. P.J.Piyanthan
7. M.Arulmani
8. Nagalingham Thavarasa
9. Palasuntharam

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10. Kanthavanam Kumar
11. Thampipillai Kandiah
12. Ponnaiah Maheswaran
13. N.Santhirakumar
14. Murugesu Uthayakumar
15. Muthulingham Sellaiah
16. Karuvalthamby Thiruchchelvam, -, 31
17. Nagalingham Thiyagarasa, Masan, 24
18. Siththathurai Sammanthan, Farmer, 77
19. Thambimuthu Kandiah, Worker, 25
20. Thirunavukarasu Karunanithy, Farmer, 18
21. K.Alagaiah
22. Sinnaththamby Ravichchandran, Driver, 22
23. M.Muthukumar
24. A.Sivanesan
25. A.E.Thevathasan
26. Vairamuthu Sivam
27. Ilayathamby Kanapathipillai
28. Sinnaiah Muthaiya
29. A.A.Sanmugavel
30. Thangarasa Manokaran
31. Sanmugam Ilachsegar, Student, 18
32. Markandu Sivananthan
33. Kathiravelu Rasalingham, Farmer, 29
34. Thangarasa Uthayasooriyan
35. Kanthavanam Somasuntharam
36. Kanthavanm Arumugam
37. Alagaiah Samiththamby
38. Kandiah Thishanayakka
39. S.Manokaran
40. Sinnaththamby Annathasan
41. Sivasampu Thevarasa
42. Samiththamby Subramaniyam
43. Pandiyan Muniyandi
44. A.Siththiravel
45. Sellaiah Krishnapillai
46. P.Nanthasiri
47. A.Paramanathan
48. A.Murugasapillai
49. Kathiresapillai Santhirasegar
50. K.Ravichchandran
51. K.Alagaiah
52. V.Rasathurai
53. V.Piransis
54. P.Suseepan
55. A.Yoganathan

56. Selvan Sivanathan
57. Sivagnanam Kaneshan
58. Sellaiah Ashogan, Electricity worker, 24
59. A.Kanagaretnam
60. Sellaththamby Karunanithy, Paper company worker, 24
61. Manickam Jeganathan
62. Sinnaththamby Vanniyasingham
63. Veluppillai Suthakaran
64. Kalikkuddy Ulaganathan
65. Seeni Thapaseelan
66. Thevanayagam Mehenthiran
67. Markandu Yogarasa
68. Santhiran Arulappan
69. Maniam Somasuntharam
70. Veluppillai Nagenthiran
71. Siththiravel Pathmanathan
72. Palan Ketharan
73. Egamparam Tharumalingham
74. Veluppillai Theivanayagam
75. Nallathamby Thavarasa
76. Velluppillai Santhirakumar
77. Seeniththamby Velmurugu
78. Sivananthan Palachchandran
79. Kirupanantham Amirthalingham
80. Velluppillai Thiruchchelvam, -, 22
81. Sivanantham Ravichchandran
82. Arasaretnam Mahenthiran
83. Alagaiah Veerasenan
84. Alagaiah Ragunathan
85. Muthulingham Palapaskaran
86. Kanapathipillai Ponnuththurai
87. Sangarapillai Vilvarasa, Farmer, 20
88. Siththaturai Thevarasa
89. Sivananthan Indran
90. Kandiah Kaneshamoorthy
91. Samiththamby Thangavel, Student, 24
92. Samiththamby Kanapathipillai
93. Velluppillai Yogarasa
94. Subramaniam Nadeswaran
95. Iyathurai Kovinthan
96. Murugesu Paskaran
97. Kanapathipillai Sivapalan
98. Ponnuchchamy Kaneshamoorthy, Teacher, 26
99. Vairamuthu Kopalapillai
100. Karuppaiah Sivasamy
101. Irulandy Amirthalingham

Massacres of Tamils

102. Kandiah Navaratnam
103. Velluppillai Kathiramali
104. Siththathurai Selvarasa
105. Murugesapillai Pathmanathan
106. Kanthasamy Vijayakumar
107. Ponnuchchamy Kanthasamy, -, 24
108. Vinayagamoorthy Palu
109. Manickam Murugesapillai, Farmer, 21
110. Kaththamuthu Nagenthiran
111. Kanapathipillai Parasuraman
112. Sivanadiyar Ravichchandran
113. Kanagaretnam Sithamparamoorthy, -, 21
114. Ramathan Vanithasan
115. Nadarasa Kirubairasa, -, 39
116. Masilamani Vinayagamoorthy, Farmer, 26
117. Kanapathipillai Sanmuganathan, -, 35
118. Thambimuthu Thayaparan
119. Rasaiyah Parameswary
120. Murugupillai Gnanamma
121. Kanapathipillai Puspaltha
122. Veerapandiyam Jamuna
123. Kandiah Kanapathipillai
124. Kunaretnam Sivakowri
125. Kanapathipillai Thavarasa
126. Thambimuthu Sinnathurai, -, 52
127. Murugupillai Thangaratnam
128. E.Sinnapillai, -, 50
129. Ponnaiah Valliyammai, -, 67
130. Palaniththamby Manickam, -, 46
131. R.Mylvaganam, -, 50
132. K.Sivalingham, -, 48
133. Thambimuthu Siththathurai, Farmer, 70
134. S.Manickam, -, 35
135. Vellaiyan, Student, 07
136. U.Nadarasa
137. Kulenthiran Ajanthan, -, 03
138. Thanbimuthu Thayaparan
139. Kanapathipillai Sivalingham, Driver, 49
140. Ravi Thillaiamma
141. Yogarasa Kirubananthy
142. Arulappa Inthurujan
143. Arumugam Kala
144. Raman
145. P.Mariyan
146. Murugupillai Thangarasa
147. Muthulingham Parameswary, Teacher, 32

148. Nadarasa Uthayakumar, -, 07
149. Arasaratnam Valliyammai
150. Seeniththamby Marimuthu
151. Arunasam Sinnapillai, -, 55
152. Thangarasa Ragini
153. Kailasapillai Thevarasa, Student, 08
154. Rasaiah Parameswary
155. Rasaiah Subashini, Student, 16
156. E.Subashini, Student, 17
157. Kathiravel Rajenthiran
158. K.Marimuthu
159. Thanganesm Vellupilaa
160. Thambimuthu Siththathuram, Farmer, 70
161. Alagaiah Siva
162. Kanagasabapathy Ilango
163. Ponnampalam Rasamany
164. Nagalingham Marimuthu
165. Ramakkuddy Ponna
166. Vellupillai Kasiyananthan
167. Markandu Thangavel
168. Arunasalam Rasaretnam
169. Masilamani Tharumalingham
170. Kathirgamathamby Karunakaran
171. K.Karuvalthamby
172. Velmurugu Muthu
173. Sellaiah Somasuntharam
174. Pathmanathan Vinayagamoorthy
175. Ramakkuddy Ponnammam, -, 65
176. Arunasalam Rasaretnam
177. Arumugam Theiventhiram, Carpenter, 34
178. Kanthavanam Kandasamy
179. Maruthuris Selvarasa
180. Kanapathipillai Sanmugam
181. Kaththamuthu Sanmuganathan, Farmer, 40
182. Siththathurai Kalickuddy, Farmer, 47
183. Krishnapillai Kanagasooriyam
184. Kathiramaththamby Rasaiah
185. Sinnathurai Kalickuddy
186. Sathasivam Puvanenthiran
187. Kaththamuthu Sanmuganathan
188. Sangarapillai Atputharasa
189. Sathasivam Thevarasa
190. Pavil Sanmugam
191. Ponnaiah UthayaKumar
192. Alagaiah Ramachchandran
193. Krishnapillai Mohanarajah

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194. Kandiah Tharumalingham
195. Thambipillai Rasalingham
196. Kathiravel Rathigakrishanan
197. Manickam Palu
198. Pandiyan Muniyandy
199. Iyathurai Mageswaran
200. Solaman Mohanarajan Sakayanathan, Seller, 22
201. Krishnapillai Suntharalingham
202. Sinnathamby Kugathas
203. Seeni Jeyaseelan
204. Sellaiah Vadivel
205. Kanapathy Indran
206. Kumaran Sinnaththamby
207. Palan Mahenthiran
208. Nallathamby Vadivel
209. Kanapathy Santhiran
210. Nallathamby Vigneswaran
211. Vairamuthu Theivanai
212. Vairamuthu katpagam
213. Ilayathamby Sellamma
214. Sellan Arulamma
215. Krishnapillai Vijayakumary
216. Kanapathipillai Rageswary
217. Siththathurai Baby
218. Ilayathamby Sinnapillai
219. Masilamani Selvaratnam
220. Tharmalingham Ponnuththurai
221. Arumugam Kandasamy
222. Sinnaththamby Thilageswary
223. Veerackuddy Kidnan
224. Ponnampalam Ragenthiran
225. Nadaras Ilango
226. Sellathurai Tharmalingham
227. Nallathamby Kopal
228. Arasaretnam Kathiramalai
229. Samiththamby Kunaseelan
230. Kanthackuddy Packiyarasa
231. Thirunavukkarasr Pusparasa
232. Retnam Selvarasa, Farmer, 20

57. Siththandy massacre 20, 27 July 1990

Siththandy village is situated 8 Kms north of the Batticaloa town. The village has an ancient and famous Hindu temple.

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Information collected by SNE

On 20.07.1990, Sri Lankan military rounded up the village and took all the people into this temple. Eight of the people were taken blindfolded with their hands tied to the villager next to him.

There they were attacked and killed. In the same month, again, the Sri Lankan military took 57 young men after rounding up the village. The young men were taken to the adjacent villages where they were shot and



killed and put in mass graves and burnt.

In total 137 people were killed over these two days. The arrests and killing continued for several months after on a daily basis. Nallaiah Kamalanathan says,

“We thought that if everyone stood in one place the Army would not kill us. So, all the villagers ran for safety into the temple. Within one week we had run to the temple twice. First it was on the 20th of July of 1990 and then again on the 27th. Siththandy villagers and Mavadivembu villagers all ran to this temple.

The SLA surrounded the temple. They came along with Sinhala mobs. Everyone in the temple was asked to stand in line and they picked out the young boys. Everyone stood trembling. As each one of the boys were picked, their families, mothers and fathers, all screamed. They begged for mercy with their hands. They pleaded saying their difficulties. Nothing went into the ears of the Army. On the 20th, 80 people were taken away in their vehicle. On the 27th, 57 people were taken away. 2 days after this, all their parents went to all the Army Camps in search for them.

Everyone denied taking the boys. Only a week later, we found out that they had killed everyone that they had taken away. We thought they would leave them after investigation. The 137 people that were taken away were taken by bus to a Sinhalese village. There they were asked to stand in a line. The Army announced to the Sinhala people that they had caught LTTE members. Then they were shot dead. Their bodies were never returned to us. Till this day, their mothers still cry not knowing what had happened to their children. The SLA, who denied without batting an eyelid that they did not catch or kill anyone, will one day be destroyed.”

58. Paranthan junction massacre 24 July 1990

Paranthan is in the Kilinochchi district on the A-9 highway. This town hosted a chemical factory in the past. The people’s main occupation is

farming. This town was badly affected by the military activities in the 1980's. On 24.07.1990, Sri Lankan army was dropped by helicopter in Suddaithivu near Elephant Pass to rescue the military in Elephant Pass. This military was moving forward through Paranthan towards Elephant Pass. The



military began attacking the people living near the Paranthan junction. The people killed were burnt inside their homes. More than 10 civilians lost their lives in this incident. Many more were injured.

This incident took place at 9.00 am. People had displaced from the place and were unaware of what has happened to their relatives. They returned to their homes only on 07.09.1990. People recovered the half burnt bodies of their dead relatives.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Satkunanathan Ranjithakumar, Seller, 22
2. Savarimuthu Ranjan, Farmer, 22
3. Sangarapillai Sivakurunathan, Student, 18
4. Seldansbek Prinkgespek, Mason, 19
5. Selladurai Vigneswaran, Farmer, 21
6. Ponnuthurai Ponniamoorthy, Mason, 22
7. Antony Sagathevan, Farmer, 20
8. Thangarasa Ravichchandran, Farmer, 21
9. Kanthasamy Alagaratnam, Farmer, 24
10. Poopalasingham Kodiyarasan, Farmer, 25
11. Kaneshapillai Lingeswaran, Farmer, 20
12. Sangarapillai Sivagurunathan, -, 20
13. Sivarasa Satheeskumar, -, 19
14. Kandasamy Alagaratnam, -, 24

59. Poththuvil massacre 30 July 1990

In 1990 hostilities between the Sri Lankan military and the LTTE resumed.



In the east the Sri Lankan military, Sinhala thugs, and their homes guards started to attack Tamil civilians.

On 10.06.1990, as a result of attacks by the military and Muslim groups, people displaced to the Komari refugee camp. People

returned to their homes on 30.07.1990, trusting the promises made by the Sri Lankan military and government officials. Returning people found that their homes were broken into and many valuables were stolen. Homes were also destroyed. As a result the people displaced again to Poththuvil Methodist Mahavidhyalayam.

Young men and women among the refugees at the Poththuvil Methodist Mahavidhyalayam were forced to go out for work to support their families. 12 of them were arrested by the military and the Muslim groups and taken to the Poththuvil Police Station. Those arrested were taken to the open space near the Police Station few at a time and were burnt alive.

Except for a few who escaped all the rest of those arrested were burnt alive by 01.08.1990. 125 young people died in this atrocity by the military and the Muslim groups.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Sellathurai Chandran, -, 20
2. Kandiahpillai Sivasuntharan, -, 26
3. Kanthan Navaratnam, -, 21
4. Kanthappan Aananthan, Worker, 26
5. Kaththamuthu Sunil, Worker, 35
6. Kalikuddy Amirthlingham, -, 27
7. Krishnan Alagaiah, Worker, 24
8. Kanapathy Pathmanathan, Worker, 25
9. Kanapathipillai Tharumaratnam, Worker, 51
10. Kengatharan Jeyakumar, Worker, 22
11. Ponnai Mosan, Worker, 25
12. Somalingham Visvalingham, Worker, 42
13. Rajathurai Kamalanathan, Infant, 03
14. Sellathurai Kanthasamy, -, 35
15. Kanagaratnam Sinnarasa, -, 27
16. Sellamuthu Subramaniam, Worker, 18
17. Velautham Karunanithy, Worker, 32
18. Gnanachselvan Uthayakumar, Worker, 18
19. Sunthararagan Tharumalingham, -, 21
20. Subramaniam Rasu, -, 20
21. Subpaiah Kathirgamanathan, -, 22
22. Subpaiah Archsunan, -, 26
23. Subpaiah Arumugam, Worker, 39
24. Kanapathipillai Selvaratnam, Worker, 35
25. Kanapathipillai Theiventhiran, -, 23
26. Pakkiri Sittampalam, -, 30
27. Palan Jeyantham, Worker, 25
28. Selvarasa Suventhiran, Worker, 20
29. Thambiar Thevasuntharam, Watcher, 70

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30. Nagamani Kunaseelan, -, 25
31. Nallathamby Pakkiarasa, -, 23
32. Kannachchi Subramaniam, -, 34
33. Kanagaratnam Sinnarasa, -, 52
34. Kanagasabai Navarasa, -, 26
35. Kandiah Nallathambi, -, 33
36. Kandiah Tharumaratnam, -, 32
37. Kandiah Sivakumar, -, 27
38. Kandiah Sivakumaran, -, 22
39. Kandiapillai Sivasubramaniam, -, 26
40. Kanthan Navaratnam, -, 21
41. Kaneshapillai Chandran, -, 36
42. Kandiah Kanesh, Student, 16
43. Santhirapillai Vinayagamoorthy, Worker, 20
44. Kandiah Nallathamby, -, 33
45. Thambimuthu Krishnapillai, -, 52
46. Mooththathamby Rasanayagam, -, 33
47. Ilaiyathamby Kirubakakaran, Worker, 39
48. Ilaiyathamby Karunakaran, -, 23
49. Ramalingham Eesvaran, -, 23
50. Santhianathan Pathmanathan, -, 32
51. Nagamani Kunaseelan, -, 25
52. Nadarasa Savunthararasa, -, 19
53. Sannasi Subramaniam, -, 34
54. Kanagasabai Kirubairasa, Worker, 30
55. Kanagasabai Thavarasa, Worker, 26
56. Iyappan Selvarasa, Worker, 41
57. Namani Siththathurai, Fisherman, 45
58. Seeniththamby Subramaniam, Worker, 26
59. Pathamanathan Vigneswaran, Worker, 14
60. Sabapathy Mahenthiran, -, 22
61. Shanthi Satkunam, -, 40
62. Saththianathan Yoganathan, Worker, 26
63. Sathasivam Vellupillai, Worker, 50
64. Sathasivam Sivalingham, Worker, 45
65. Sinnappillai Vijayakumar, -, 20
66. Sinnathurai Pathmanathan, -, 26
67. Sinnathurai Yogarasa, -, 29
68. Sinnaththamby Nadarasa, -, 34
69. Sinnaththamby Suntharam, Worker, 30
70. Sinnaththamby Sabanantham, Worker, 28
71. Kopalakrishnan Pathmanathan, Worker, 26
72. Seeniththamby Kanthasamy, -, 45
73. Kopal Ramesh, -, 20
74. Vadivel Muththukumar, Worker, 17
75. Vadivel Alaganayagam, Worker, 30

76. Vadivel Selvanayagam, Worker, 17
77. Vadivel Santhirasegararagan, Worker, 42
78. Vannamani Manivannan, -, 20
79. Veeran Rasaiah, -, 35
80. Veeran Pushparasa, -, 32
81. Veeran Selvarasa, -, 29
82. Ratnam Jeyaseelan - 24
83. Lalith Thurairasa, Merchant, 49
84. Kanapathipillai Yoganathan, Worker, 20
85. Arumugam Kaneshamoorthy, Student, 19
86. Sinnarasa Theiventhiran, -, 23
87. Tharumalingham Santhiran, -, 21
88. Tharumalingham Paskaran, -, 13
89. Thambipillai Poopalapillai, Worker, 32
90. Thambirasa Rasakumar, Worker, 18
91. Thambirasa Manogar, Worker, 38
92. Thambirasa Thevasuntharam, Worker, 65
93. Thisanayaga Obesegara, Worker, 42
94. Thisanayaga Sabeser, Student, 19
95. Thilagaratnam Parathy, Worker, 24
96. Thilagaratnam Lalith, Worker, 23
97. Thangarasa Mahenthiran, Worker, 17
98. Tharumalingham Rasenthiram, -, 26
99. Sabapathy Mahenthiran, Seller, 26
100. Tharumalingham Muthulingham, Worker, 24
101. Pathmanathan Ravinthiran, Worker, 40
102. Tharumalingham Santhalingham, -, 23
103. Marimuthu Mahenthiran, -, 18
104. Manikkam Paramasivan, -, 31
105. Manikkam Thambirasa, Worker, 26
106. Manikkam Selvarasa, Worker, 27
107. Manikkam Ravichsanthiran, Worker, 32
108. Muthuthaiah Saththianathan, -, 18
109. Antonipillai Mahenthirakumar, -, 16
110. Alagaiah Siyamsegar, Worker, 36
111. Arulampalam Vasu, -, 19
112. Arumugam Rasaratnam, Worker, 20
113. Joseph Sriramu, Worker, 32
114. Tharumalingham Kaneshamoorthy, Worker, 23

60. Thiraikerny massacre 06 Aug 1990

Thiraikerny was originally a coconut estate of about 300 acres in the idyllic region of Amparai. The ownership at the time sympathized with the hardships of the landless peasantry, both Muslims and Tamils, at Palamunai,

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Oluvil, Meenodaikattu and Addalaichenai, and the estate was given to the people at a very nominal price of Rs.200/ - per acre. Various community figures, such as Nagappan Subramaniyam and Periya Kanapathipillai Upathiyar of Karaitivu, worked hard in developing the village and making it into a successful agricultural area.



On the 06.08.1990, the peace and hard work of the villagers was destroyed. Hundreds of Muslims stormed into the village and set ablaze the homes of the Tamils and attacked the Tamil villagers and threw their mutilated

bodies into the nearby Hindu Temple. Statements recorded from victims and witnesses to this outrageous crime reveal that there was no provocation from the Tamils for such an attack.



A woman witness revealed the background of the events, the intention and purposes leading to the attack and how it was executed:

“I was married in 1976 and had three children - two sons, and a daughter. Around 6 O' clock in the morning, on the 6th August 1990; I heard the cries of women from the direction of my Muslim neighbour's house.

Since we had maintained a friendly relationship with our Muslim neighbours, I rushed to the house from which the Muslim women raised cries.

I found several women in that house and everyone was in tears, weeping over the death of some member of the family. The women said that their men who went to the paddy field at Alimadakadu had been cut to pieces and slain. No one knew who the killers were.

I spent about half an hour with the grieving family; I shared their sorrow but returned home to attend to the household chores before the children left for school. A few minutes after I returned home, and was busy with my work, I heard people shouting. Together with my husband I rushed to the gate to see what was wrong. We found men, women and children moving away from their homes in a state of excitement. They were in a state of great confusion, agitated with fear and worry. They told us that they were running away from an angry mob composed of Muslims who had vowed to destroy Thiraiakerny. They were going to the Pillaiyar Temple as it is dangerous to remain in homes. The Tamils who were running away, warned us saying

“do not stay here; the mob is heavily armed according to information received from friendly Muslims”.

My husband was shaken by the news. When the entire population in the village was moving out, we saw no wisdom in staying at home. Leaving all our possessions in our house and keeping the doors open, we left home with the children and took refuge in the Pillaiyar Temple. Soon the Muslims appeared on the road at a distance.

Riotous gangsters numbering more than 150 men, armed with knives, swords, sickles and clubs and seemingly possessed by wild and violent anger, shouted slogans against the Tamils, and called out the Muslims to unite to fight the Tamils. We were in bewilderment and spent every minute in fear. People prayed for Divine intervention to save the people from the apparent danger. As we looked up we saw clouds of smoke rising up the sky. The smoke came from the burning houses of the Tamils. As the goons were approaching the Temple, the people ran towards the Periyathambiran Temple and the mob followed. The people having resigned their fate watched with fear every movement of the menacing crowd of attackers. In a split of a second - no sooner the mob reached the Temple premise, an armoured car, drove into the temple premise. There were six soldiers in uniform in the vehicle.

The soldiers acted differently. They did not themselves take part in the attack. The behaviour of the soldiers gave some courage to the Tamil youths to approach the armoured car. With hands raised above their heads, they walked up to the soldiers and sought to plead with the soldiers to prevail on the Muslims to prevent any attack on the poor innocent Tamils who had sought refuge in the temple. The soldiers, I was told, had to stop the Muslims. The soldiers were alleged to have told the young men that the Tamils had killed Muslims and therefore the army cannot intervene.

The soldiers waved their hands, telling the Tamil youths to go away from them, and that waving of their hands was taken as a signal for the attackers to begin their assault. First they began desecrating the Temple. Some went to damage the wall while some others broke the door. Yet the Tamils did not say a word to the attackers. Some of the Muslims entered into the sanctum and came out with the Sacred Trident and the spear that were firmly fixed to the ground. Some took away the tools like knife, axe and crowbar, used in the Temple by the priests. The Tamils were later attacked with the Trident, the spear, and the tools taken away from the Temple.

The attackers first assaulted the men seated on the ground with knives. Those who were in the rear escaped. In the melee that followed the attack, even some of the injured ran away, but did not return alive. My husband was attacked with knife and he died there. The people wondered whether it

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was a joint attack of the Army and the Muslims - such attacks had occurred in the Tamils areas previously. The arrival of the soldiers at the Hindu temple premises had an impact. The goons appeared very happy and they shouted in jubilation.

As the attackers were busy mauling the innocents, sharp reports of fire-arms were heard from the main trunk road. The soldiers who had come over to Thiraikerny to witness the annihilation of the Tamils fled in their armoured car.

When the armoured vehicle left, the attackers too fled, crying out. 'Tigers are coming to attack us'. When they had all fled, I looked around, and found several of my people dead and among those killed was not only men but also women and children. A very young mother known as Vijeyaluxmy and her infant too were killed.

A contingent of the police - the Special Task Force (STF) came in a number of vehicles. They had come there firing all the way. We realized that it is their firing that drove away the soldiers and the attackers. They saw the large number that had been murdered and injured. The women, who had been frozen from shock and fear, were unable to speak. There was blood and flesh strewn all around. In the midst of piercing shrill cries and screams of the injured, the chief of the STF promised protection and help to all victims.”

***According to a sworn statement, a little girl was seized and raped, and thereafter, thrown into the fire. Rescuers recovered the half-burnt body and buried it.*

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Nagalingham
2. Kathiran Packiyarasa
3. Murugan Ilayathamby
4. Thambiyappa Kopal
5. Kanthkkuddy Vellautham
6. Markandu Kirubai
7. Sinnathamby Kanni
8. Satkunam Ilayathamby
9. Visvalingham Alagai
10. Poopalapillai Pulenthiran
11. Samiththamby Sowntharanayakam
12. Ramakkuddy Mylvaganam
13. Sellaththurai Krishdiyan
14. Ponna Alagaiah
15. Velluppillai Paskaralingham
16. Kanagaratnam Alagai

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Information collected by SNE

17. Markandu Mylvaganam
18. Satkunam Vijayaluxsumy
19. Murugesu Nagenthiram
20. Kanapathy Kalikkuddy
21. Samiththamby Nagarasa
22. Kalikkuddy Packiyarasa
23. Sellaiah Packiyarasa
24. Velan Kathiresapillai
25. Kanthan Navaratnam
26. Selvam Seeniththamby
27. Velupillai Kunarasa
28. Sellaththurai Palachchanthiran
29. Thambimuthu Anantharasa
30. Rasathurai Pirakala
31. Ilayathamby Mayilappody
32. Sellaththurai Amirthalingham
33. Poopalpillai Egamparam
34. Sinnththmby Thambipillai
35. Kanapathipillai Amirthalingham
36. Muthiran Kanapathy
37. Kalikkuddy Thambipillai
38. Kanagaratnam Subramaniyam
39. Markandu Jeyakumar
40. Sinnaththamby Sivasithamparam
41. Kanapathipillai Krishnan
42. Kanapathy Kalimuthu, Doctor, 45
43. R.Mylvaganam, Worker, 18
44. Kanthkkuddy Poopalapillai, Worker, 19
45. Nallathamby Pulenthiran, Worker, 27
46. K.Paskaralingham, Worker, 39
47. T.Kopal, Worker, 50
48. M.Kirubai, Worker, 30
49. S.Packiyarasa, Worker, 26
50. M.Kunchiththamby, Worker, 50
51. K.Samiththamby, Farmer, 43
52. K.Packiyarasa, Worker, 34
53. P.Polenthirarasa, Worker, 30

61. Xavierpuram massacre 07 Aug 1990

Xavierpuram, Amparai is the name of the settlement where the 'Kurawar' tribe lived from 1950.

On the 7th of August 1990 the community of Kurawar were attacked, their homes burnt and their youths shot dead. Men and women were tortured and

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the church, school and community hall were burnt. There was no provocation for such an attack on the Kurawar. Later the attackers were identified as Muslim home guards. They carried out the attacks following an



allegation that the LTTE had established contact with the Kurawar. In her sworn statement, Miniakkah describes the attack on Xavierpuram in the following manner:

“It was about 11o'clock in the forenoon of 7th August 1990, when some people were having their first meal for the day while others were preparing it when the attackers arrived. Along Neethai Road 18 tractors came one behind the other, carrying a large number people armed with guns, knives, sticks, clubs and axes. They stopped at the centre of the village, and called out the people - men, women and children- to assemble before them. The attackers, carrying guns, were in military fatigues. Their appearance foreboded evil.

The people of Xavierpuram became excited. The men, who were eating stopped eating, washed their hands and rushed to the place where men with guns stood. Together with my husband and two children, my son and daughter, I went to the place where we were asked to assemble. We were able to identify the men in uniform as home guards (Muslims) and the others from the Akkaraipattu area who had accompanied the home guards.

An eyewitness said:

“While we stood before the Muslim home guards and the hooligans who accompanied them, they (home guards) seized my only son and began torturing him. Another seized Jayaraja who was also a youth from my community and continued torturing both.

My husband could not bear to see his only son being brutally tortured. He sprang up and protested and I too raised cries. Thereupon, one of them armed with wooden pestle dealt a blow on the chest of my husband he fell down unconscious; he fell down like an uprooted tree. I rushed to my husband and lifted his head. Another person struck me on my head with a weapon. I remember blood gushing from my head before I fell unconscious.

Those who survived the attack fled to Thirukovil carrying the injured. They carried nothing with them and ran with the clothes on their back. Some of them had had no meal from the previous day.

Later when I opened my eyes, I found myself on a hospital bed, along with several others from my village. It was late in the afternoon, around 4 p.m. I tried to recollect what had happened but could not. Anxious relatives came to see me and I asked for my family members. I was told that a number of people were killed by the home guards and the Muslims and our houses were set on fire with petrol and kerosene. All the people had fled from the village, but some were preparing to go back to Xavierpuram to perform the last rites for the dead whose mortal remains were lying scattered.

Something urged me to return with the crowd to Xavierpuram. Despite my weak condition, I left the hospital ward, traced my husband who was equally in pain, and together with about 20 men, travelled in a tractor belonging to one member of our tribe. I was petrified when I saw my son's body lying near the channel with bullet wounds. There were two other bodies beside his strewn around.

The eerie calm of the destroyed village with the burnt houses sent terror through me. The charred remains of the houses reminded me of ghosts. We made a quick return to Thirukovil.”

Massana, another victim of the attack is an ageing woman of the Kurawar tribe living in Xavierpuram. A grandmother, she said that she knew most of the attackers. Some of them were paddy cultivators in the area around where she lived. They not only killed, maimed and injured people, but also destroyed the church, the school and homes of a peaceful community, many of whose members worked on the paddy fields of the Muslims.

After homes were lost, and lives brutally taken, some survivors could not bear to live with what they had seen or with what they had lost and later committed suicide.

62. Kalmunai massacre 11 Aug 1990



Kalmunai is situated 40 Kms from the Batticaloa town. Pandiruppu, Natpiddimunai, Chenaikudiyiruppu, and Nilavanai are villages surrounding Kalmunai.

On 11.08.1990, villagers from Pandiruppu, Kalmunai and Chenaikudiyiruppu were gathered in homes in fear as the Sri Lankan military rounded up these villages and began shooting. The military was shooting into the homes forcing people to come out. Young men carried

their national identity card in their hands. Mothers held tight onto their babies. 25 young men were taken by the military from the Kalmunai village to the Karaithivu military camp. Mothers who followed the young men being taken by the military were attacked with gun butts and many mothers fainted and fell down.

Next day relatives of the young men walked to the Karaithivu camp through the Kalmunai town. The military in the town stopped them and made them stand by the road side. Large number of military arrived at the scene and selected the young women among the relatives. They were taken to a building nearby where they were gang raped and killed. Men were tortured on the road and killed. All together 37 people were killed in two hours in this manner.

None of the 25 young men taken to the Karaithivu military camp have been seen since. In total 62 people were killed in these two days by the Sri Lankan military.

63. Thurainilavanai massacre 12 Aug 1990



Thurainilavanai village is situated in the Batticaloa district. On 12.08.1990, morning, Sri Lankan military from the Nilavanai-Kallaru camp rounded up the Nilavanai village and opened fire on the people. More than 60 people were killed.

64. Eravur hospital massacre 12 Aug 1990



On 11, 08.1990, Sri Lankan military rounded up the villages of Senkaladi and Kiran and opened fire on the villagers. More than 10 civilians who were injured were admitted in the Eravur hospital.

On 12.08.1990, the hospitalized civilians at the Eravur hospital were hacked to death by the Sri

Lankan military and Muslim groups between 11.00am till 12.00 noon.

65. Koraveli massacre 14 Aug 1990

Koraveli and Eechaiyadithivu villages are in the Batticaloa district. These villages are blessed with natural beauty and resources. Most of the people were farmers in these villages.



In the beginning of 1990 violence against civilians by the military and the Muslim groups were on the increase.

On 14.05.1990 at noon, military came from the Senkalady and Kallady military camps and rounded up the Koraveli and Eechaiyadithivu villages. The military opened fire on the villagers at home and working in the fields. 15 civilians were killed and 25 were injured in this attack by the military.

66. Nellyyadi market bombing 29 Aug 1990



Nellyyadi is a small town in the Vadamradchi region of Jaffna district. It is 3 Km from the Point Pedro town. Nellyyadi market served the 25,000 families living in this area.

On 29.08.1990, two bombers and an Avro belonging to the Sri Lankan military dropped bombs on this market at 9.30 am when the market was busy with people. 16 civilians including children were killed by this bombing. Another 24 civilians were injured.

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Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Santhirasegaram Vallipuram, Farmer, 70
2. Kiddinan Gnanarooban, Student, 12
3. Mahesahn Sanmugeswaramoorthy, Farmer, 36
4. Nagarasa Aananthapairavi, Seller, 20
5. Murugaiah Nirmaleswaran, Farmer, 18
6. Ponniah Mahendran, Officer, 48
7. Rasaiah Puspavathy, Seller, 50
8. Appuththurai Kunaratnam, Seller, 54
9. Ponnampalam Somaskanthasivam, Post officer, 58
10. Somaskanthasivam Mangalanayagi ammai, Principal, 58
11. Selvan, Student, 14
12. Japan, -, 50

67. Mandaithivu disappearances 23 Aug, 25 Sept 1990



The three villages, Mandaithivu, Allaipiddy and Mankumban (M-A-M), are situated just across the Dutch Fort in Jaffna. From here the Sri Lankan military launched its operations. The majority of the people in the M-A-M villages were farmers, fishermen and toddy tappers. Prior to 1990 it

was economically prosperous. On 23.08.1990, the Sri Lankan military dropped notices from air ordering people not to stay in their homes and to go to churches and temples. People were thus taking refuge in temples, churches and schools. The military entered the villages on 23.08.1990 and killed everyone who did not go to the temples, churches and schools. 20



people were brutally killed in this manner.

On 23th August 1990 close to 500 young men between the ages of 15 and 45 were taken away from the PhilipNeri's church in Allaipiddy. Hundreds of families had taken refuge in churches, temples and mosques after

instruction from the military. This is the imagery created by the narratives of the families: The entire village took refuge in the church. The army came and rounded up hundreds of able-bodied men and took them away, tied together. The woman screamed and ran behind, begging the army to leave them. The Army threatened the woman with guns, shot over their heads and physically beat them back. Meanwhile, the army instructed the children to recite, "*We don't want Tamil Eelam*".

Most of the men were later released little by little over a period of 10 days or so. Again the army arrived early in the morning on 23rd August 1990 to a school and a Pillaiyar temple in Mankumban where the people were told to go. People were still asleep. The armed men hit the sleeping young men on the head and ordered them to get up. Sisters gave their babies to their brothers to hold in the hope that it will save their brothers. The story repeats.

Less than two months after this second round up the entire military camp disappeared from the villages together with around 70 young men. What exactly happened to these men is still not known to this day.

All the families speak of the presence of Douglas Devananda, the leader of the militant EPDP group that has now become a political party, and the late army commander Denzil Kobbekaduwa at the site. Families also speak of the assurance given by Douglas Devananda to the families that their children will be safe. The Jesuratnam family who are looking for three of their sons have the most detailed story to tell about the role of Douglas Devananda in this disappearance: They met Douglas Devananda in the first week of June 1991. He got the particulars and then told them that he will go to Anuradhapura and will inform the family. The family went to Anuradhapura about ten times between 1991 and 1992 to meet Denzil Kobbekaduwa and succeeded in meeting him five times. When the family contacted Denzil Kobbekaduwa on 17th June 1991, he asked the family whether they have contacted Douglas Devananda about their children. Again on 13th May 1992 Kobbekaduwa told them that he would visit the M-A-M villages and after that he will show the children to the family. They met Douglas again on 25th June 1992 when he assured them that he would speak to the family after a visit to the M-A-M villages.

The family was called by the 1995 Presidential Commission of Inquiry. Theirs is the only family from the M-A-M villages that managed to attend the inquiry. This is because they were in Colombo and managed to get a date in Colombo. All the other families were displaced to Vanni during the period of the inquiry and were not contactable due to the communication and transport difficulties under the war situation. This family's inquiry was held on 12th June 1996. At the inquiry the three commissioners instructed the family to ask Douglas Devananda about their children. They also

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promised to inquire from Douglas Devananda and inform the family but the family did not hear anything from the Commissioners after that.

A total of 92 people were either killed or disappeared on these two dates. The bodies of some of them are suspected to be in the covered wells in Mandaithivu to which civilians cannot enter. Locals suspect the actual toll on these days is much higher.

Below are some excerpts about the role of Douglas Devananda in this affair from what other families have said:

Ratman Jeyaseelan's brother-in-law says: *"My mother-in-law (Ratman's mother) and I went and spoke to Douglas Devananda. We asked him to release Rattu since he is a boy who does not have a father. Douglas said "He is a good child and we will not do anything to him. We are keeping him only to transport water". ... Rattu's van is sandalwood colour. After that whenever I see the van at a distance I run towards it. When I go there Douglas Devananda will be there. They will be transporting water. When Rattu's mother is there she will beg for Rattu's release. Douglas will say 'Amma why do I need your boy. I will keep him until we capture the Fort and then I will release him."*

S Jeyakumar's sister Vimaladevi says: *"Douglas came. We begged and cried to him. He told us 'Amma your boys are not with the army. We are keeping them. We will let them go soon'. His men then gave rice and other dry rations to us at the junction. We told them that we do not want anything and to just give us our children back. To this he consoled us by saying, 'Amma did I not say that they are with me. Why are you still asking? I will relax when I give them back to you. I will give them before the 24th of next month'. We were confident that our boys would be released. So we took the rations and went back. This happened 2 or three times. ... Army was in the Fort. We heard that when that army came they killed all our boys. Once we asked Douglas at the junction about this and he said, 'Amma I took the responsibility. They will not do anything to them. Do not worry."*

Reetamma, mother of S Selvanayagam shares her account of what happened the day her son was taken away:

"Selvanayagam was 25 years old when he was taken away. He was fishing for his livelihood. They took my son-in-law as well and he was released the next day. He said that he saw Selvanayagam at the Aluminium factory drinking water next day I went with the other parents to see the army. My husband is sickly, therefore I went everywhere to search and complain. Douglas Devananda was at the Aluminum factory. We pleaded, begged and screamed to let our children go. They said they are keeping our children in

Mandaithivu. Douglas kept saying that he will release them tomorrow. In reality they had no plans to release our children.

My son was 25 when he disappeared and he looked like a prince. When he was young he got sick a lot and I took him everywhere for treatment. It would have been easier to bear it if my son died of illness.

I cried to the army that my son is the only one who can take care of my family. My son wanted to give his sister away in marriage and give her a good life. Once he went the entire family was broken and destroyed.”

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. M.Siththathurai, -, 35
2. N.Jesuthas, -, 28
3. N.Ratnasingham, -, 45
4. S.Lingeswaran, -, 21
5. S.Ravindran, -, 22
6. S.Ranjithkumar, -, 15
7. S.Sivapalan, -, 19
8. S.Sivakumar, -, 19
9. S.Sivaroopan, -, 16
10. S.Sugirtharatnam, -, 21
11. S.Arulnesan, -, 28
12. S.Anpalagan, -, 19
13. S.Mahendran, -, 20
14. S.Thirichchelvam
15. S.Premaratnam, Student, 16
16. Vilpered Thevarasa, -, 25
17. Vijayaratnam Ravi, -, 23
18. V.Donposko, -, 19
19. Sivapalasingham, -, 28
20. S.Vimalathas, -, 20
21. S.Saththiaseelan, -, 29
22. S.Aravinthan, -, 20
23. Charls Antony Annathas, -, 27
24. S.Sathanantharasa, -, 28
25. Sornaningham Lingeswaran, Farmer, 21
26. S.Sivekkippillai, -, 30
27. P.Kanthalingham, -, 24
28. K.Vijayakumar, -, 30
29. K.Peterpol, -, 17
30. K.Pramatheeswaran, -, 22
31. K.Rasasegaran, -, 21
32. K.Indrakumar, -, 21
33. Noberd Ramesh, -, 19
34. Y.Vijayapalan, -, 21

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35. Jesuthas, -, -
36. Jorch Sylvestar, -, 20
37. Jeyakumar, -, 22
38. Alambin Robert, -, 18
39. R.Ravindran, -, 20
40. R.Muruganathan, -, 21
41. Antony Robert, -, 20
42. Antony Arokkiarasa, -, 23
43. Anton Arulthas, -, 26
44. Anton Asilthas, Masan, 28
45. A.Jeyaseelan, -, 23
46. A.Alagarasa, -, 19
47. Mesel Sylvester, -, 32
48. Mesel Stanic, -, 19
49. Madutheen Antanit, -, 21
50. M.Thavaseelan, -, 24
51. Thirunayagam Saddanathapillai, Farmer, 32
52. T.Palaratnam, -, 20
53. V.Edvert, -, 21
54. T.Ravindran, -, 21
55. T.Rathakrishnan, -, -
56. T.Rajahkumar, -, 32
57. T.Simon, -, 20
58. T.Santhalingham, -, 20
59. T.Suntharalingham, -, 24
60. T.Gnanenthiran, -, 20
61. T.Selvaratnam, -, 25
62. T.Yogarasa, -, 18
63. T.Arulnesan, -, 22
64. T.Arokianathan, -, 23
65. T.Iruthayarasa, -, 26
66. P.Pathmarasa, -, 20
67. P.Satheeswaran
68. P.Jeyachandran, -, 18
69. P.Thavam, -, 18
70. Palanithurai Saththiapalan, Farmer, 34
71. Paththinathar Senjude, -, 27
72. Paththinathar Dias, -, 22
73. Palasingham, -, 30
74. N.Kuganantharasa, -, 24
75. Uthayakumar, -, -
76. Ratnam Jeyaseelan, -, 23
77. R.Vipulananthar, -, 30
78. R.Suthakaran, -, 20
79. Soosaipillai Selvanayagam, Fisherman, 35

68. Saththurukondan massacre 09 Sept 1990

Saththurukondan is a village in Batticaloa district. Saththurukondan is not very far from Batticaloa town. This village comprises Pannichaiaddy, Pillayarady and Oorani. On the 10.09.1990, military arrested several people and took them to the military camp. Among those arrested were 85 women and many children. The arrested people were taken to the Sri Lanka army camp at the Saththurukondan.



There, the women were raped, and their breasts were cut off. 68 children, among them five babies were also tortured and murdered. 205 people were killed in this massacre.

Only one man, 21 year old Kanthasamy Krishnakumar escaped being killed and informed

the others about what has happened.

At an inquiry into the massacre, the Officer in Charge of the camp, Captain Gamini Varnakula Sooriya said “On that day no search or arrest was conducted by us.” He also reiterated that none of his men even ventured out of the camp on the day of the massacre. The military also threatened and forced the President of Citizens Committee, Arunakirinathan, to sign an affidavit saying no such incident took place. Arunakirinathan resigned from his posts following this forced affidavit. Mrs. SS lost 35 blood relations, almost her entire family. Her account of the massacre is as follows,

“On a Sunday evening, the army and the Muslim thugs rounded up our village and took thirty-five people including three handicapped teenagers. The Muslim thugs started assaulting the people.

On the previous day, some of our people knew that the army was going to round up Pannichaiaddy and Pillayarady. In order to escape from this round up, many people went to Kuddiyiruppu. Then the soldiers took 10 people from Kuddiyiruppu. They brought everyone near Pillayarady. There were about 185 people. They took everyone to a covered area in Vincent Depot.



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Then we couldn't see anything. But we heard people shouting and screaming with firing in between. After a few minutes we saw the flames blazing. Bodies were burning till the morning. They had shot and hacked 184 people to death. Those who were taken on a pretext that they would be released after an inquiry were in flames.

For a few days, no-one was allowed to go near the depot. After a week, we went to the army camp and enquired about the whereabouts of the members of our family. They said that they never came to our village and they never took anyone. What else can we do other than ask the army? There is no guarantee that this will not happen again. So I decided to move to Karadiyanaru for my safety.

There is only one survivor - Kanthasamy Krishnakumar. He saw everyone being cut with big knives and thrown into the fire. When he was cut with a knife by a soldier, he fell down and pretended to have died. But before he was thrown into the fire, he got up and ran away. They couldn't catch him.”

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. R.Nagamma, -, 26
2. R.Theepa, -, 10
3. R.Jegatheesan, -, 10
4. R.Nagamma, House wife, 26
5. J.Kumuthiny, -, 12
6. J.Nesamma, -, 25
7. J.Thevarasi, -, 27
8. J.Santhiriya, -, 19
9. J.Seeniththamby, -, 70
10. J.Vanitha, -, 12
11. E.Jeevanathan, -, 30
12. U.Kalimuthu, -, 55
13. U.Mariamuthu, House wife, 33
14. U.Kopickannan, -, 12
15. Umaithamby, -, 70
16. Nallaiah Ramachchandran, Own work, 44
17. K.Nallaiah, Own work, 72
18. K.Sureshkaran, -, 11
19. Kanthan Ilayathamby, -, 55
20. Kamala, -, 09
21. Kanapathipillai Thangamuthu, Own work, 46
22. P.Kanthasamy, -, 29
23. P.Kamalanthan, -, 09
24. P.Kavitha, -, 12
25. P.Thamenthiny, -, 04
26. P.Archchimuthu, -, 76
27. P.Ponnamma, -, 70

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28. P.Santhanam, -, 37
29. P.Sriluxsumy, -, 18
30. P.Vinothiny, -, 12
31. P.Vasanthi, -, 23
32. Pirapa, -, 02
33. T.Dilani, -, 05
34. T.Nanthiny, -, 16
35. T.Nathan, -, 12
36. T.Nageswary, -, 37
37. T.Nitharshini, -, 12
38. T.Kugan, -, 10
39. T.Kirubakaran, -, 03
40. T.Kanmani, -, 32
41. T.Kannan, -, 25
42. T.Kanapathipillai, -, 50
43. T.Poopalapillai, -, 65
44. T.Paramsoothy, -, 37
45. T.Piratheepan, -, 05
46. T.Thillaiyamma, -, 63
47. T.Mahaluxsumy, -, 31
48. T.Malai, -, 55
49. T.Jeyackanthan, -, 10
50. T.Jegan, -, 09
51. T.Mohanasuntharam, -, 27
52. T.Selva, -, 07
53. T.Sri, -, 28
54. T.Vijayakumar (Kumaran), -, 08
55. T.Vijayaluxsumy, -, 29
56. T.Vasanthi, -, 01
57. T.Rasenthiran, -, 04
58. I.Murugan, -, 65
59. V.Thangamma, -, 38
60. Vairamuthu Atputhavadivel, Own work, 46
61. T.Kanapathipillai, -, 50
62. Thambipillai, -, 72
63. Thambiya Kirubairatnam, Own work, 50
64. M.Selvanayagam, -, 55
65. M.Ramaiya, -, 70
66. R.Kamalrajah, -, 11
67. R.Nesamma, -, 62
68. R.Suthakaran, -, 10
69. R.Viji, -, 08
70. R.Vasanthi, -, 15
71. Alagaiah Navaretnam, House wife, 16
72. Alagaiah Manchula, House wife, 14
73. Alagaiah Sowthirarajan, Student, 12

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74. J.Vijayaluxsumy, -, 10
75. J.Ramani, -, 02
76. Jothyvadivel, -, 06
77. K.Mooththathamby, -, 79
78. K.Ilayathamby, -, 55
79. K.Eelan, -, 15
80. K.Nagaratnam, -, 40
81. K.Nallaiah, -, 72
82. K.Nallamma, -, 66
83. K.Karikaran, -, 08
84. K.Kathirgamathamby, -, 75
85. K.Kathirgamathamby, -, 68
86. K.Kumutha, -, 23
87. K.Kamalan, -, 06
88. K.Keetha, -, 12
89. K.Krishnapillai, -, 14
90. K.Kannan, -, 10
91. K.Packiyam, -, 46
92. K.Tharani, -, 04
93. K.Thambaiyah, -, 65
94. K.Thangamma, House wife, 75
95. K.Thangavel, -, 26
96. K.Arasamma, -, 60
97. K.Nesamma, -, 48
98. K.Sathes, -, 04
99. K.Siyamala, -, 13
100. K.Sinnamuthu, -, 66
101. K.Sivatharsan, -, 05
102. K.Savuntharam, -, 38
103. K.Vimala, -, 02
104. K.Vasikala, Child, 13
105. K.Rasaththy, Child, 12
106. K.Rameshkaran, Child, 07
107. Periyathamby, Own work, 75
108. Thevy, -, 32
109. Sebastiyam Selvanayagam, Labour, 45
110. Venurajah, -, 25
111. Lexsumy, Own work, 48
112. G.Sowntharanayagam, -, 26
113. Santhimathy, Own work, 20
114. Samiththamby Alagaiah, Labour, 34
115. Sinnaththamby Veluppillai, Own work, 68
116. Seeni Kopal, -, 57
117. Siththirathevy, -, 29
118. Sivatharshini, Child, 04
119. V.Nallaiah, -, 27

120. V.Poomani, -, 45
121. V.Jothyvadivel, Student, 06
122. V.Sarmila, Student, 08
123. V.Luxsumy, -, 48
124. Ratnaraja Rukthy, -, 06
125. A.Jeeva, -, 15
126. A.Umaithamby, -, 70
127. A.Navaratnam, -, 45
128. A.Manchsula, -, 18
129. A.Aththappillai, -, 72
130. A.Alagaiah, Child, 10
131. A.Arul, Child, 09
132. A.Ponnuththurai, -, 62
133. A.Sutha, -, 09
134. A.Seeththa, -, 18
135. S.Indrani, Child, 10
136. S.Jeevamalar, -, 25
137. S.Nagathesi, Child, 12
138. S.Nirmala, Child, 13
139. S.Nallaiah, -, 45
140. S.Kanthasamy, -, 29
141. S.Kasipathiyar, -, 60
142. S.Kajenthiny, Baby, 02
143. S.Kavitha, Child, 09
144. S.Kunaratnam, -, 33
145. S.Palipppy, -, 62
146. S.Priya, Baby, 03 months
147. S.Punniyamoorthy, Child, 13
148. S.Thangamma, -, 57
149. S.Thangeswary, -, 24
150. S.Thavakuneswaran, -, 25
151. S.Maheswary, -, 28
152. S.Malar, Child, 09
153. S.Alagaiah, -, 50
154. S.Yogarasa, -, 14
155. S.Nesam, -, 52
156. S.Ponnampalam, -, 55
157. S.Ponnamma, -, 24
158. S.Theivanai, -, 45
159. S.Selvarasa, -, 31
160. S.Gnaneswary, -, 38
161. S.Sapapathipillai, -, 70
162. S.Suresh, -, 02
163. S.Saroshathevy, -, 28
164. S.Sinnappillai, -, 35
165. S.Sinnaththamby, -, 27

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166. S.Sivaratnam, -, 12
167. S.Vadivel, -, 65
168. S.Vijayan, Baby, 01
169. S.Vinotharan, Baby, 05
170. S.Vallippillai, -, 75
171. S.Rasalingham, -, 58
172. S.Raveenthiran, -, 21
173. A.Nagaretnam, Own worker, 45
174. A.Sutha, Student, 09
175. N.Rasamma, -, 70
176. N.Kumuthiny, -, 18
177. N.Packiyam, -, 66
178. N.Palaththai, -, 70
179. N.Prema, -, 18
180. N.Piratheepan, -, 05
181. N.Tharshini, -, 06
182. N.Theepan, -, 09
183. N.Jegan, -, 12
184. N.Sornamma, -, 44
185. N.Venuthas, Infant, 03 months
186. N.Venurajah, Infant, 04 months
187. V.Gnanaratnam, -, 32
188. N.Siththirathevy, -, 22
189. N.Sivatharsan
190. M.Packiyam, House wife, 53
191. M.Parameswary, -, 32
192. M.Sailaya, Baby, 07
193. M.Vairamuthu, -, 55
194. M.Thulashi, Baby, 04
195. M.Periyathamby, -, 75
196. M.Thevagi, -, 25
197. M.Suposhini, Baby, 12
198. M.Sivagnanam, -, 35
199. M.Vijayan, -, 19
200. M.Rasa, -, 24

69. Natpiddimunai massacre 10 Sept 1990

Natpiddimunai is a village in the Amparai district located 3 Kms from the Kalmunai town. On 10.09.1990, the Special Task Force of the Sri Lankan police, surrounded this village, forcefully entered the homes and arrested 23 young men and took them to the Kalmunai STF camp. The bodies of these young men were found in a mass grave in the Thampuluvil village on 12.09.1990.

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Information collected by SNE



Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Kasippillai Sivakumar, -, 31
2. Kunaratnam Suthakaran, -, 23
3. Kunaratnam Muralitharan, -, 21
4. Kulanthaiverl Ponnuththurai, -, 26
5. Veerakkuddy Thankavel, -, 27
6. Mayilvakanam Parameswaran, -, 27
7. Vellaippody Thavarasa, -, 23
8. Varatharasan Waratheeswaran, -, 20
9. Sathasivam Thankaththurai, -, 23
10. Sivanathappillai Thankaththurai, -, 23
11. Ekamparam Thamilvanan, -, 19
12. Ganappirakasam Thuvani, -, 22
13. Kanabathippillai Nesaththurai, -, 22
14. Arumugam Nadesan, -, 29
15. Rasamanikkam Thiyakarasa, -, 23
16. Thampirasa Vivekananthan, -, 22
17. Thuraiyappa Nadesan, -, 23
18. Elaiyathampi Selvarasa, -, 30
19. Kanakaraththinam Thankavel, -, 19
20. Kanakasooriyar Kobalasinkam, -, 28
21. Kanthappodi Pusparasa, -, 23
22. Kulasegaram Selvanayagam, -, 26
23. Thampikuththu Bakkiyarasa, -, 27

70. Vantharamoollai90 massacre 05, 23 Sept 1990



In 1990, more than 50,000 Tamils from Sungankerny, Karuvakerny and Bandaramoolai villages all came to Eastern University, Batticaloa to flee from the Sri Lanka Armed Forces. On the 5th September 1990, the SLA arrived, and arrested 158 innocent civilians and massacred them. On the 23rd

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of September 1990, the SLA came again and arrested a further 16 Tamils and massacred them.

The university lecturers responded quickly and provided the university as a place of refuge for the fleeing people. They raised white flags to ensure that the SLA would not come inside and harm anyone. However, their efforts were in vain.

Varnakulasingam is one of the lecturers. His account of the incident is as follows,

“People who ran to Vantharumoolai University in fear of the SLA were immediately received and consoled. I was one of the people that helped change this place into a refugee camp. Dr Vadivel Mohan also worked very hard to make this possible.

The Army had started cutting people in Valaichenai village near Vantharumoolai. People all ran to the University for Refuge. In this village 48 people were taken away to Valaichenai Main Road. At the Main Road, there was a bottle shop. Beside this there was a garden which belonged to Selvanayagam. They took the captured people to this garden. They dug up the ground with a bulldozer. They shot these 48 people, threw them in the pit and closed them. If you dig there, many truths will unfold. The bulldozer followed closely behind as they killed everyone. We could not work out where they had thrown the bodies.

They went into Sungankerny, Kaluvankerny and Kondayankerny. There they killed, shot and tortured anyone they could. The people who escaped from this all ran and stayed in the University.

We believed that the army would not come in here. I was in charge of the hostel at the University. Students from Vavuniya, Kilinochchi, and Mullaithivu helped us. One of the boys who worked very closely with us named Pirabakaran was cut and killed by the Army. I think he was a student from Vavuniya. We knew if we left the University, they would hit and kill us, so we just stayed there with all the people. Everyone was screaming and crying in fear. We told them not to worry that the Army would not come to the University. Within one week 50,000 people came to this university as refugees. Every building was full of people.

It took the Army 7 days to reach Vantharamullai from Valaichenai. Till then, they slowly went into every village on the way and killed and cut everyone they could. We did not know if they would arrive today or tomorrow. We waited trembling in fear. We had heard about what had happened at Valaichenai. Because of this everyone was very scared. We, the lecturers, closed the gate of the University and stood at the entrance. If they

came, they would come by road and we would talk to them and not let them go inside. As we stood bravely, the army approached. Thinking that they were only on the road, we turned around to find that there were many armies inside the university. As the helicopters circled above, our staff all stood on the road. Army superiors who had come by road approached us and spoke to us. We had already placed signs in Sinhalese and Tamil to tell the army not to enter the place of refuge. The army commander asked us where the people inside were from. The people were from 6 villagers from Valaichenai to Arumuhathan Kudiyiruppu. Whilst this was happening, two buses came. They asked everyone inside to stand in line. Thangamani Chettiyar from Valaichenai was with me at that time. He was a good man. Two Muslims named Muthalali and Kalil were with the Army. They both knew me and Chettiyar very well. They used to borrow Chettiyar's vehicle and drive it often. He prayed to them with his two hands. They picked out 138 boys from those that were standing in line and made them get on the bus. Both of the buses left. We knew they were going towards Valaichenai, but nothing else. The mother and fathers all screamed. We did not understand anything. Chettiyar, Dr Jayasingam, head lecturer Manosabaratnam and I took down the names of the 138 boys. Though we had their names, we did not know who we could ask to find out where they had gone. Every camp we asked denied having the boys.

Within 4 days, I walked along the sea shore to my house in Valaichenai. At my house, they surrounded the house and caught me. This happened around 8pm. They took me to Navalladi Army Camp. I later found out that Ratnamalai the person in charge of the camp studied with me. I did not recognize him, but he recognized me. By the time I got there, they had tied up 13 from my village to the sentry point with one long string. These men had been previously caught. On the 3rd day, they hit them all and killed them. My head started spinning as I watched this torture. Before they killed them, the person in charge of the camp came. He sat on a chair and asked for the rope that was tied around everyone to be removed. He lit a cigarette and told everyone to take turns to smoke it. He asked them if they were tigers. By the time they had finished smoking the cigarette; their hands had been tied up again. A short time after this, one of the Army started playing a 'baila' song which made fun of Tamil people very loudly. All the army was in a state of intoxication. Whilst they were dancing, some other army personnel came with sticks, axes, and iron bars. They started hitting all the people randomly. For few minutes, they were screaming and blood was bleeding from their whole body. Some heads were broken into pieces, some hands and legs were cut off – within a few minutes there was no noise. All 13 were hacked to death. Then they put all the bodies in a pit and burned those bodies with tires and firewood.

From this incident I presume that the same thing must have happened to all 138 people who were arrested in the campus. In Navaladdy camp, there

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were a lot of pits. If these pits are excavated the number of people who were killed in this camp could be discovered.

Later they asked me and another person to go and sleep in a room. How can I sleep after seeing the cold blooded massacre? I didn't have a wink of sleep the whole night.

During my stay in that camp, I had seen some Muslims coming into that camp with their hats on. Then they removed the hats and went with the army for various activities against the Tamils in those areas.

I was petrified for during the nine days in that camp. Then I was released with a warning that I should not disclose those matters to anyone outside or I would face the same consequences.

Soon after my release, I went along with my colleagues to Kondayankerny camp to find out as to what had happened there. There we saw a pit covered and by the side of the pit, there were ladies cloths including underwear. We also saw children's clothes. Then we knew, what had happened there for the women who were taken into custody. It is believed that forty eight people were buried in this camp. To my knowledge, the killings continued for a week in the villages of Siththandy, Kondayankerny, Vantharumoolai, Iyankerny, Saththurukondan and Karuvakerny. Hundreds of people were killed. There are a few survivors who are eye witness to these killings. But they are scared to reveal these secrets to outsiders. They were warned by the soldiers not to disclose anything to anyone. If they did so, they would face the same fate.

One Lt. Killed was the person who master-minded all these killings. Now he is a Captain. I know how he killed one Jeyaveran who is known to me. That camp was next to a mosque. Jeyaveran's head was hit against the mosque wall. As he was not killed, he brought a big baton and killed him by hitting him on his forehead.

At Oddumavaddy Bridge, many were hacked to death by the soldiers with the help of some Muslims. If someone can get hold of Muslims at Oddumavaddy, you can get the whole truth of these massacres. The name of these perpetrators, the names and number of victims, the places where the offences were committed etc.”

He concluded by saying that one day all these mass graves will be opened and it will be proved to the world that thousands of Tamils were hacked to death in Batticaloa by the Army.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Gnanamuthu Kathirgamathamby, Private worker, 20

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Information collected by SNE

2. Mamankkam Sanmuganathan, Fisherman, 18
3. Muththupillai Tharumalingham, Worker, 69
4. Muthulingham Fisherman, -, 27
5. Mahenthirarasa Sulaxsana, -, 06
6. Arumaithurai Vimalan Worker, -, 18
7. K.Kanageswary, Private worker, 26
8. Muththuthamby Sinnamuthu, -, 70
9. Joseph Sivakumar, Worker, 16
10. Arumaithurai Inpam, Own worker, 18
11. Thambimuthu Pethamparam, Student, 18
12. Albons Nelsan, Student, 18
13. Thambiiya Jegan, -, 11
14. K.Seethevy, -, 05
15. Arunachsalam Sinnathamby, Fisherman, 44
16. Arumugam Kanthalingham, Own Worker, 30
17. Arumugam Kirubamoorthy, Worker, 26
18. Arumugam Thamotheampillai, Worker, 22
19. Jeseph Suntharalingham, Worker, 33
20. A.Kasupathy, Worker, 74
21. Kanthasamy Sriskantharasa, Own Worker, 24
22. Rasaiah Devid, Driver, 34
23. Rasathurai Kanagasabai, Fisherman, 18
24. Nadarasa Jorch Stanly, Government officer, 39
25. Nadesan Subramaniam, Own Worker, 29
26. Nallathamby Mahendran, Worker, 28
27. Nallathamby Nagarasa, Own Worker, 25
28. Kandiah Kathiravel, Worker, 20
29. Kandiah Thavarasa, Worker, 18
30. S.Saroyathevy, Private Worker, 25
31. Kanthasamy Navaratnam, Own Worker, 19
32. Vairamuthu Pusparasa, Own Worker, 40
33. Kaneshan Thiyagarasa, Worker, 24
34. Karunakaran Arunachsalam, Worker, 29
35. Kanapathipillai Thangathurai, Own Worker, 25
36. Kanapathipillai Murugaiah, Worker, 18
37. Poopalapillai Theiventhiramoorthy, Government officer, 33
38. Panchadcharam Nadarasa, Worker, 25
39. Thambiyappa Vinayagamoorthy, Driver, 26
40. Navaratnam Priyatharsini, - , 05
41. Kandiah Anantharatnam, Fisherman, 28
42. Kathiramapoodi Parameswary, House wife, 31
43. Sinnathamby Jonas, Own Worker, 35
44. Suppaiah Palasubramaniam, Own Worker, 40
45. Sinnappu Yogarasa, Own Worker, 28
46. Sinnarasa Rajenthiram, Student, 23
47. Seenithamby Pillainayagam, Worker, 22

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48. Sithambarapillai Thanigasalam, Government officer, 40
49. Sivakuru Nadarasa, Own Worker, 37
50. Sivasubramaniam Kirubakaran, Student, 21
51. Veluppillai Rasu, Worker, 22
52. Veerakuddy Palagapoody, Worker, 55
53. Sanmugam Selvaratnam, Student, 16
54. Kandiah Selvarasa, Worker, 28
55. K.Mahendran, Own Worker, 27
56. Markandu Mahendran, Private worker, 19
57. Amirthalingham Jeyasangar, Own Worker, 36
58. Nagarasa Ragunathan, Worker, 27
59. Arumugam Viveganathan, Private worker, 29
60. Thamoatham Vallipillai, Farmer, 77
61. Kanthapoody Jeyaseelan, Worker, 19
62. Sivalingham Sellathamby, Own Worker, 21
63. Mariyappa Thamilselvan, Student, 15
64. Sathasivam Kuberan, Own Worker, 19
65. Veluppillai Yogan, Own Worker, 30
66. Somalingham Vasagan, Government officer, 70
67. Selliah Subramaniam, Own Worker, 59
68. Selvarasa Navaratnam, Worker, 27
69. Muththaiyah Kanthasamy, Student, 19
70. Alagipooddy Kumar, Student, 21
71. Alagaiah Yogarasa, Worker, 19
72. Ilayathamby Pakkianathan, Worker, 19
73. Rasaiah Jeyanathan, Worker, 35
74. Krishnapillai Murugesu, Worker, 24
75. Vairamuthu Tharmalingham, Own Worker, 60
76. Siththiravel Sathananthakumar, Student, 16
77. Selliah Uthayanathan, Farmer, 28
78. Vellaichchamy Kanniah, Farmer, 45
79. Suppaiah Edman, Own Worker, 19
80. Velluppillai Pakkiasara, Own Worker, 32
81. Kanthapoody Selvarasa, Worker, 45
82. Sinnathurai Pusparasa, Fisherman, 22
83. Selvarasa Uthayakumar, Own Worker, 31
84. Rageswary Ranjan, Worker, 27
85. Kandiah Muthuvadivel, Worker, 17
86. Kuddiyandi Ramasamy, Student, 22
87. Madasamy Shangar, Student, 22
88. Thambiyappa Sagayarasa, Worker, 25
89. Samuvel Yogenthiran, Worker, 19
90. Rasanayagam Sivalooganayagi, Government officer, 17
91. Selvanayagam Jeyarasa, Farmer, 21
92. S.Vinorajah, Student, 22

71. Eravur massacre 10 Oct 1990

Thankarasa Iyanar says,



“On 10th August 1990, from 10am that morning, Doctor Shanmuganath and his wife Rani and I, went to see my son who had been captured at Karathivu Shanmuga School. In town they stopped many people and left. They returned after some time and told us to separate into Muslims and Tamils. The Muslims left soon after.

They called the men in one direction. We were wondering where they were taking us. They told us to go into a room. We were scared. The Doctor’s wife ran into the room and pleaded with the army to not hurt the Doctor. She was dragged away. There was a man standing there with a knife. – But I did not know this. He grabbed my hair – because I had oil his hand slipped. He had tried to cut my head, but because his hand slipped, he cut my neck. I fell to the floor. I thought I would die, that’s how badly I was hurt.

Dr Shunmuganathan and a few others were cut and killed. As I was lying there, I could hear all the screams and violence. It was unbearable. But I had no other choice.



After some time, a lady was brought in shouting. She seemed young. Her sari had already been removed in another room. An army took her inside a room and raped her. She pleaded to be let go and that she would not tell anyone what happened. Another army ordered that she be cut. I don’t know what they did - but I heard no sounds

thereafter. Then he left.

I could not bear to be there. I kept hearing awful noises of people being tortured. As I was thinking what I was going to do – the army returned with weapons and killed anyone who was breathing or making a slight noise.

They put oil or it may have been kerosene on everyone and burnt them. The fire jumped to my legs. I tried to pat the fire out but couldn’t. I could not stand up or lift my leg. Eventually I lifted my head up with my hands and managed to crawl into the room where they had taken the girl.

I just sat there thinking for some time. I could hear all the plane sounds. I saw the ladies sari just on the floor. I tore it in half. I tied it on my head and covered my face and neck. Outside the fire was burning above my head. There were arms, legs and heads everywhere. But I had to keep going. So I just climbed over all of them and left.”

72. Oddisuddan bombing 27 Nov 1990



Oddisuddan is a village in the Mullaithivu district and is the centre of the Oddisuddan Assistant Government Agent division. Of the many Thanthonreeswarar temples in the Northeast one is located in this village. There is a dense settlement surrounding this temple. In

addition to farming, manufacture of roof tiles is also a major industry in this area. The centre of this village is almost like a little town.

On 27.11.1990, Sri Lankan Air Force bombed the area surrounding the temple killing 12 civilians and injuring many more.

73. Puthukkudiyiruppu junction bombing 30 Jan 1991



Puthukkudiyiruppu junction is located 20 Kms from Mullaithivu town. The junction houses a commercial area that serves the people of the region. The area surrounding the junction has a dense settlement of people.

After 1980, people from several other regions of the Northeast were displaced to Puthukkudiyiruppu. Most of the displaced people were from, Mullaithivu, Manalaru, Kokkilai, Kokkuthoduvai, Karunaddukerni and Thennamaravadi villages who were forced out by

attacks of the Sri Lankan military, and Sinhala settlement supported by the same military.

In 1991, more than 1500 refugees were housed in the Subramaniam Vidhyalayam School near Puthukkudiyiruppu.

On 30.01.1991, at 5.30 pm, Sri Lankan Air Force bombers dropped bombs around the Puthukkudiyiruppu junction. 20 bodies were recovered from the area. 50 people were taken to the hospital with injuries. Because the daylight was ending not all bodies could be recovered the same night. Seriously injured civilians were sent to the Jaffna hospital the same night. However, three of the injured died on the way to the Jaffna hospital. Five more bodies were recovered the next day. In total 28 people were killed in the bombing. 8 of those killed were displaced people. One of the full term mothers who jumped into a bunker to escape the bombing gave birth to a baby with damaged vertebra and is unable to walk.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Evisaiya Pathmarasa, Gov.officer, 37
2. Kandiah Jegatheeswaran, Student, 14
3. Kanthasamy Kavitha, Student, 14
4. Kathirgamachchadran, Fisherman, 26
5. Krishnasamy Mahenthirasa, Student, 20
6. Palasubramaniam, Private worker, 21
7. Pasupathy Arigaran, Student, 14
8. Mylvaganam Srikanthan, Private worker, 25
9. Murugesu Siththiravelu, Fisherman, 65
10. Jeyanathan Sivapakkiam, Private worker, 36
11. Selliah Nagamany, -, 60
12. Subramaniam Sivanantham, Farmer, 59
13. Sinnachsamy Kanthasamy, Private worker, 46
14. Sinnavan Krishnapillai, Farmer, 52
15. Sivarayasegaran Kalaichselvan, Student, 19
16. Veerakaththy Kiddinapillai, Farmer, 70
17. Veerasingham Thileepkumar, Student, 19

74. Uruthirapuram bombing 04 Feb 1991

Uruthirapuram village is situated in the Kilinochchi district. The Koolavadi market serves the villages of Uruthirapuram and Sivanagar.

04.02.1991 is the Independence Day for Sri Lanka and it was celebrated in the south of the island. On that day Sri Lankan Air Force bombers circled the Koolavadi market. People ran in all directions trying finding a safe place. The bombers dropped four bombs and three of them exploded.

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Several people had gone under the bridge hoping it to be a safe place. One of the bombs exploded near the bridge and nine people under the bridge were killed.

The funerals of those were held the next day. During the funeral more bombs



were dropped in the area.

A memorial for those killed was built by the villagers in 2002 at the Koolavadi junction.

Kandaih Sundaralingam of Uruthirapuram says,

“I lost two children on 04.02.1991 when Sri Lankan Air Force dropped several bombs at Koolavadi junction.”

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Vinayagamorthy Karunakaran, Worker, 29
2. Suntharalingham Santhirakumar, Student, 16
3. Penalso Thayaparan, Student, 12
4. Kopalasingham Jeyakobal, Seller, 20
5. Murugesu Tharmalingham, Worker, 38
6. Panchchalingham Palenthiran, Seller, 23
7. Panchchalingham Palenthira, Seller, 22
8. Palasingham Jegatheeswaran, Student, 15
9. Kanapathipillai Jeyalingham, Student, 08
10. Kanapathipillai Jeyasingham, Student, 09
11. Nagalingham Thayaparan, Student, 14

75. Vankalai massacre 17 Feb 1991

Vankalai is a coastal village in the Mannar district. Following the blowing up of the road bridge at the main entry point into Mannar as well as the Railway Bridge into Mannar, people from Mannar travelled to Colombo by sea from Thalvuppadu through Katpiddi.

NESOHR

Information collected by SNE



In this situation, the people of Vankalai displaced from their village, unable to bear the harassments of the Sri Lankan military. The military forcefully evicted those who have not displaced on their own. The military then removed all the valuable things from the homes and send to their own homes in the

south of the island.

It was in this situation that the Principal of the Vankalai Mahavidhyalayam school, Sebamalai, a teacher from Vankalai, Justin Lambert, and a few others went to Colombo through Katpiddy to purchase some items for their homes. They were returning from Colombo on 16.02.1991. They arrived at Thalvuppadu and spend the night there. Next day at 10.00 am they started their trip to Kaththankulam through Vankalai on bicycles.

When they arrived at the Vankalai junction, Sebamalai, Lambert, another teacher and a boy, were stopped. Their hands were tied with rope and they were blind folded. People who arrived at the junction after them saw this and went and complained to the Bishop of Mannar. Since the travellers did not arrive home even the next day, the Bishop and the relatives of the travellers went to the Thalladi military camp, obtained their permission, and arrived at the Vankalai camp to look for them. The military stopped the Bishop and the relatives from entering Vankalai. Yet, two of the relatives went to the nearby home of a teacher. Since the doors were open they went inside and found blood. They went behind the house and saw the bodies of five people in the well cut into pieces. Yet, given the situation they could not recover the bodies.

When in 1993 the people of Vankalai resettled in their homes, they found that the well in the teacher's house has been filled up. The skeletons of the five bodies were lying in front of the well. The skeletons of the five people were handed to the Mannar hospital by the police. It was sent to Colombo for further investigation. To date no further inquiries were held on the incident.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Appukkuddy Kanthaiya, Farmer, 51
2. Anthoni Kolinlempot, Teacher, 36
3. Sebamalai Anthoni, Farmer, 30
4. Seemanthakurus Sooyaiyappu, Sub Principal, 43
5. Anthonippillai Sebamalai, Principal, 49

76. Vaddakkachchi bombing 28 Feb 1991



Vaddakkachchi village is situated in the Kilinochchi district. The land is very fertile and also has good water supply for irrigation. A large acreage of the rice fields in this land is public property. There was a hostel in 3rd Vaikal for those who work in these public lands. Five families were living in this hostel and working.

On 28.02.1991, as the families were having breakfast in the morning before leaving for work the fields, Sri Lankan Air Force bombers dropped three bombs. One of the bombs fell on the hostel and exploded. 9 people were killed.

The relatives of those killed, unwilling to continue to stay in the hostel left the place and went elsewhere.

Rasaih Paramasundaram says, *“On 28.02.1991, we were having breakfast at the Pannai hostel when Sri Lankan Air Force bombers dropped three bombs. One fell on the hostel. Nine people died, three were injured. 26 goats also died. We buried the goats and bodies of those killed in one hole. They were all in pieces”*.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Arumugam Vijayaluxmy
2. Rasenthiram Siththiramma
3. Sinnathamby Umathevy
4. Arumugam Kamalathevy
5. Arumugam Rasenthiran
6. Murugaiah Siththira
7. Murugaiah Sumathy
8. Muniyandy Selvam
9. Nagamuthu Arumugam

77. Vantharumoolai 09 June 1991

On 09.06.1991, Sri Lankan military from the Mavadivembu and Vantharumoolai military camps surrounded the area. The military cut to

death four people standing at the 1st Cross Street. This was followed by shooting dead six civilians in Karuvankerni. In total 10 civilians were killed on that day.



78. Kokkadichcholai91 massacre 12 June 1991



On 12th June 1991, the people of Kokkadichcholai suffered through a second massacre at the hands of the Sri Lankan Army. The military entered a rice grinding mill and burnt the mill together with the 17 workers. 400 houses were damaged that day. More than 220 people

were killed. Their bodies were burnt by the military using tires. 81 year old Karuvalthamby Ayilpodi was in the rice mill, the day of the massacre. Her account is as follows:

“I could hear blasts everywhere. I told my two sons, that we should run in the direction of the crowd. As I said this, the Army had reached Patha Kullakattal, firing their guns. I was unable bear the pain of watching the army catch and hurt all the people that came their way. They set fire to the houses and pushed people into the fire two by two. Kulasegaram was with me at the time. They pushed me, Kulasegaram and another boy into a burning house. Even though we pleaded with our hands – they showed us no mercy. There were many sacks of rice in the house. Kulasegaram jumped on

top of this and jumped over the fence. He said that he would rather jump and break his legs and die than be burned to death. We jumped over the fence and hid. Having decided there was nowhere else to run, he said he would rather die there. We were surrounded by firing and crying noises. We ran behind the house and hid with our eyes shut tightly under the tin sheet. We could not forget the fear we felt when they pushed us into the burning house.”

Muthulingam Vimaladevi speaks of the horror and torture that happened that day:

“My elder sister’s baby was 12 days old. My elder sister said we should close the door and all stay inside. I said we should take the little baby and go to the mill as that was the direction everyone else was running in. So we took the baby and ran there. The mill was full. People were sitting in the middle, front and back. To stop the babies from crying, mothers put them to their breasts. Next door, we could hear bomb blasts. Everyone started saying ‘arohara’ and praying to god. The men who came inside started rapidly firing. Heads, stomach and necks were all being shot. I too pretended that I had been shot, smeared blood on myself and lay flat without moving. They shot everyone inside the mill. Along with my elder sister, five of us escaped. Because of the amount of the blood splattered everywhere, it looked as if everyone had died and we were able to escape. A little while after the firing stopped, we heard the sound of one mother crying out for her child. We stood up, took my elder sister’s child and ran to our next door neighbour’s house. There we saw people whose hands had been cut off, head had been cut and eyes had been gorged out. There were dead bodies of mothers who were still feeding their child. There was a baby smeared on the wall. The owner of the Mill, Mr. Kumaranayagam and his wife Puvaneswary and their four children were all shot.”

79. Pullumalai massacre 1983-1990



Pullumalai in Batticaloa is a region immersed in natural beauty where Tamil people have lived for hundreds of years. Today, it lies barren and lifeless. The remains of the destroyed local school, temple and church have been left untouched as a symbol and memorial to the

pain of those died and of those who survived.

From 1983 to 1990 the SLA, together with Sinhalese mobs, tried over five times to destroy the village. Houses were burnt, wealth was robbed, and massacres were organized. There are unbelievable accounts of the rapes and systematic killings that took place. Over 400 families disappeared. No international or local body has enquired into the fate of these 400 families.

In July 1983, the cows in the village were killed and wealth destroyed. In 1984, when the Thiruvamba pooja in December was happening at Pillayar Temple, the SLA shot 9 people dead. That same year 300 houses were burnt.

On 4th of January 1985, the SLA killed the only Engineer along with 7 others. They also destroyed houses and wealth. One week later on the 10th of January, they shot the temple priest along with 9 others.

On 10th of November 1986, they returned to rape, steal, kill and burn the villagers. 103 Tamils were cut and killed that day.

In 1986, after they had shot 7 men in the village they used tires to burn the bodies.

In 1987, 14 people that were fishing in the pond were shot.

On 9th of July 1990, once again people left the village unable to bear the atrocities that were committed on them. Babies were ripped open and thrown callously. Over 40 families were shot; girls were raped, stabbed and ripped open. The witnesses of this torture left and have not returned till this day.

Soosaimoththu Thambimoothu talks about unbelievable torture on the day his younger brother Sellathamby Perinbarasa and wife died,

“In 1983, the SLA and the mobs joined together to set alight our houses. They took all the wealth in our houses away in their vehicles. Around 40 or 45 houses were burnt. Everyone ran with fear in the direction of the vegetable garden. We also ran to our vegetable garden at Mungil Malai. The SLA rounded up and took away all the people that had gathered at Mungil Malai.

My younger brother and his pregnant wife were two of these people taken away. They took turns to rape my sister in law in front of my brother. They tied up my younger brother's hands and legs, cut open his wife's stomach, took out the baby and trampled the baby with their legs. Right at the end, they shot my brother in the ear. They took his wife's naked body, placed both

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bodies in a position that looked like husband was raping the wife and left. A little way away from them, Yoganathan, his father Arumugam, Jeganatha and Ramayyah were shot dead. One of their chests was ripped open with a knife and his insides were taken out. The people that were captured and taken away – don't know what happened to this day.”

Kathirvelu Rasammah's children and husband were destroyed by the SLA. In 1983, 1984 and then in 1990 her children were all shot dead,

“I ran behind the Army when they took my children. They told me to stop else they would shoot. They said they would have to carry out an investigation and then the children would return home. We went to the camp a little while after this. They told us to go home and return back tomorrow.

When we went the next day they did not let us and so we went back again the day after. They told us, that they had taken our children and left them in the forest and that we could go and see them there. We did not go immediately because we were too scared. When we did go a few days later, the forest was sprawled with bodies. There were arms and legs strewn everywhere. We could not identify whose children they were. They had all swelled up and were into their decomposition phase. We were too scared to stay there and so came back.

My son and Arumuganathan who were fishing in the pond were caught by the SLA and chopped up. When we went looking for our son at the pond, there too we saw legs and arms lying around.”

Soosaimoothu Joseph's account of the 1990 massacre is as follows:

“Suddenly trucks, vehicles and tractors were used to bring the SLA who surrounded the village. We ran in all directions. Bullets were falling rapidly. They took 35 or 45 people in one batch in a direction behind our house. They systematically took girls one by one and raped them. Even though we did not see this, the screams and pain of the girls were enough for us to know what had happened. There was no one there to save them or stay with them. Everyone ran in any direction they could. They came into our chicken pen and caught the chickens. I grabbed my wife and children and ran away. There were about 40 or 50 people running in the same direction as me. We ran in the forest that was beyond the pond.

We were not able to run any more. We thought we would just remain there and die. My little child had a very bad cough. If the Army heard this, they would have come and shot everyone. Whilst we were thinking about this, the Army was coming in our direction through the grounds. The Army at front had raised their guns and we thought that they had seen us and were approaching. My little child started coughing about the same time. 50

people were going to die because of this one child. So I tried to strangle the child to save these 50 people. My wife in panic pulled away my hand and took a handful of the milk powder that we had brought and shoved in the child's mouth. The flour got stuck in the child's mouth and she struggled but was unable to cough.

The Army was about 20 or 30 meters away from us and kept continuing on their track without stopping. We were so lucky that they did not see us. We stayed there till dark. When the firing stopped we went back into the village. In there we did not know where to look. Death was everywhere. The Peter Family and the 40 or 50 people that had run with them were all shot dead. Girls who had been raped were lying naked. Babies within one year were all shot and thrown about. The 3 children of the Pakyanathan had their legs ripped out of them.”

80. Kinniyadi massacre 12 July 1991

Kinniyadi is situated in the Batticaloa district 45 Kms north of Valaichenai. People of the village are mostly fishermen, wood cutters and farmers. On 12.07.1991, Sri Lankan military from the Kurumpumunai and Valaichenai camps rounded up this village and opened fire on the people. Military also used sharp knives to kill the people. 13 civilians were killed. Further details about this massacre are not yet available.



81. Karapolla-Muthugalle massacre 29 April 1992

Karapolla and Muthugalle villages are situated in the Polannaruwa districts. These villages are on the border of the Batticaloa district. The people of this

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village mostly work as labourers, keeping cow herds and collecting honey from the forests.

On 29.04.1992, Sri Lankan military and Muslim groups entered the villages at night and killed the sleeping villagers by cutting them with knives. 97 people were killed including women and children. All the villagers displaced from these two villages after this incident.



82. Vattrapalai shelling 18 May 1992



Vattrapalai is very famous female goddess temple in the Northeast region situated along the coast in Mullaithivu. Once a year on the full moon day in May hundreds of thousands of people gather here for “Pongal”, community cooking and eating. Since 1990 due to SLAFs threats

the number of people who come to this temple for this day had diminished.

18.05.1992 was that annual day for that year when more than 5,000 devotees have gathered at the temple. The SLAFs shelled from its camp in Mullaithivu at 12.45 pm at the peak time of the festival, as if they were deliberately trying to destroy the festival. Ten people died on the spot, five more died at the hospital, and 60 people were injured.

Yogeswari’s son and husband died on that day. This is her account of the story:

“It was the day of Pongal. Because this is a special day in the year, people had come from all over the place. I had given our ‘kavadi’ for rent. My husband and son were waiting to get the Kavadi back. I was not with them.

I heard that the SLA had started shelling from Mullaithivu. Someone came running to tell me that my brother Sellakilli, had been injured. I ran to see him. It was actually my son and my sister in law’s son who had been injured. We were unable to look at them – they were that badly scarred. My husband was then brought to us. He died soon after. We all screamed and cried. It has been so hard to bring up the kids. I have not given up the ‘kavadi’ business. I have had to grind flour for a living. As long as the SLA are here and doing these kinds of things, people will always suffer like this.”

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Navaratnasamy Uvarasini, Student
2. Shanmugalingham, -, 42
3. Mariapiragasam Antony, -, 35
4. Navaratnasamy Sivasegaram
5. Navaratnam Inthuja, Student, 12
6. Navaratnam Sivanesam, House wife, 32
7. Navaratnam Rajitha, Student, 10
8. Kanapathipillai Sithamparanathan, Student, 17
9. Thambirasa Sriskantharasa, Farmer, 33
10. Kulanthaivadivel Jegatheeswaran, Farmer, 24
11. Sathasivam Navaratnam, Fisherman, 36
12. Mariapiragasam Antony, Private worker, 35

83. Tellipalai temple bombing 30 May 1992



Tellipalai village is in the Jaffna district and Tellipalai boasts of an ancient Thurkai-Amman temple. The Sri Lankan military shelled and bombed areas surrounding the Palaly military camp in order to displace the people and expand the military camp. Displaced people from several villages adjacent o

the Palaly military camp such as, Kurumpasiddy, Vasavilan, Taiyiddy, and Mayiliddy, had taken refuge in the Thurkai-Amman temple.

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On 30.05.1992, two Sri Lankan Air Force bombers dropped five bombs on the temple crowded with refugees. Five people, including two from the same family, were killed in this bombing. Most of the temple was damaged.

This same temple was bombed again in 1993 during festival time when it was crowded with devotees. Five civilians died in this second attack a year later. More than 5 people were injured. The temple was destroyed a second time in a year.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Kandiah Ilayathamby, Pensaniar, 65
2. Sinnakuddy Kasipillai, Farmer, 71
3. Vaithilingham Vaseegara, Painter, 23
4. Selladurai Selvakantharasa, -, 32
5. Vellautham Nanthakumar, Student, 11
6. Pathmanathan Mayooran, Student, 22
7. Iyampillai Mahenthiran, Labour, 31
8. Subramaniam Kanagarani, Saleswoman, 38
9. Vellautham Vinothakumar, Infant, 01
10. Rasathurai Manogaran, Cigar Industry, 28

84. Mailanathanai massacre 09 Aug 1992



The villages of Mailanathanai and Punanai are border villages of the Batticaloa district.

The people in the villages of Mailanathanai and Punanai were frequently rounded up and attacked by the military from the Punanai military camp.

On 09.08.1992, the military rounded up Mailanathanai and began attacking the villagers with knives, swords and guns. More than 50 people were killed. Many more were injured.

Further details of this massacre are not yet available.

85. Kilali massacre 1992, 1993

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Information collected by SNE

During the years of 1992 and 1993, the Sri Lankan Navy has brutally massacred Tamil civilians crossing the Jaffna Lagoon through Kilali. A very conservative estimate is that over a 150 Tamil civilians have lost their lives here. A further 100 people were made permanently disabled by the attacks and another 150 sustained serious injuries.

Knowing full well that this sea journey is hazardous, hundreds and hundreds of people from all walks of life and all ages and both sexes have undertaken this night journey in boats powered with outboard motors.



These unarmed civilians take the risk of death

because they have urgent business to transact down South or to contact their

relatives there or travel abroad or for medical treatments. It is such people who were being massacred at Kilali and not, as the Sri Lankan State claimed, terrorists who 'have been killed'.



On 02.01.1993, at 8 pm, 4 passenger boats developed engine trouble and drifted away

from the small convoy of boats traversing the lagoon. Navy boats surrounded the four drifting boats and then naval personnel had boarded them, opened fire indiscriminately, hacked and stabbed the passengers and set one boat on fire.

On the 11th, 11 corpses, in a highly decomposed stated, were washed ashore at Poonahar-Nallur and were buried along the shores of the lagoon. A letter from P Vinayagamorthy, Secretary of Red Cross in Kilinochchi dated 12.01.1993, is as follows:

"We submit the following details of an incident that took place at the Kilaly – Alankerny on 2.01.1993.

It had been reported that four boats with passengers had been mercilessly attacked by the Navy at 8pm on 2.01.1993 in the Poonahar Lagoon. At about 8pm these boats were surrounded by Navy Boats and after firing

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warning shots, the Navy personnel had boarded the passenger boats. We were given to understand they have, without considerations opened fire on old, sick, children and woman and had stabbed the hacked passengers. They also set one boat on fire.

On receipt of information we rushed to the scene with thirty five volunteers in the early hours on 03.01.1993 and observed that 19 bodies were floating. We with the assistance of volunteers and public retrieved all the dead bodies and transported them by SLRC vehicle to the Kilinochchi District Hospital and the relatives were informed wherever possible. On 5.01.1993, another 10 bodies were retrieved in a highly decomposed state beyond recognition and identification and those bodies were buried along the sea shore. On 6.01.93 six more bodies were retrieved in a highly decomposed state and those bodies were also buried along the sea shore. All the 35 bodies recovered to date were mutilated with gunshot and stab injuries and some burnt beyond recognition. Only 18 bodies have been identified and the others were buried without identification.

In addition to the above 5 injured persons were brought to Kilinochchi District Hospital. One of them a woman, seriously injured and sent to Vavuniya Hospital succumbed to her injuries. The balance 4 were rendered first aid and transferred to Jaffna Government Hospital on 5.01.1993.

Two persons had miraculously escaped without any injury and according to their statement, the Navy Personnel, after causing the damages as described above, hitched several passenger boats to the Navy Boats and were towing them to mid sea. Some distance away from the scene of the tragedy, the boat in which these two were travelling, had dislodged, they had then jumped off the boat and reached the shore by swimming.

Many of the passengers who travelled on this day are said to be yet missing. The above incident has caused a lot of inconvenience to the civilians who were using this route to travel to and from Kilali and over thousand passengers are stuck up at Poonahar. They are undergoing a lot of hardship without shelter, food and medical facilities.”

On 29.07.1993, navy personnel who came in five gun boats carried out a large scale massacre of civilian passengers. Two boats carrying a full load of passengers were attacked, one at 2.30am and the other at 4.00am. Including the boatman, there were altogether 35 people in the boat at the time. These boats were on their way from Alankerny to Allipallai.

Kanapathypillai Peethamparam, 62 years old, was on the boat on the 29.07.1993. Her account is as follows,

“I returned from Wellawatte after seeing a relative of mine who is sick. At about 4.30 am Sri Lankan Navy forces came in five gun boats forwards us from Elephant Pass army camp.

On coming they fired at us. Bullets fell everywhere. To escape from firing I crept inside the engine room of the boat. At the same time another boat also was experiencing the same fate. After this a huge bomb fell close to our boat and exploded with a big noise. Due to explosion four passengers including two ladies died on the spot. Another person’s right hand mangled and fell on to me. Owing to this the whole of my body was soaked in blood. Another person’s leg was smashed.

Many of them were injured. Some of them jumped into the sea (The boatmen also jumped our earlier). The Naval boat which came closer to our boat attacked us, we begged them saying that we are innocent and we surrender even though they fired at us. The Navy personnel were tired due to the continuous attack and they left the place. The boat in which we were, was about to sink at that time we dropped all the bicycles which were in the boat into the sea.”

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. N.Rasan, Farmer, 28
2. R.Inparasa, Ceylon Electricity, 47
3. Ratnasingham Aerumin Jasek Inparasa, Ceylon Electricity, 47
4. Shanmugam Sabanathan, -, 65
5. Raveenthiran Indravathana, -, 41
6. Gnanasooriar Vinsan Nikkilas, -, 22
7. Mathuranayakam Amirthanayagi, -, 39
8. T.Poopathy, House wife, 28
9. T.Kamalarasan, Student, 10
10. K.Kamalthasan, Fisherman, 17
11. Sivalingham Sellathurai, Courts worker, 45
12. Thatparanathan Mugunthan, Student, 20
13. Appukkuddy Paramasingham, Driver, 38
14. S.Pakkiarasa, Fisherman, 30
15. S.Arulthas, Fisherman, 21
16. M.Jesuthasan, Student, 19
17. Ratnam Sriranchchan, -, 29
18. T.Thanathambal, Home maker, 42
19. K.Sivananthan, Seller, 35
20. K.Sellathurai, -, 46
21. T.Rakini, Student, 17
22. Earampamoorthy Asokan, -, 36
23. Sinnavan Kathiravelu, -, 44
24. N.Parimalam, -, 37
25. M.JosephJud, Fisherman, 18

26. N.Nagamma, -, 60
27. Santhiran Arunananthu, Labour, 29
28. Josephs Jesuraja Jesunayakam Thanithas, Fisherman, 18
29. S.Kanagalingham, Fisherman, 45
30. Selvarasa Pakkiasara, -, 27
31. S.Ruban Gnanaseelan, Fisherman, 19
32. A.Adaikalam, Driver, 63
33. Muththaiya Santhiraleela, -, 35
34. S.Palasubramaniam, Own worker, 54
35. Murugesu Nadarasa, Fisherman, 40
36. Tharmarasa Pakeerathan
37. K.Sinnathamby, Farmer, 60
38. K.Eagamparam, Farmer, 45
39. Kuppusamy Sellamuthu, -, 45
40. N.Rasalingham, Seller, 32
41. N.Thurai, Farmer, 36
42. N.Kili, Farmer, 26
43. R.Jerat, Fisherman, 26
44. Thambiiya Ragini, -, 18
45. Kathiramalai Jeyanthi, Student, 25
46. Ilayathamby Sivaseelan University, Student, 25
47. Ilayathamby Mageswary, House wife, 51
48. Gnanapiragasam Gnanapalan, Boat Sailer, 33
49. Sellathurai Santhalingham, Fisherman, 50
50. Mikkel Jesuthasan, Student, 19
51. M.Rasaiah, Fisherman, 23

86. Maaththalan bombing 18 Sept 1993



Maaththalan is one of the coastal villages in the Mullaithivu district. Most of the people depend on fishing for their livelihood. The beach also doubles up as their leisure area. People of this village had to travel 4 Kms to Puthukkudiyiruppu for purchasing their daily needs. Even to market their

fish catch they had to travel this distance.

From the start of the conflict the Sri Lankan Navy has put restrictions on fishing. It also started to attack the fishermen at the sea. Fishermen were forced continue fishing for their livelihood.

On 18.09.1993, people were gathered for the opening of a new public Community Hall that will serve the community's needs. There were many displaced people among them who had displaced from Jaffna and Kilinochchi. At 4.00 pm a Sri Lankan military helicopter flew past and must have noticed the gathering. At 5.30 pm the Sri Lankan Air Force bombers appeared and dropped more than 10 bombs. Three bombs fell on the brand new hall. 13 civilians died on the spot. More than 40 were injured.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Selliah Selvam (Kannan), Student, 16
2. Thambirasa Kunasingham, Farmer, 18
3. Piransis Arulthas, Fisherman, 23
4. Pelippu Thavarasa Sujaththa, Student, 10
5. Mariathas Anton Jeyapalan, Fisherman, 32
6. Mariathas Immanuvel Aanantharasa, Farmer, 19
7. Danialpillai Pilippu Thavarasa, Fisherman, 39
8. Antonipillai Sagayanayagi, Home maker, 18
9. Jesumark Antanythas, Fisherman, 29
10. Paramanatham, -, 40
11. Shangarasivam Surenthiran, Student, 18
12. Sinnappu Albons, Farmer, 22
13. Mariathas Anton Jesuthas, -, 30
14. Thiagarasa Kannan, Student, 19
15. Immanuvel Aanantharasa, -, 19
16. Sangarasivam Pulenthiran, Student, 15
17. Intrigress Josephs, -, 31
18. Sujaththa Thileep Mery, Student, 09
19. Muththaiah Thuraisingham, -, 45
20. Josephs Vinitta KiresPretti, House wife, 31

87. Chavakachcheri Sangaththanai bombing 28 Sept 1993



Chavakachcheri is in the Jaffna district. The area has large coconut and Palmyrah estates. Sangaththanai village is just 500 metres from the Chavakachcheri town centre.

The Sri Lankan military increased its aerial bombing and shelling of civilians areas as part of their battle with the LTTE. The civilians have become accustomed to building trenches in the ground to take protection during bombing and shelling.

Massacres of Tamils

The large bunker in the Uthayan wood mill in this village gave protection to many villagers.

On 28.09.1993, Sri Lankan Air Force bombers started to circle the area. More than 35 people took protection in the bunker at the Uthayan wood mill. The bombers directly targeted the bunker. Three bombs were dropped on the bunker. 30 people including babies died in the bunker. Only five survived with injuries.

A memorial at the Uthayan wood mill commemorates those who lost their lives in this bombing.



Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Thangarasa Suseela, House wife, 21
2. Nageswary Kurunathan, -, 56
3. Ratnakobal Sutharshan, Student, 11
4. Sinnarasa Pavani, Student, 21
5. Selvarasa Sujatha, Student, 16
6. Kopalaratnam Subajini, Student, 15
7. Jegatheeswaran Shanthini, House wife, 31
8. Jegatheeswaran Thashajini, Student, 11
9. Jegatheeswaran Thinesh, Student, 08
10. Jegatheeswaran Janani, Student, 07
11. Sinnarasa Niranjani, Student, 13
12. Kopalaratnam Surekka, Student, 09
13. Kandiah Selvarasa, Mesan, 40
14. Ponnuthurai Gnaneswary, -, 60
15. Sinnarasa Pirapalini, Student, 10
16. Selliah Maheswary, -, 52
17. Kanapathipillai Thangamma, -, 56
18. Ratnakopal Thusyenthiran, Student, 09
19. Palasuntharam Santhirasegaram, Student, 09
20. Palasuntharam Thashayani, Infant, 02
21. Kopalapillai Suthasshan, Student, 09
22. Palasuntharam Rathy, Infant, 03
23. Kaneshan Kowshiga, Student, 12
24. Selvarasa Jasotha, Student, 18
25. Palasuntharam Suresh, Student, 12

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Information collected by SNE

- 26. Sinnarasa Piraba, Student, 10
- 27. Theiventhiran Nagenthiran, Student, 19
- 28. Amuthalingham Lachchamma, -, 53

88. Kokuvil temple massacre & bombing 29 Sept 1993

Kokuvil is in the Jaffna district. Katpulaththu-Amman temple is located in Kokuvil. The temple is 250 years old.

This historic temple was bombed by the Indian military in 1988 and by the Sri Lankan military in 1993. In September 1988, the Indian military that drove past the temple opened fire at the devotees and three were killed on the spot. Five more devotees were injured.

On 29.09.1993, Sri Lankan Air Force bombed this same temple and three more devotees at the temple were killed.



89. Kurunagar church bombing 13 Nov 1993

Kurunagar is just one Kms from the Jaffna town centre along the coast. The Kurunagar church was built in 1881.

On 13.11.1993, people were gathered for prayers when Sri Lankan Air Force bombers dropped two bombs on the church. Ten people were killed and more 25 were injured. The church was badly damaged.

This bombing was condemned by the world leaders. The pillars supporting the main hall were broken to smithereens and they are kept even today near the altar. A memorial was also built for those killed in the bombing near the entrance to the church.

Massacres of Tamils



Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Mery Jeyaseeli Thasiyas, House wife, 50
2. Anton Anchsala, House wife, 40
3. Kuroos Akkines Pensioner, 60
4. JohnLooththu Seviyar, Worker, 45
5. Aarokianathar Silvan Sajeevan, Student, 18
6. Anton Puspaleela, House wife, 41
7. Mery Sinthuya Mathuranayakam, Infant, 2 ½
8. Singarasa Jujin Kamalitta, Student, 15
9. Kabirial Anton, Fisherman, 48
10. Akkines Kurusupillai, -, 80
11. Mery Vennila Antonipillai, Teacher, 27
12. Singarayar Jani Kanoji, Student, 08

90. Chundikulam-94 massacre 18 Feb 1994

Thoduvai-Vaikal is a fishing settlement in the Chundikulam village in the Kilinochchi district. On 18.02.1994, at 5.15 am the fishermen were going into the sea for fishing. The Sri Lankan Naval Dvora boats that arrived began opening fire at the fishermen. Some of the fishermen had jumped into the sea to save their lives. Others had cut the nets off and were attempting



speed back to the shore. The firing was heard by the villagers at the shore. Worried villagers gathered at the shore for the fishermen who had gone to sea. They could see the fishermen being hit by the fire and falling into the sea.

Ten fishermen died that day in the Sri Lankan Navy attack. Only three bodies were recovered on that day and the other seven bodies washed ashore the following day. After this

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Information collected by SNE

the fishermen stopped going to the sea. The families were pushed further into poverty as a result.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Jesurasa Alosiyas Santhakumar, -, 22
2. Aseervatham Vinachsenithy Marisaleen, -, 44
3. Amirthanayagam John Fernando, -, 35
4. Antonypillai Iyakkopillai, -, 46
5. Manuvetpillai Mariaseelan, -, 26
6. Kariyoppillai Aruljeyaseelan, -, 25
7. Iyakkopillai Nixshan, -, 20
8. Iyakko Mariyelpillai, -, 29

91. Navaly church massacre 09 July 1995

Navaly village is in the Jaffna district. St Peters church is a famous temple in Navaly. Following the military orders to the people to take refuge in public places thousands of people left their homes to take refuge in churches and temples. About 2500 people had thus taken refuge in St Peters Church.



On the 9th July 1995, eight rocket bombs were dropped on Navaly church and its surroundings. The church was crammed with people who had sought refuge when they realized the army was bombing their area. 155 bodies of civilians were recovered from the

church and its surroundings and 250 people were injured. There is no doubt that the

SLAFs deliberately dropped a bomb at a place where there was a maximum density of people gathered, and the large crowd of people would have been noticeable from the air.

Vaithiyalingam Kamalanathan, lost his wife on that day. The incident as described by him is as follows:

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“That morning, from about 4am we were heard bombing sounds from the SLA during Operation Leap Forward. People from Chuliipuram had grabbed all their belongings and started moving along Naval Road.

All of us, small, young, and old were helping and feeding these displaced people at St Peters church with food and drink. We did this all day. Since I did not go to the temple in the morning – I went at 4:30pm with my son through the paddy fields. At about 4:35pm we heard a very big bomb blast and saw clouds of smoke. We immediately knew something had happened at Naval. When I ran back to my house, the road was filled with fallen trees and buildings. In my house my wife was bleeding from here [chest]. My daughter was injured in her head and hand. Blood was running.



I ran to the other houses nearby. One of my neighbour’s family was all lying dead. My elder son’s daughter was injured. My sister’s husband said that we could do no more for my sister. He said to go and look after my family. My wife died at the hospital asking me to look after our children.”

The Parish priest at that time says:

“It was Sunday morning. People were being displaced here as the Leap Forward Operation was taking place. People of this area welcomed them and were supplying them with food and drinks. I was at St Andrews church in Manipay when I heard that people were gathering in St Peters Church, Naval. So I rushed over here. On my way here, I heard the bombers in the air. One of the bombers was lowering and, I ran and hid behind a wall. I saw this people being bombed. I ran here after the bombing and saw that people were scattered here and there - killed. 9 people were killed at this church. 121 people were killed all together.

The church was damaged. People were screaming and shouting. People who were taking shelter in this area were bombed. People are still saddened and worried about this. People hope that this situation will change and that peace will prevail in this country. Tamils and Sinhalese will remain together in this country as brother and sister.”

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Varatharasa Krishnakumar, Infant, 1 ½
2. Lookkas Judmohanathas, Carpenter, 24

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Information collected by SNE

3. Kunaratnam Vithushan, Student, 07
4. Kunaratnam Rohini, House wife, 35
5. Suvaminathar Sivapathasubramaniam, Teacher, 50
6. Saravanamuthu Sivamani, Hindu Priest, 63
7. Saravanapavan Parashakthy, -, 27
8. Siththirapalu Nageswary, Seller, 44
9. Kunaratnam Piranavan, Student, 05
10. Sinnaiah Sarasvathy, -, 62
11. Jeyaseelan Kanistan, Student, 17
12. Siththirapalu Thanewary, Student, 17
13. Siththirapalu Mahenthira, Carpenter, 25
14. Siththirapalu Jejalini, Student, 14
15. Siththirapalu Jeyamathy, -, 27
16. Sivalingharasa Ranjini, Student, 11
17. Sivakumaran Surekka, Student, 12
18. Jegasoothy Rathymalar, Student, 17
19. Sinnaiah Yogamalar, Farmer, 39
20. Kandasamy Thevakulasingham, Worker, 36
21. Aanantharasa Yogeswary, -, 35
22. Murugesu Selvaratnam, Painter, 65
23. Arumugam Kunaratnam, Mechnic, 40
24. Maheswaran Thayalan, Worker, 20
25. Mahenthiran Mathukaran, Student, 17
26. Kamalanathan Saviththiri, -, 45
27. Kathiravelu Thurairasa, Farmer, 55
28. Kunaratnam Tharshini, Student, 14
29. Kanthan Gnanasegaram, Student, 17
30. Veerasingham Satkunarasa, Fisherman, 30
31. Kaaththan Kanthasamy, Toddy tapper, 43
32. Kanthasamy Ansalathevy, -, 36
33. Palasingham Uthayarasa, Carpenter, 23
34. Palasingham Sellamma, -, 33
35. Pilippillai Kapiriyepillai, Grama Sevakar, 54
36. Pararasasingham Selvaratnam, Seller, 48
37. Punniyamorthy Sayanthan, Student, 09
38. Kaneshalingham Kamalathevy, Account assistant, 45
39. Kandiah Nallaiyah, Fisherman, 55
40. Sinnathamby Ratnasingham, Fisherman, 46
41. Vellautham Lalithathevy, -, 35
42. Thavachshelvy Karthigesu, Student, 12
43. Soosaithasan Mery sasikala, Student, 18
44. Firancis Kinsly, Clerk, 27
45. Pathmanathan Palayogini, -, 40
46. Pathmanathan Malarvili, Student, 13
47. Sakkariyal Jegatheepan Jeevathas, Student, 17
48. Pathmakumaran Komathy, House wife, 28

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49. Selvaratnam Sivasubramaniam, -, 46
50. Nallaiiah Neelavathy, House wife, 50
51. Kanagaratnam Subakaran, Student, 22
52. Thangarasa Thatsuthan, -, 63
53. Thamotharampillai Inpamalar, Student, 10
54. Sivasoothiraja Pirasanna, Student, 10
55. Jegasoothy Vimalathevy, Seller, 42
56. Nadarasa Kanatheepan, Student, 05
57. Kopalakrishnan Piratheepan, Student, 07
58. Kanthasamy Thenuga, Student, 12
59. Thommaipillai Jesuthasan, Seller, 21
60. Thevathas Nareskumar, Student, 11
61. Sellaiah Rasathurai, Fisherman, 35
62. Sellaiah Krishnaruban, Fisherman, 19
63. Thevathas Printhini, Student, 07
64. Kopalakrishnan Sayanthan, Student, 09
65. Veluppillai Nadeswaran, Student, 19
66. Kopalakrishnan Kapilrajah, Student, 07
67. Mathan Pararasasingham, Masan, 48
68. Kopalakrishnan Revathy, -, 36
69. Kopalakrishnan Vinoya, Infant, 05
70. Ponnar Uthayakumar, Fish seller, 35
71. Ponnar Nagamuthu, -, 75
72. Kopalakrishnan Mathyvathana, -, 22
73. Sinnathurai Nagaratnam, -, 60
74. Selvarasa Pirathees, -, 16
75. Nesarasa Thavarayani, -, 28
76. Sanmuganathan
77. Thampirasa Thuvaragathevy, Student, 20
78. Satheeskumar
79. Uthayakumar
80. Kopinath
81. Saththiyanathan
82. Sasikala
83. Yogeswary
84. Uthayakumar Satheeskumar, Student, 13
85. Jegatheepan
86. Uthayakumar Ushanthini, Student, 12
87. Thurairasa
88. S.Mageswary
89. A.Thanustala, Student, 08
90. P.Shanthan
91. N.Murugathas
92. N.Abirami
93. Pusparani
94. Nadarasa Ravi, Toddy tapper, 22

95. Antonipillai kurus Kumuthini, Student, 18
96. Mahenthiran Vasanthakumary, -, 25
97. Mayarasa Selvanayaki, House wife, 53
98. Rasathurai Mageswary, -, 34
99. Rasathurai Santhirakanthan, Student, 13
100. Rasathurai Sutha, Student, 09
101. Ramu Veerasingham, Fisheman, 43
102. Ithayashanthini, -, -
103. Nadesu Siththirapalu, Carpenter, 51
104. Thanaluxsumy, -, -
105. Nadesan Vijayakumar, Student, 18
106. Neekkilapillai Thiruchselvam, Governmen officer, 54
107. Niththiyanantham Annaluxsumy, -, 57
108. Nages Kopalakrishnan, Fisherman, 29
109. Kanagasabapathy Thavaluxsumy, Seller, 42
110. Kanagasingham Narayanasingham, Own worker, 50
111. Kanagaratnam Ushanathan, Worker, 20
112. Rasaratnam Anantharasa, Legithar, 34
113. Kurusamy Mageswary, Teacher, 54
114. Thevanayagam Manothiga, Student, 08
115. Sellathurai Rasamma, -, 56
116. Murugan Sarasu, -, 69
117. Kaneshavel Thevakaneshan, Student, 15
118. Rasakulasingham Rajahmohan, Student, 16
119. Navaratnam Jayatha, Student, 21
120. Tharmakulasingham Sujeepa, Student, 17
121. T.Kulasingham
122. Vaithilingham Jeyasingham, Govern.officer, 56
123. Thevanayagam Sailaya, Student, 13
124. Vairamuthu Sivarasa, Worker, 39
125. S.Kemalatha, Grama Sevakar, 27
126. S.Piratheepa, Student, 11
127. S.Ketheeswaran
128. Mayarasa Aananthapuvanan, Student, 16
129. Thavam Paskaran, Worker, 19
130. Siththirapalu Pirapakaran, Student, 21
131. Kanagaratnam Vasikaran, Student, 18
132. Kumarasamy Pathmanathan, Farmer, 24
133. Thambipillai Thiyagarasa, Cigar Industry, 54
134. T.Pusparani
135. N.Vasanthamalar
136. S.Thavarani
137. Arumugam Kanagalingham, Student, 40
138. Immanuvel Dusingha, Student, 14
139. Velu Ramalingham, Worker, 22
140. Subbaiah Thevanayagam, Worker, 47

141. Sriskantharasa Kopigan, Student, 13
142. Thevanayagam Thavapalasarasvathy, -, 45
143. Nagalingham Saravanamuthu, Farmer, 60
144. Nadarasa Sinnathurai, Farmer, 65
145. Jevarajah Piratheepan, Student, 13
146. Arumugam Kanagalingham, Seller, 40
147. Ravichsanthiran Thanushiya, Student, 08
148. Murugesu Ponnampalam, Carpenter, 47
149. Thevanayagam Lavanya, Student, 11
150. Vanniyasingham, -, -
151. Gnanaluxsumypalan Seevaratnam, Worker, 47

92. Nagarkovil bombing 22 September 1995

Among the historic temples in Jaffna are the Vallipuram temple and the Nagarkovil temple. Nagarkovil temple is located 8 Kms from the Vallipuram temple. In 1956, through the efforts of V Naganathan, the Jaffna-Nagarkovil Vidhyalayam was started by the Sri Lankan government. In 1967 this was upgraded to Mahavidhyalayam.

In 1990, people from the village of Mayiliddy were forced to displace from their village and around 600 of these families were living in Nagarkovil. As a result, the Nagarkovil School of 400 students went to 700 overnight. Following clashes in 1991, people from Vetrilaikerni, Aliyavalai, and



Kaddakadu villages also displaced to Nagarkovil. After 1993 the student roll at the school went up to 830.

On 21.09.1995, the military shelled several areas in Jaffna from its Palaly camp. On 22.09.1995, Sri Lankan Air Force bombers

dropped bombs on the Manalkadu church and destroyed it. Three civilians were killed. At 12.45 while the school was in session, 8 rockets were dropped on the school and the adjacent village. 7 students were killed inside their class room. A further 13 students died in the hospital. A further 42 students were seriously injured. As a result of the attacks on that day 40 civilians including 20 students died. 100 civilians including 42 students were injured.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Navamani Mithura, Student, 14
2. Markandu Nagaloosini, Student, 10
3. Palachsanthiran Rejitha, Student, 10
4. Pologarasa Thusyanthy, Student, 13
5. Kugasaravanamalai Tharshini, Student, 13
6. Navaratnasamy Umathevy, Student, 12
7. U.Tharshini, Student, 12
8. Sithamparapillai Sasiruby, Student, 11
9. Anton Mariamanogarathas Mariyarajith, Student, 09
10. Tharmalingham Ushananthini, Student, 14
11. Ramachchanthiran Sangeetha, Student, 14
12. Rasaratnam Umakanthan, Student, 16
13. Selvakulasingham Selvathy, Student, 17
14. Selvam, Student, 16
15. Antony Mariaros Antonythas, Student, 08
16. Ragavan, Student, 16
17. T.Samiththa, Student, 10
18. Mahalingham Shanmugavadivel, Student, 16
19. Mylvaganam Kananathan, Student, 13
20. Nagamuthu Senthilvel, Student, 15
21. Thambipillai Kopithan, Student
22. Krishnakopal Thavaseelan, Student, 13
23. Raveenthirarasa Amirtha, Student, 10
24. Thamotharampillai Saguntha, Student, 12
25. Albons Amalaviji, Student, 14
26. Rasaratnam Kavitha, Student, 10
27. Johnposko Karmilara, -, 04
28. Ramanathan Methini, Student, 13

93. Chemmani mass graves in 1996



What is the fate of the civilians who disappeared during the six month period in the middle of 1996? Chemmani area in the Ariyalai village houses the welcome arch into Jaffna town four Kms from the town.

Following breakdown of the talks between the LTTE

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and the government of Sri Lanka in April 1994, the newly elected President Chandrika Kumaratunge launched a war which she called the “war for peace” The military captured the Jaffna town in 1995 and in 1996 the military captured the entire Jaffna peninsula.

The Riviresa military operation started in the latter part of 1995. Over a period of two days 450,000 people displaced from the western sector of Jaffna and walked through Chemmani road, Kopay road to the eastern sectors. The Military then captured the Jaffna town. Eventually the military captured most of the Jaffna peninsula. Half the displaced people went to live in other districts and the rest lived in the military controlled Jaffna peninsula.

While a “war for peace” was being waged, the list of people arrested and disappeared in Jaffna kept growing under the military leadership of Major General Janaka Perera. Rape of women by the military was also increasing. During the six months, following mid 1996, the number of disappeared reached 700. 600 complaints were lodged at the Human Rights Commission. An association was formed by the families of the disappeared.

The association has waged demonstrations in several locations demanding to know the fate of their family members. As the pressure mounted, President Kumaratunge appointed a Commission of military officials to investigate the disappearances. In spite of several sittings of this commission there was no outcome worthy of note from this commission. Following the disappearance of Krishanthi (see later) and the confession by one of the convicted soldiers about mass graves in Chemmani where 300 to 400 bodies are buried, the convicted soldier was taken to the location to identify the mass graves.



The Chemmani mass graves were dug in front of Judge Ilancheliam, Prof Neriya from Ruhunu University and several lawyers including, Kesavan, Ilanko, Paramaraja, and Pon Poologasingam. Several locations were identified as mass grave locations. When the site was dug for the first time 11 skeletons were unearthed. They were sent for forensic investigations and

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the ages were estimated to be from 16 to 35. Before the second digging was to begin people were banned from going near the area and people noticed movement of military vehicles at night in the area. The second digging two weeks later uncovered another 6 bodies. With this the task was temporarily halted. To date no further progress has been made on these investigations.

94. Kilinochchi town massacre 1996-1998

In 1996, the Sri Lankan military launched the military operation they code named “Sathjeya-01”. The operation was to move south from its Elephant Pass camp into Kilinochchi. During this movement it set up a military camp in Paranthan. The military intelligence wing from this camp would infiltrate into the civilian areas. There they attacked and killed people in their homes, or displaced people who returned to their homes to collect some items.

In August 1996, the military launched “Sathjeya-02” military operation. This was followed by “Sathjeya-03” military operation. With this the military entered Kilinochchi town. Here they created a militarized zone occupying people’s homes and their farmlands.

While camped here the military carried out numerous attacks on civilians in the surrounding areas. 184 civilians disappeared during this time. Most of them were killed. Later when people moved back to their homes, skeletons were recovered from toilet pits and wells. Based on information collected from many sources, 184 civilians were killed. 72 skeletons of those killed were recovered in Kilinochchi and its surroundings. 12 skeletons were identified by relatives based on the clothes and other items they were wearing when they were killed.

The families of those killed were today living in extreme poverty in the villages of Akkarayan, Mallavi, Jeyapuram and Puthukkudiyiruppu.

95. Kumarapuram massacre 11 Feb 1996

Kumarapuram village is situated in the Assistant Government Agent Division of Muttur in the Trincomalee district. It is located between the villages of Kiliveddi and Parathipuram. The village is bounded in east by the Allaikulam water reservoir and in the west by a sport ground and a milk collection centre. A military camp is just 2 Kms from its north border. People from all the different ethnic communities lived here without any disharmony. After the 1995 military activities people in the village lived in fear. The massacre on 11.02.1996 happened during one of these military activities.



On 11.02.1996 at 4.00 pm people heard firing noises. The frightened people ran into the large forest area near the Allaikulam and hid there. Some people stayed at home. In the home of Alagutharai, eight members of the family stayed at home. All eight of them were shot dead

in their home by the military.

In the inquiry on this massacre the village headman in his evidence said Rasenthiram Karunaharan was shot dead in front of him as the two were talking. Another man Nagarasa lost his eyesight as a result of the shooting.

Arumaiturai Thanalaxmi, a 16 year old girl was taking her eight year old brother on her bicycle. When they heard the shooting she took her brother and hid in a nearby shop. The military dragged her out and took her to the milk collection centre and there she was gang raped by the military. One Sri Lankan soldier, Corporal Kumara, confessed to shooting her dead at the inquiry. When asked why he shot her he stated that she was badly injured with several bite marks made by the military men who gang raped her and that she was in such a bad state that he shot her. 26 people were killed in this massacre. 22 were seriously injured. Many of the injured who died without medical care were recorded as deaths by natural causes.

96. Nachchikuda strafing 16 Mar 1996

The Poonahar area of Kilinochchi district is a historically important area. This was a centre of ancient kingdoms and commerce. A fishing village in Poonahar is Nachchikuda. On 16.03.1996, early morning MI-24 helicopters belonging to the Sri Lankan military began strafing the Nachchikuda village settlement. People sleeping at home and fishermen at sea were hit by the shells. 16 people were killed. Hundreds of fishermen's huts were burnt out. Following this attack the village displaced from Nachchikuda.



Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Kandaiah Rameshwaran, Student, 18
2. Kanagasingham Tharsini, Student, 10
3. Anton Jegatheepa, Student, 12
4. Soosaipillai Albert, Fisherman, 50
5. Albons Amalotpavarani, House wife, 22
6. Mahenthiran Jalini, Student, 18
7. Thavari Veelaji, -, 68
8. Julias Devin, Infant, 01
9. Kandasamy Senthilkumar, Student, 16
10. Victor Loosiya, -, 24
11. Arulanantham Seviar Visittamma, House wife, 55
12. Mariathas Edvin, Fisherman, 30
13. Seviar Konsala, Student, 14
14. Mery Amlini, Student, 18
15. Ponnampalam Selvarasa, Fisherman, 68
16. Aasaipillai Albons, Fisherman, 50
17. Marianayagam Thiresamma
18. Kuvaddasges Sinrasan
19. Anton Dayaska
20. Marianayagam Thiresamma

97. Thambirai market bombing 17 May 1996



Poonahar is situated in the Kilinochchi district 20 Kms from Kilinochchi town. This is a historic region. Thambirai is a small village in the Poonahar area. On 17.05.1996, at 10.00 am, Kfir bombers belonging to the Sri Lankan Air Force dropped bombs in the market area. People hearing the Kfirs

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had taken refuge under Palmyrah estate nearby.

Two bombs fell in the area. Five civilians were killed on the spot and two more died in the hospital. Seven civilians were badly injured.

Francis Reetamma says,

“I live in Thambirai. My husband who went to the market on that day was killed when Sri Lankan Air Force bombers dropped bombs on 17.05.1996 and shell pieces went into his chest and stomach. About 5 people died in this bombing. 8 or 9 people were injured.”

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Sinnathurai Ketheeswaran, Farmer, 29
2. Kandiah Thevarasa, Farmer
3. Thangavelu Ravichsanthiran, Toddy tapper, 34
4. Soosaipillai Fransis, Toddy tapper
5. Veerakaththy Alistin, Fisherman, 28
6. Appuththurai Sowntharanayagam, Toddy tapper, 35
7. Ratnam Palachchanthiran, Farmer, 29

98. Mallavi bombing 24 July 1996

Mallavi is situated in the Mullaithivu district 15 Kms from the Mankulam junction. In 1996 a large number of people from Jaffna and Kilinochchi were displaced to Mallavi and were living around the Mallavi junction area.



On 24.07.1996, Sri Lankan Air Force Kfir dropped bombs in this area and 9 civilians were killed and 15 more were injured.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Sivalingham Sinthuja, Infant, 02
2. Ramu Pakkiyanathan, Farmer, 21
3. Thiyagarasa Premathas, Farmer, 28
4. Kathiravelu Janagarajah, Farmer, 21
5. Visuvalingham Sellamma, House wife, 64
6. Sinnapoodi Kathiravelu, Worker, 59
7. Subramaniam Manivel, Worker, 20

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8. Sivalingham Santhiya, Infant, 02
9. Savarimuthu Palakumar, Farmer, 56

99. Kaithady Krishanthi massacre 07 Sept 1996

Kaithady is situated in the Jaffna district. Kaithady village is located 7 Kms from the Jaffna town. Krishanthi's home was located just 200 metres from the Kaithady junction. Krishanthi's parents Kumarasamy and Rasamma had three children, Prasanthi, Krishanthi and Pranavan. The family worked hard to advancing the children's education. Krishanthi's mother Rasamma was working as the deputy principal of Kaithady Kumarasamy Vidhyalayam. Krishanthi's father died in 1984, and thus the mother and the three children were living in the home. The eldest daughter Prasanthi, after finishing her AL examination went to Colombo to advance her education as there were no opportunities for her in Jaffna. From there she had the opportunity to go overseas.

Krishanthi excelled in her OL examination and was studying for her AL examination at the Chundukuli Girls' School. Krishanthi's brother Pranavan was studying at St John's College.



In September 1996, Krishanthi's the AL examinations were taking place. Krishanthi had already sat one paper. On 07.09.1996, Krishanthi went to a funeral of her close friend Jananthini Kananathan and was returning home at 1.30 pm. The military at the

checkpoint in the Chemmani open space near the Welcome Arch into Jaffna Town stopped Krishanthi and was questioning her. She was kept there for 45 minutes. A relative, Kananathan, who saw this had gone to Krishanthi's home and warned Krishanthi's mother. At 2.30 pm, Krishanthi mother, accompanied by neighbour, Kirubamoorthy went to the checkpoint. Krishanthi's brother Pranavan also joined them.

The three arrived at the checkpoint, Krishanthi was not there. When they inquired at the checkpoint they were told that no one was arrested by them. The three then went to her school and to her friend's home looking for Krishanthi. They were told that Krishanthi had been there and had left. The three then went again to inquire at the checkpoint and all three went missing.

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During the middle of 1996 Jaffna was brought under the Sri Lankan military control and they imposed curfew from 6.00pm to 6.00am. As a result, even though friends and relatives were concerned that the four people did not return home that night. They were unable to do anything about it.

The next day, 09.09.1996, relatives of Krishanthi's family, Arumuganathan and Kodeeswaran, and Kirubamoorthy's wife Puvaneswari went to the same checkpoint in search of their relatives. They were told that no one was arrested at that checkpoint. The relatives then lodged complaints at the Jaffna branch of the Human Rights Commission and at the Jaffna Police Station. The relatives went once again to the checkpoint task. The relatives were asked to come in the evening. Fearing that the same fate as their relatives will befall them they did not go there in the evening. The relatives persisted with their complaints to the Human Rights Commission and the Police.

Due to the efforts of the relatives 45 days after the four people went missing, the relatives were called by the military chiefs of the 512 Brigadiers Divisions for an inquiry. Mrs. Arumuganathan, Puvaneswari and Kodeeswaran went to the inquiry. The six soldiers who were supposedly involved in the disappearance were called and investigated. Then it was revealed that none of the four missing people are alive.

The soldiers agreed to show the location of the incident and the graves where the bodies lay buried. The bodies were buried under a bridge in Nayanmarkaddu road, 100 metres from the checkpoint where the four people went missing. Post-mortem revealed that Krishanthi was raped before she was murdered.

The two families took a court case about the deaths of their relatives. Following inquiries six soldiers were arrested and all six confessed to the murders. One of the six who confessed, Lance Corporal Somaratna Rajapakse, in addition to giving evidence of the murders of Krishanthi and the other three, also announced in the courts that he can show mass graves near Chemmani where 300 to 400 bodies were buried on orders from their superiors. This announcement revealed that many of those who disappeared in Jaffna are buried in these mass graves.

Three of the accused were given death sentence and the other three were given 20 years imprisonment.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Kumarasamy Rasamma, Vice Principal, 59
2. Kumarasamy Krishanthy, Student, 18
3. Sumarasamy Piranavan, Student, 16

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4. Sithamparam Kirupamoorthy, Clerk, 38

100. Konavil bombing 27 Sept 1996



Konavil is situated in the Kilinochchi district. People of this village have displaced several times during the war. On 27.09.1996, Sri Lankan Kfir bombers dropped several bombs on the village. Three bombs fell on the junction where people had gathered. Three civilians died on the

spot. Two more died later in the Akkarayan hospital. Many were injured. Nagalingam Pakianathan says,

“My uncle was killed on 27.09.1996 in the Sri Lankan bombing.”

S Vimalaswari says,

“My father was killed as he was returning from the market on 27.09.1996 by Sri Lankan bombing. My grandfather who was seriously injured in the bombing also died”.

Pakianathan Vasanthakumari says,

“My father and a cousin was killed on 27.0.1996 in the Sri Lankan bombing”

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Rasathurai Thirukumar, Worker, 20
2. Kandiah Vijayakumary, Teacher, 31
3. Muththusamy Vaikunthavasan, Worker, 39
4. Periyasamy Velu, Worker, 61
5. Sivanandi Jenakanth, Student, 15
6. Ponnaiah Jeyanathan, Student, 16

101. Mullivaikal bombing 13 May 1997



Mullivaikal village is located in the Karaithuraipattu Assistant Government Agent Division in the Mullaitivu district. The main economic activities of the village is farming and fishing. In the year of 1997 several displaced fishing families from Jaffna settled along the coastal belt of this village.

On 13.05.1997 morning, Kfir bombers of the Sri Lankan Air Force bombed this village. Seven fishermen fishing from the shores were killed. Three road workers repairing the roads were also killed in the bombing.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Arumugam Sivasmahenthiram, Fisherman, 38
2. Nagarasa Thavaratnarasa, Farmer, 24
3. Sinnaiah Arumugam, Fisherman, 68
4. Ponnampalam Pakkiarasa, Fisherman, 60
5. Subramaniam Ajanthan, Fisherman, 15
6. Sivakuru Mahenthiran, Fisherman, 39
7. Sivakaran Thuthikaran, Fisherman, 18
8. Malli, -, 42
9. Ramasingham Rasaiah, Fisherman, 73

102. Mankulam shelling 08 June 1997

Mankulam is situated in the Mullaitivu district along the A-9 highway. In 1997, large number of people displaced from Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Nedunkerni were living in Mankulam.

On 08.06.1997, the military began shelling the Mankulam junction area in the early afternoon for 25 minutes. Seven displaced civilians were killed in this shelling. Many more were injured.



Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. K.Iyasampillai, Educater, 33
2. Kanthasamy
3. J.Samypillai
4. A.Palachchanthiran, -, 40
5. Jeyapalasingham Jeyarajah, Fisherman, 20
6. Malliga
7. Kaneshamoorthy Thayanithy, -, 32

103. Pannankandy massacre 05 July 1997

Pannankandy is a village of about 300 families. It is situated near the town of Kilinochchi. The main economic activity in the village is agriculture.

The villagers had displaced from their homes due to Sri Lankan military shelling as it conducted an operation from their Elephant Pass military camp. Most of the displaced from Pannankandy were living in the Vaddakkachchi village.



They were very poor and due to poverty they return to their own land in Pannankandy to collect the produce from their land. The military that has setup a camp near Pannankandy would capture the poor

villagers and kill them. Hundreds of people died in this fashion in the Kilinochchi district during this time. This is recorded in another section titled, "Kilinochchi town massacres". The following is the story of what happened to the Pannankandy villagers.

The village headman, Sithamparapillai Rajendram, recited the following as he was told by Karuppaih Nanthakumar aged 23,

"On 5th July 1997, Nanthakumar and Sukumar went on bicycles to their home in Pannankandy at 3rd Vaikal which was a 'no man' region and

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from which they were displaced at that time. They went to check their homes and also collect coconuts and other produce from their land.

The SLA caught both of them. The army tied Nanthakumar to a post and took Sukumar to the village well. Sukumar's shirt was removed and his hands were tied to the back with his shirt. He was then forced to bend over the short barrier wall of the well so that the front half of his body was hanging into the well and the back half was outside. His body was then cut and then pushed into the well.

Stones were thrown into the well to stop the body floating up. Nanthakumar, who was watching this, managed to untie himself and ran away.

When Nanthakumar arrived at Tharmapuram where we met him, he told everyone the story. No one went to check it at that time out of fear. On the same day the four other men went missing. No one knew about their fate at that time.

In March 2000 following the Sri Lankan army withdrawal from our village we went back to Pannangkandy to resettle. First only about 10 families went. We cleaned the well mentioned above because we needed to use it for drinking water and also because we knew about what has happened to Sukumar. When we started cleaning the well 6 bodies were recovered. Everyone whose family member had gone missing came to check whether their relative's body is among them. Relatives were able to identify the clothing with which the hands of the skeletons were tied once the clothing was washed."



Mrs Pannichelvam Seethalaxmi's husband skeleton was one of those found in the well.

"On 5th July 1997, there was a military operation named 'Sath Jaya' carried out by the SLA. Our village was bombed and shelled. We left our place and lived in Union Tank, Akkarayan, and Skanthapuram as refugees. There were no employment facilities there. We

were very poor.

One day my husband together with Kanthasamy Muthulingam and Perumar Sugumaran went to Pannangkandy on 5th July 1997 at 7:30pm to get some things and pluck some coconut fruit. They did not return back that day. I was surprised. I went and met another family member and the Rural Development Society president and also informed the International Red Cross Society in Mallavi. But I did not get any information from 1997 to 2000.

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One day, a Father came to my house and told me that he had some news about some skeletons that were taken by somebody in the lavatory pit at Pannangkandy. Immediately I ran there with the help of the Tamil Eelam Police. I saw the skeleton. I proved that the skeleton was that of my husband.”

The sixth body belonged to a young boy wearing blue school shorts. His identity has not been settled yet. Later we heard that he could be from Udaiyarkaddu, Kaddaikadu. No one came inquiring about this boy. The remains from the well are with the Tamil Eelam police.

Note: *Appathurai Selvakumar (35) also from Pannangkandy disappeared and his fate is unknown. His family lives in Pannangkandy*

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Seenivasagam Panneerselvam, Worker, 37
2. Perumal Sasikumar, Worker, 38

104. Akkarayan hospital massacre 15 July 1997



Akkarayan village in the Kilinochchi district has large forest areas. Majority of the people are farmers. The village has a hospital, market, and places of worship to serve the needs of the villagers.

When the Sri Lankan military launched the “Sathjeya” military operation from their Elephant Pass camp, people began displacing from their homes. The Kilinochchi district hospital, unable to continue its operation in Kilinochchi, shifted its operations temporarily to the Akkarayan hospital.

On 15.07.1997, the military started shelling from the Elephant Pass camp. Shells fell on and around the Akkarayan hospital. The hospital cleaner, Kanapathy, was living in a quarters with his family. The entire family was either killed or injured. In total three people were killed and one girl, Kamalaverni, lost her leg in the shelling.

Akkarayan hospital has a hall in memory of the family and is named Kanapathy hall.

105. Vavunikulam massacre 26 Sept 1996, 15 Aug 1997



Vavunikulam village is located in the Mullaithivu district. The village takes the name of the large water reservoir in the village.

Displaced people from other districts like Jaffna and Kilinochchi were living there in temporary shelters experiencing great hardship.

On 26.09.1996, Sri Lankan Air Force bombed this village killing four civilians and wounding 12.

In 1997, the Sri Lankan military was on a military operation from their Omathai camp, codenamed “Jeyasikkuru”, to take over the A9 route. The bombing and shelling were hitting the civilians. Civilians had taken refuge in schools, churches and temples.

On 15.08.1997 at 9.00am, the Vavunikulam villagers took refuge in a church in their village as the military went on an onslaught. Two bombs were dropped on this church by Sri Lankan Air Force Kfirs. 9 people were killed. 16 were seriously injured. One died in the hospital later. The Kfirs bombed the same place again at 1.00am. Eight people were injured. One of them died in the hospital later.

In total 15 civilians were killed on that day and more than 20 were injured.

Ganeshamoorthy’s account of the massacre is as follows,

“Around Friday 10 am in the morning, we heard a booming sound behind us. When we turned around we saw that there were two Kfirs in the air. Initially I thought there were crows flying behind the Kfir, however a second later I realized they were actually bombs. I fell into a stream, by which time a bomb fell. People started screaming. As I ran towards the sound, I saw flesh scattered everywhere. It looked like a like a meat shop.

The bomb fell on a small Refugee Camp at Vavunikulam Church. We informed ICRC and they came and took the injured to Mallavi hospital. In

the evening they bombed Puthuvilamkulam. ICRC returned to take the injured. 5 or 6 people died.

All the bodies were taken on a tractor belonging to Sundarlingam and burnt. 14 people died and 23 people were injured. This bomb had dropped 200 meters from my house. Small people, old people, dogs all died. These people had been displaced and were already living in hardship when these bombs were dropped.”

This was a planned attack. There were so many places that could have been hit – but they targeted the Refugee camps. This is the worst incident that has happened at Vavunikulam, Mullaithivu District.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Seenithamby Vadivelu, Farmer, 51
2. Periyathamby Sinnarasa, Farmer, 67
3. Sinnarasa Puspamala, Student, 20
4. Valliar Sinnathamby, Worker, 55
5. Santhirasegaram Rajeswary, -, 32
6. Ratnasamy Sivagnanasuntharam, Pensioner, 69
7. Palaniyandi Marimuthu, Student, 18
8. Ratnam Rasakumari, House wife, 24
9. Kunaratnam Shanmugarasa, Worker, 23
10. Arulanantham Vimalanantham, Own worker, 30
11. Thesingarasa Thangamany, -, 48
12. Thesingarasa Vasanthakumary, Student, 17
13. Nadarasa Pushpamalar, -, 41
14. Nadarasa Kajan, -, 04
15. Annamalar, -, 40
16. Thurairatnam Parameswary, -, 46
17. Navaratnam Santhy, Home maker, 21

106. Thampalakamam98 massacre 01 Feb 1998

Thampalagamam is situated 12 Kms from the Trincomalee town. A Sri Lankan military camp is located in the village of Parathipuram in the Thampalakamam district. On 01.02.1998, in the early morning, the military shot and killed 8 civilians from this village after ordering them to stand around their camp. Four of those killed were school children. In the mouth of one of those killed, Arumukam Segaran, the military has cut and stuck his penis.

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Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Arumugam Segar, Farmer
2. Amirthalingham Surenthiran, Student, 14
3. Amirthalingham Kajenthiran, Worker, 18
4. Ponnampalam Kanagasabai, Farmer
5. Murugesu Janagan, Student, 17
6. Nathan Pavalanathan, Worker, 45
7. Subramaniam Thivakaran
8. Kunaratnam Sivarajan

107. Old Vaddakkachchi bombing 26 Mar 1998



Old Vaddakkachchi is an ancient village in the Kilinochchi district. The largest water reservoir in the region, the Iranaimadhu water reservoir, is in this village. The rice fields in this village are able to produce twice a year using the water from this reservoir. Old

Vaddakkachchi is presently called Periyakulam. Due its rich fields with abundance of water the people are prosperous.

In 1996, the Sri Lankan military began its “Sathjeya” operation to capture Kilinochchi. As the military advanced with shelling and bombing it destroyed people’s property and several civilians were killed.

NESOHR

Information collected by SNE

On 26.03.1998, at 8.00 am Sri Lankan Air Force Kfir jets dropped a bomb in the Velikandan area and five bombs fell near the house of Arunasalam Velayutham. Two people working in front of Velayutham's house, Velayutham's daughter, who was inside the house and two more people working in the yard, and one person in the house in front were killed. In total 6 people were killed and five were wounded. Velayutham's home and farm equipment were all destroyed in this bombing.

Arunasalam Vethanayagam says,

"My daughter Mankayatkarasi was killed in the Sri Lankan bombing on 26.03.1998. My home was completely destroyed."

Velayutham Paramswari says,

"My son was killed on 26.03.1998 by the Sri Lankan military bombing"
Selvaratnam Jeyaluxmi says, *"My sister was killed on 26.03.1998 by the Sri Lankan military bombing"*

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Sanmugam Thanapalu, Worker, 55
2. Thiyagarasa Palu, Worker, 50
3. Ramanathan Sellamma, House wife, 56
4. Vellautham Mangayatkarasi, Student, 20
5. Muththaiyah Vasanthakumary, House wife, 26
6. Krishnasamy Valliyammai, House wife, 65

108. Suthanthirapuram massacre 10 June 1998



On the day of the incident, Suthanthirapuram, which is along the coastline in the Mullaithivu district, came under SLAFs air attack and shelling attack from 9.15 am to 10.30 am. Because the attack was continuous, people were unable to find safe areas, 25 people were killed and more than 50 were injured.

Several hundreds of thousands rupees worth properties were damaged. Hundreds of coconut trees on which people depended for livelihood and 10 houses were completely destroyed. Hundreds of houses were partially destroyed.

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Ganashen Kasimalar's account of the event is as follows:

“Around 9:30am whilst we were home, air bombing started. Our house was bombed too. We left our home and started running, but we did not know where to run to - everything was being bombed. We just ran in any direction. We got separated from our family in all the frenzy. I did not know where my mum, brother, sister.... anyone was. There was another plane flying in the air. We did not know what to do. We just kept going from one place to another in fear of our lives. We hid behind trees and buildings. We could not go back home – there was so much shelling.

Most of the people here were all displaced. We moved very closely with a lot of the people. Good friends, neighbours and relations were killed. This was definitely a planned attack on people who were already displaced and living in hardship.

We could not return home for 15 days. When we did come back, everything was destroyed. All the coconut trees, gardens and buildings were destroyed. Our house was not in a liveable state.”

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Richart Seronconsenter, -, 26
2. Vallipuram Ranimalar, House wife, 27
3. Vigneswaran Nesarani, -, 40
4. Vinayagamoorthy Thevakaran, Private worker, 22
5. Sithamparapillai Kumaravel, -, 48
6. Sinnathurai Suthakaran, Private worker, 20
7. Sinnathurai, -, -
8. Sanackuddy Yogapalasingha, Private worker, 27
9. Chartseron Konsedda, House wife, 26
10. Vellaiyappan Subbaiah, Farmer, 57
11. Selvarasa Sritharan, House wife, 21
12. Sebastiyampillai Jeyaratnam, Student, 21
13. Ponnas Sureshkumar, -, -
14. Jeban, -, -
15. Atputham Jegan, -, 23
16. Atputham Jegan, -, 23
17. Aseervatham Parthima, Student, 17
18. Amirthalingham Sutha, -, -
19. Muthuvel Gnanasegaram, -, 59
20. Muththuththamby Vasanthakumary, -, 19
21. Manuval Thevathas, -, 45
22. Palanivel Thiruchchelvy, Student, 18
23. Puspanathan Rameskumar, Student, 13
24. Puspanathan Saththiyaseelan, Student, 08
25. Puspanathan Thevananthiny, Infant, 02

26. Puspanathan Kalaichchelvy, Infant, 05
27. Puspanathan Sathees, -, 25
28. Kandiah Kunasegaram, -, 24
29. Navarasa Krishnamoorthy, Worker, 25
30. Navackumar Kokila, -, 30
31. Ratnasingham Ranimalar, -, 28
32. Rasalingham Uthayakumar, Worker, 39
33. Ramu Ratnalingham, Worker, 26
34. Rajakopalan Ravichchandran, Farmer, 28

109. Visuvamadu shelling 25 Nov 1998



Visuvamadu village is situated in the Puthukkudiyiruppu Assistant Government Agent division in Mullaithivu district. Rice growing and coconut estates are the most common economic activity of the village. The Visuvamadu tank irrigates the fields.

On 25.11.1998, afternoon children were returning home from school. The Sri Lankan military began shelling from their Elephant camp towards Visuvamadu. One shell hit a child eating at his home and he was killed instantly. Another shell hit a child on the road and was killed instantly. Two more civilians were killed in this shelling and 10 civilians were injured.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Sivaranjini, Student, 15
2. Krishanpillai Tharmaratnam, -, 32
3. Jeyaratnam Vino, Infant, 03
4. Murugaiah Piragas, Student, 12
5. Yoganathan Agilanathan, Student, 17
6. Rasan Vasanthakumar, House wife, 27

110. Chundikulam98 bombing 02 Dec 1998

Chundikulam is coastal village located in the Kilinochchi district. One of its special features is the many bird sanctuaries. Fishing is the main livelihood

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of the people. Sri Lankan Navy has continued to attack the coastal villages of the Northeast over a period of time. In a similar manner, the Chundikulam village also came under the Sri Lankan Navy attack. In 1995, following Sri Lankan military operations, coastal people in the eastern Jaffna region of Maruthankerni from the villages of Thalayadi, Aliyavalai and Uduththurai displaced to Chundikulam. The displaced people put up small huts and continued with their fishing activity in this area in order to



survive. On 02.12.1998, Kfir bombers dropped 6 bombs in the Nallathannithoduvai refugee settlement. Seven people including children were killed on the spot.

111. Manthuvil bombing 15 Sept 1999

Manthuvil village is situated in the Mullaithivu district. Manthuvil junction is the commercial centre for the village. There are several shops, a market, a temple, a church and other public buildings in this location.



On 15.09.1999, the junction was buzzing with people engaged in their daily activities. At 10.25 am, Sri Lankan Air Force Kfir bombers dropped two bombs at this junction.

12 civilians died on the spot. Injured people were taken to the Puthukkudiyiruppu hospital. 10 of the injured died the same day at the hospital. A further 40 people were seriously injured. Buildings, productive

NESOHR

Information collected by SNE

trees and livestock worth hundreds of thousands of rupees were destroyed by the bombing.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Sinnaiah Jeyapalasingham, -, 37
2. Shanmugam Kirupakaran, Worker, 22
3. Saviri John, Farmer, 52
4. Sangarapillai Selvamanikkam, -, 70
5. Gnanasegaram Laxsumipillai, House wife, 43
6. Jeyaraman Santhirakumar, Private worker, 20
7. Alanros Kondusiyas, Fisherman, 19
8. Antonipillai Sepamalaimuthu, Private worker, 45
9. Arumugam Jeyaraman, -, 50
10. Sinnaiah Jeyapalasingham, Farmer, 37
11. Packianathan Rettamma, House wife, 56
12. Thanarajah Jenovi, House wife, 24
13. Vethanayagam Sebasthiyampillai, Fisherman, 52
14. Thuraisingham Sabanayagam, Student, 21
15. Rasanayagam Uthayakumar, Fisherman, 20
16. Rasenthiram Saththiyakumar, Private worker, 25
17. Kunasingham Jeyachsanthiran, Own worker, 33
18. Kanapathipillai Saththiyapama, Worker, 25
19. Kanagasabai Mithila, House wife, 26
20. Antonylaliyo Krists Pulorans, House wife, 54
21. Sellaiiah Arumugam, -, 59
22. Kanapathipillai Yogarasa, -, 36
23. Antony Thavarasa Thiresamma, -, 50
24. Antonyliyo Melrose, -, 24
25. Anotnyloyo Kristilla Pulorance, -, 54
26. Sinnaththamby Thambu, -, 55
27. Jeyamas Jeyashangar, -, 33
28. Pathmarasa Jenitta, Student, 15
29. Santhirasegaram Sayanthini, Student, 12
30. Thambaiah Subramaniam, Farmer, 67

112. Palinagar bombing and shelling 03 Nov 1999

Suthanthirapuram village is situated in the Mullaitivu district. Although it was sparsely populated in the early days the population shot up in 1996 as refugees came in.

On 03.11.1999, the Sri Lankan military stationed in Elephant Pass and Ampahamam camps carried out bombing and shelling into the civilian's

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areas in Palinagar from 9.15am till 11.30am. Since the people were taken unawares, they could not seek safer places.



25 people died and 50 people were injured. Hundreds of thousands of rupees worth property was damaged.

Ravichandran's account is as follows:

“Around 11 o'clock a Kfir was seen in the air. We were at school at the time. As we left and were walking, the Kfir dropped the first bomb. SK, a boy working with my brother, was injured and taken to hospital where he died.

When the second bomb was dropped, I was hiding in an outdoor bathing tub. Pratheep was also hiding there with me. He was injured in the stomach. He was taken to the hospital by tractor. He died there. 7 people were injured and 4 died.

This happened between 11 and 11:30am. As this was peak time, people were at the markets and at school. After the first bomb hit, parents and others rushed to the school to make sure that the children were ok. Then the second bomb was dropped. 2 school children died. The SLA hit this place twice to ensure that people would definitely be killed. This had to have been a planned attack.”

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Perumal Sureshkumar, Student, 18
2. Veeraiya Thurairasa, -, 55
3. Thamothearampillai Krishnaraja, -, 60
4. Vaithilingham Suthakar, -, 17
5. Krishnaraja Jeyaseelan
6. Kumaravelu Punniyalingham, -, 41

113. Madhu church massacre 20 Nov 1999

Madhu church, Mannar, is a St. Mary's Catholic Church and is popular among all ethnic communities in the area. During the 1990s following the

SLAFs attacks several people from Jaffna, Mannar and Vavuniya were displaced to the church's surroundings, as it was considered a safe refuge.



On 20th November 1999, the SLAFs were advancing through the forest towards the church and continually firing their weapons. As a result, people in the villages, such as Palampuddi, also displaced to the surroundings of Madhu church. When the SLAFs arrived they forced all the civilians to go to the church. At 9.45 pm the SLAFs started shelling.

Two of the shells fell on the banyan tree in front of the church. The third shell fell on the church. 31 people including children died. Nine more people died in the hospital. More than 60 were injured. Chandrasekumaran Amarasingam was in the Madhu Church when the shelling started. His account of the incident is as follows,

“I had been living in Thathinapuram Palampuddi for a long time. On that day, the SLA told us to go to Madhu Church and they will look after us there. This message was conveyed to us through UNHCR. So we all went to the Temple. Once there we were told to go in and then go out again a few times. There were so many



people at the temple. Finally the SLA made us all go into the Temple and then closed us in.

The SLA came down Pandivirichchan Road in armoured vehicles and tanks. On that road there was a vehicle that belonged to a poor man who had brought people from

Karadiyanaru to Madhu Temple. The SLA destroyed the vehicle completely.

Once they arrived, they surrounded the Church. They killed and hit a few people. Inside they hit people. Around 9:45, we were listening to BBC on the radio; the first shell fell on the place where the sisters were sleeping. The other fell in front of the temple on the banyan tree. The next one fell on my temple. The fourth shell fell on my head. The roof frame fell down and instantly killed about twenty one people all around me and then there was silence. We all saw this shell come from the Divisional Secretariat.

We did not know what to do. Around 1.00 pm, I was taken in an SLA vehicle to the hospital. I regained consciousness after 25 days.

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My mother, and elder sister, uncles, cousins all died that day. The GS helped us to find out what happened to everyone. There were people from Vavuniya and some from Murunkan who died. The rest were all from this area and were all from our family.

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Nikkalasjud Jalini, Teacher, 25
2. Sooriyakumar Suganthan, Farmer, 22
3. Inthiramohan Thadshajini, Student, 13
4. Kalithasan Selvakumary, House wife, 22
5. Kiresu Selvarasa, Farmer, 39
6. Kunaveerasingham, House wife, 22
7. Kunaveerasingham Suganja, -, 09
8. Tharmalingham Tharmaneethan, Student, 10
9. Tharmalingham Shanthakeethan, Infant, 04
10. Thisaiveerasingham Mathyrajah, Infant, 03
11. Muniyandi Uthayakumar, Farmer, 22
12. Muniyandi Selvam, House wife, 55
13. Selvarasa Nirajah, Student. 09
14. Selvarasa Rathan, Student, 12
15. Veluppillai Tharmalingham, -, 44
16. Santhiramohan Papitharan, Student, 06
17. Santhiramohan Sujitharan, Student, 09
18. Santhiramohan Suthakaran, Student, 09
19. Santhiramohan Poomani, House wife, 61
20. Sivanantham Suganthini, House wife, 22
21. Sripaskaran Mainthini, Infant, 03
22. Egamparam Rameswary, House wife, 52
23. Variththamby Pavani, Student, 17
24. Sathasivam Mannan, - , 21
25. Sooriyakumar Suganthy, House wife, 23
26. Navaratnam Rajeswary, House wife, 58
27. Kanagaratnam Variththamby, Farmer, 54
28. Karunairasa Kapaskar, Student, 15
29. Karunairasa Theivanai, House wife, 49
30. Kunaveerasingham Logeswary, Student, 10
31. Kunaveerasingham Suveniya, Student, 20
32. Thampappillai Thesaiveerasingham, Farmer, 46
33. Thesaiveerasingham Mathyrajah, Infant, 03
34. Thesaiveerasingham Ampigavathy, House wife, 37
35. Muthiah Sivanantham, Farmer, 26
36. Jeyaram Jeyaseelan, Student, 18

114. Bindunuwewa massacre 25 Oct 2000

Bindunuwewa Rehabilitation Centre was one of three centres run with substantial overseas funding to rehabilitate LTTE suspects and surrenders. The government of Sri Lanka ran these centres. It was shown off as a model for the rehabilitation of former LTTE members thus accumulating a lot of merit points for the government.

On Oct 25th in 2000 a mob of Sinhalese stormed the camp and massacred the inmates while 60 police officers stationed that night to protect the inmates stood by. 28 inmates died and another 14 were seriously injured. There were nine survivors. Two inquiries, one by the Sri Lankan Human rights Commission (SLHRC) and another Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCI) followed. A criminal proceeding also was initiated. In June 2005 the court proceedings were completed. No one was convicted for any offence.

The massacre as told by the survivors to Sri Lanka Human Rights Commissions (SLHRC)

On October 24, the detainees were raising some complaints they had with the Officer in Charge. Their complaints were that letters to and phone calls for them were not being passed onto them; and they were being detained for more than a year rather than the three-nine month period. There were some arguments and seeing that the detainees were agitated a policeman fired in the air. The situation calmed down and the detainees went to bed.

Next morning when the detainees woke up they saw large crowds and a large number of policemen outside. The crowd started to attack the detainees and set fire to their residences. 28 Tamil detainees died and 14 were injured at the end of the carnage. Nineteen victims were identified and nine victims were not identified because their bodies were burned beyond recognition.

Interim Report by the SLHRC on November 1st 2000

This report by the SLHRC through its name suggests that there will be another report following it but there was no further report from SLHRC on this matter. Major points raised in this report are:

1. When the detainees who were being attacked tried to run for safety one of them was shot down by police officers. His body had three bullet wounds. One of the survivors lost two fingers as a result of the shooting by the police officers.

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2. The 60 odd police officers at the scene failed to take any action to stop the carnage. Yet the SLHCR did not lay any criminal responsibility on the police officers rather they were found guilty for the minor offence of dereliction of duty.

3. There was substantial organizing and poster campaign against the inmates between the time the detainees protested and the time they were attacked by the mobs.

Report by the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCI)

The report by the Presidential Commission of Inquiry appointed in March 2001 handed its report to the President in early 2002. It was never made public. In any case it was not mandated to inquire and recommend any prosecution. Other papers written on the topic however, have published parts of the findings in this report.

The Commission found clear evidence that a significant degree of organizing took place in the twelve to fourteen hours between the initial protest in the camp and its violent destruction.

The crowd outside initiated the violence as stones were thrown at the inmates. The inmates reacted to the provocations by exploding a gas cylinder within the camp. While this initially succeeded in frightening the crowd, its ultimate effect seems to have been to further inflame things, as the crowd soon thereafter stormed the camp as the police looked on.

That there was an utter failure on the part of the police stationed around the camp is beyond dispute. The Commission report strongly criticized the two most senior police officers in the area – ASP Dayaratne and HQI Seneviratne for a series of failures. Even at the last moment, the inmates could have been evacuated from the camp.

The prosecution

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) carried out its own inquiry and indicted 41 suspects including 10 police officers. There were flaws in the prosecution at many levels. Some of which are:

1. Although both inquiries have strongly criticized that there were substantial prior organizations before the mob stormed the camp there was no attempt to investigate the “organized nature of the massacre”.

2. There was no attempt to lay charges for the criminal conduct of the police in allowing the massacre to continue while they stood by. Nor was the police shooting of the fleeing inmates investigated.
3. There was a systematic destruction of evidence. A bullet from the body of the detainee who was killed by police shooting was removed and was not available as evidence.
4. Though two higher-ranking officers were clearly identified in the inquiries they were never charged of any crime. All the police officers who were charged are middle and low ranking officers.
5. The charges that were brought on the suspects were for murder and attempted murder. The prosecution did not lay any lesser charges for which there would have been a greater possibility of conviction.

Despite such blatant criminality the Sri Lankan justice system has allowed all the culprits to go free. This is also not the only time this has happened. Indeed, this failure of the Sri Lankan justice system to punish security persons for crimes against Tamil civilians has a very long history.

115. Mirusuvil massacre 19 Dec 2000



Mirusuvil village is a settlement created to encourage women into employment. This village is near the Muhamalai area in Jaffna peninsula.

In the year 2000, as a result of military clashes throughout the Thenmaradchi area of Jaffna

many people had displaced to the Vadamaradchi area. The people of Mirusuvil village had also displaced to Karaveddi in Vadamaradchi and were staying in the Navalar hall.

On 19.12.2000 9 people from Mirusuvil went to their village to collect essential items they needed for living. All 9 were arrested while they were collecting the things from their homes. The arrested people were blind folded and attacked by the military. One of those arrested managed to escape and return to Karaveddi to tell the fate of the others.

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Based on the information given by Ponnaiah Maheswaran, who managed to escape, and the soldier who was on duty at that time, Lance Corporal Ratnayake, in the presence of the Police Inspector, Upali Gunawardhana, Deputy Police Inspector, Nimal Srinath, district judge, Annalingam Premshankar, and Point Pedro District Medical Officer, Kathiravetpillai, a mass grave was dug up on 25.12.2000. The eight bodies were buried only 2 feet below the ground.

The Tamil daily Veerakesari published from Colombo in a report quoted a hospital report on the inquest, "A body of a 21 year old man was recovered from the mass grave and was identified by Ponnaih Maheswaran and Lance Corporal Ratnayake. This body was wrapped in a red saree. Next the body of a male child was recovered. His skin was peeled and his body was pink. Throats of the bodies were cut with sharp knives and the arms and legs were chopped off."

Available names of victims (name, occupation, age)

1. Sinnaiah Vilvarasa, Farmer, 41
2. Sellathurai Theivakulasingham, Farmer, 21
3. Vilvarasa Pirasath, Student, 05
4. Vilvarasa Pirathepan, Student, 15

It Rains Here Too but as Bullets



The period that commences on February 22, 2002 with the signing of the ceasefire agreement brought with it many changes. But did the Tamils of the North East reap any benefit from that agreement? At most it was a “no war- no peace” period. With the stalling of the peace talks less than two years later, the situation started to deteriorate yet again.

There was, however, a small window of opportunity in this short period to establish an institution to strengthen the human rights protection mechanisms in the North East of the country. Until then, with the two draconian laws, the Emergency Regulations (EMR) and the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) in full force, continuously for years under a repressive regime, Tamils were afraid even to open their mouth, leave alone talk of human rights. Seizing this small window of opportunity, some religious leaders, academics, lawyers, members of parliament and trade unionists, many of whom have served in the Citizens Committees, Legal Aid Organizations etc. in their respective Districts in the North East, launched the North East Secretariat On Human Rights (NESOHR) with its Head Quarters in Kilinochchi. NESOHR was officially opened on July 9, 2004. Unfortunately, NESOHR had to pay a huge prize for pursuing its legitimate rights in forming a Human Rights Institution.

On 07 February 2005, NESOHR representative from Amparai District, Chandra Nehru Ariyanayagam, was murdered in cold blood by the Sri Lankan Army and a paramilitary group working with it. Chandra Nehru Ariyanayagam was also a former Member of Parliament.

On 25 December 2005, a founder Member of NESOHR, Joseph Pararajasingham, was brutally gunned down by the paramilitary working with the government of Sri Lanka, whilst he was attending the Holy mass inside St. Mary’s Cathedral in Batticaloa.

On 20 April 2008, our revered founder Chairperson Rev Fr Mariampillai Xavier Karunaratnam was killed by the Deep Penetration Unit of the Sri Lanka Army very near the church where he had just finished giving mass.

Three of NESOHR’s members have now been killed and some others have been threatened with death for their efforts on behalf of the rights of the oppressed people in an unfair, unjust, failed state. In the post -peace process period massacres have become genocide and the rest is history.

116. Pesalai housing scheme massacre 23 Dec 2005



On Friday December 23rd, a Sri Lankan Navy vehicle was hit by a claymore mine in the “Hundred House Scheme” area in Pesalai. As has been the long practice of the Sri Lankan Armed forces the Navy began their retaliation against the civilians living in the housing scheme. The first step of this retaliation was to indiscriminately spray bullets into the housing scheme. Panicky occupants began fleeing in all directions. The teenage children of one old couple, the Cruz couple, were not at home. They had gone to a friend’s house to watch television. As a result the parents worried about their children did not flee like the rest of the residents of the housing scheme. Another family of four, the Fernando family was fleeing like the rest. However, the

mother, being an asthmatic patient could not continue running with their three year old boy in her hand. She saw the Cruz couple standing at the door of their home and told her husband to keep running with their five year old child and she ran into the Cruz home with her younger child. Fernando and the five year old ran on and stopped about five houses further down and stayed there. Navy men arrived at the Cruz house and burnt the four people alive and removed their bodies. A burnt arm of the three year and some items from his mother’s handbag were later found among the ashes.

Available names of victims (name, age)

1. Antoniamma Cruz, 38
2. Dilexan, Child, 4
3. Emmanuel Cruz, 38
4. Therese (alias Suganthy), 40

117. Trincomalee students massacre 02 Jan 2006

The Gandhi statue at the junction in the Dockyard Road near the sea in Trincomalee is a popular spot for young men to gather in the evening for socializing. On 2 January 2006, many young men were gathered there. Some men who arrived in a three-wheeler threw a grenade at the gathering

of the young men and then went towards the Fort. One St Joseph school student, Yoharasa Poonkulalan, was injured in this grenade attack.

As the other students were getting ready to take the injured student to the hospital, the Sri Lankan Navy that arrived at the spot began shooting at the students for 10 minutes.



The people at the seashore began fleeing in all directions. In the meantime, the Sri Lankan Navy came towards the students, ordered them to lie on the ground and attacked them indiscriminately. Five students died in this attack. Another five students were seriously injured. This massacre was one of the few massacres selected by the Sri Lankan Government for special inquiry under the supervision of an international monitoring group of eminent persons headed by an Indian judge. The eminent person left the island in disgust in 2008 after losing confidence in the manner in which the investigations were conducted.

Sukirtharajan, a journalist with the Tamil daily Sudaroli wrote a full-length investigative article about the killing of the five students, identifying the Sri Lankan Army as the culprit. He was shot dead on 6 January 2006.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Logitharajah Rohan, University Student
2. Manoharan Rajiharan, University Student
3. Shanmugarajah Kajentheran, University Student
4. Thangathurai Sarvanantha, University Student
5. Yogarajah Hemachchandran, University Student

118. Manipay family massacre 14 Jan 2006



A white van group arrived at the door of the home of Nahendram Bojan in Manipay in Jaffna on 14 January 2006 just after midnight. The men knocked on the door and demanded that they are from the Sri Lanka Army and they needed to check the home. When the door was opened by the second daughter of Bojan, the white van group started shooting.

Three people, the mother and two daughters were killed on the spot. The father and son were injured and admitted to hospital later. The husband of the first daughter, Thiageswaran, escaped without injuries because he managed to hide in the dark and was alive to tell the story of the massacre.

Massacres of Tamils

The entire family of Nahendram Bojan was a very accomplished family. He was the Scout Commissioner for the KKS area in Jaffna for a long period and he was also the Northern Commissioner for the St John's Ambulance. One of his daughters was an actress and was reading for her degree. His other daughter a graduate was an English teacher. His son was also a mathematics teacher.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Bojan Arthanageswary, -, 51
2. Bojan Renuka, -, 30
3. Bojan Shanuka, -, 23

119. TRO employees disappearance 29 Jan 2006



On 29 January and 30 January 2006, ten Tamils Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO)

employees were abducted in two separate incidents in the Welikande area in the Polonnaruwa district while they were travelling from the TRO office in Batticaloa to the TRO office in Kilinochchi.

Two women were released in a few days. Another woman S Dosini was also released by the abductors. Seven TRO employees are still missing. Amnesty International issued an Urgent Action appeal on 10 March 2006 for their release.

This massacre was one of the few of massacres selected by the Sri Lankan Government for special inquiry under the supervision of an international monitoring group of eminent person headed by an Indian judge. The eminent person left the island in disgust in 2008 after losing confidence in the manner in which the investigations were conducted.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Arulthevarasa Satheskarana, TRO AID worker
2. Kailayapillai Ravinthiran, TRO AID worker
3. Shanmuganathan Swenthiran, TRO AID worker
4. Thampirasah Vasantharajan, TRO AID worker
5. Thanuskody Premini, TRO AID worker
6. Kasinathar Ganeshalinga, TRO AID worker

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Information collected by SNE

7. Kathirkamar Thangarasa, TRO AID worker

120. Trincomalee riots 12 April 2006



Trincomalee district has been the hotbed of violence against the Tamils since the 1980's. The violence was used to gradually evict the Tamils from the district. This is clearly demonstrated by the demographic data collected by the Sri Lanka Government for the district over the years. On 12 April, another Trincomalee riots erupted following a grenade explosion targeting the Sri Lankan Army. Fifteen people of whom ten are Tamils were killed in the riots and a further fifty people were seriously injured. More than one hundred Tamils sustained less serious injuries and a lot of property belonging to Tamils was set alight. This is the worst violence against Tamils in Trincomalee since those that occurred in 1983. In the initial explosion one Sri Lankan soldier and five Sinhala civilians were killed.

Tamils witnessed three truck loads of Sinhala thugs being brought to the Trincomalee town even prior to this explosion. These thugs began robbing the business premises belonging to the Tamils and then set them alight. A huge smoke arose from the town as a result of the burning buildings. Soon attacks on Tamils started. Guns and machetes were used in these attacks. Many Tamils who were in town to do their shopping for the April new year were killed in this fashion.

There were many police, Navy and Army personnel who stood by and watched as the violence was perpetrated.

Available names of victims (name, age)

1. A.M.Sudubanda, 39
2. Antonyraj Geethanadani, 33
3. Chandra Mathiwus, 50
4. D.M.Kasun Samantha, 23
5. Kandasamy Thiraviam, 56
6. L.H.Ashanka Milan, 21
7. L.H.Susantha, 20
8. M.S.M.Rilvan, 36
9. M.Selvarajah, 44
10. Myoora Pedige Sivamani, 30

11. S.M.Farook, 55
12. T.H.Rashmi Dilrangi, 8
13. Thannimalai Namasivarajah, 28
14. Thavarajah Mahaluxmy, 42
15. Thavarajah Selvakumari, 18
16. Velu Nantheswaran, 28
17. Venkadasamy Venkatraman, 30

121. Puthoor massacre 18 April 2006



Puthoor is in the Jaffna district. Kannan was a three-wheel driver from Puthoor. He regularly drops a painter friend at his home after work. On 18 April, he was dropping this painter friend at his home as usual. Also in the three-wheeler were three more friends going for a fun ride. People at shop they passed saw the five friends packed inside the small three-wheeler going to drop the painter friend and they also saw four of the friends, less the painter, returning. People at the shop also saw SLA persons on motorbikes coming from behind the three-wheeler, stopping it and turning it back. At this time another person came on a bicycle stopped at the shop, bought some sugar and was riding back to his home in the same direction as the three-wheeler.

When Kannan did not return home that night, his father came looking for his son and saw his body and the three-wheeler on the road. Initially SLA refused anyone to go further to look for the rest of the friends. Eventually people were allowed to search and the bodies of the five people, four friends and the shopper, were recovered from the fields on the side of the road.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Balasubramaniam Kannathan, 27
2. Kandasamy Gowribalan, 32
3. Mahadevan Kishorkumar, 20
4. Sellappu Kamalathan, 25
5. Thangarajah Kaveenthran, 27

122. Muthur bombing 25 April 2006



The Sri Lankan, Navy, Army and the Air Force staged a combined attack on the Tamil civilian settlements in the village of Muthur East in Trincomalee district for more than four hours on 25

April 2006. Crushed bodies of twelve civilians were found at the end of the attack. Among the victims were three children aged 4, 15 and 16.

3000 families from Muthur east displaced after this attack and among those who displaced are 25 civilians injured by the combined attack by all three forces. This was the first aerial bombing carried out by the Sri Lanka Air Force since the signing of the ceasefire agreement in 2002. SLMM and UNICEF

Available names of victims (name, age)

1. Gnanasekaram Renukaran, 23
2. K Selvarani, 32
3. K. Meiyar, 34
4. Meiyar Kishanthan, 04
5. Nagiah Rukmani, 49
6. Navarathnam Ranjithamalar, 56
7. Pathiniyan Nagamma, 67
8. Tharmalingam Sureshrooban, 23
9. Thuraiappa Ratheesh, 15
10. Varathan Rajkumar, 16
11. Veerapathiran Pagawathipillai, 67
12. Vilirasa Mayooraan, 21

123. Uthayan Daily Press Office attack 02 May 2006

The attack on the Uthayan Daily Press Office in Jaffna was part of the ongoing suppression of media in this island. During the post-CFA period scores of journalists were killed, imprisoned and threatened. So much so, international organizations like “Reporters Without Borders” have listed Sri Lanka as one of the worst countries for media freedom and safety of the journalists. The attack of the Uthayan press office was one of the most spectacular attacks on the media.

Massacres of Tamils

On 2 May 2006, the Uthayan press office was busy with its routine work for the next day issue of the daily. Around 7.30pm, armed Sri Lankan military and EPDP men entered the press office and opened fire on the employees. Two of the employees were killed and many were injured. The gunmen deliberately smashed the computers and other equipment at the press office.



Although the entire Tamil community knew who carried out the attack, and the media organizations condemned the attack, the perpetrators were unperturbed and continued their attacks on the media.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Bastian George Sagayathas (Suresh), 37
2. Rajaratnam Ranjith, 25

124. Nellyyadi massacre 04 May 2006



Nellyyadi is a small town near the eastern coast of the Jaffna district. On 4 May 2006, seven young men were on their way to a friend's party in a three-wheeler. They were in a jolly mood and were carrying alcohol with them for use in the party. Just before their three-wheeler neared the Nellyyadi junction army camp, a grenade was thrown into the camp. The military blindly opened revenge fire, killing all the seven friends.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Nagaratnam Naguleswaran, 18
2. Navaratnarajah Nathannan, 19
3. Palachandran Krishanthan, 18
4. Selvarajah Suman, 22
5. Subramaniam Subash, 19
6. Thamothersampillai Sharmilian, 17
7. Veluppillai Vimalan, 21

125. Manthuvil Temple massacre 06 May 2006

Manthuvil is a village near the Chavakachcheri town in the Jaffna district. Eight young men were spending the night on 6 May 2006 at the Manthuvil Kolathamman temple after a day's work in preparations for the "Kumbapishekam". They had already taken permission from the Sri Lanka Army to spend the night at the temple.



While they were at the temple, the Sri Lankan military that drove past the temple at 7.00pm stopped at the temple and held an investigation and left. Another military unit came around at 11.00pm and conducted another investigation. Neighbours heard another jeep arriving at the temple at 12.00 midnight. Following this gun shots and wails were also heard by the

neighbours.

People were too frightened to come out in the middle of the night. On day break people came out and started to look for the young men. People noticed blood marks that had been covered with sand.

Later some people said that the bodies of these men were to be found in the nearby forest. Sri Lankan military stopped the people from going to that area. A while later SLMM was allowed into the area to look for the bodies but the SLMM did not find the bodies. The families of the eight young men believe that Sri Lankan military personnel killed them and disposed the bodies.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Kanthasami Parimelalahan, 29
2. Kularadnam Thayarooban, 22
3. Markandu Puspakanthan , 26
4. Ponnambalam Partheeban, 22
5. Rasanayaham Sivananthamoorthy, 35
6. Rasaradnam Rajakumar, 24
7. Sevaradnam Sivanantham, 22
8. Vyhunthavasan Vyhunthakumar, 22

126. Allaipiddy massacre 13 May 2006

Allaipiddy is one of the islets off the coast of the Jaffna peninsula and is located 15 kilometers south west of Jaffna town. During the period of the massacre, this and the other islets near it were under the full control of the

Massacres of Tamils

Sri Lankan Navy. The EPDP paramilitary group was also working with the Sri Lankan Navy in this region. Even after the CFA agreement, people were allowed into this area only after checking their identity card and after putting the people through a body search.



The home of Sellathurai Amalathas is located near the PhilipNeri Catholic church in Allaipiddy. People in the neighbourhood were gathering in this home to spend the night due to the prevailing fear of arbitrary killings and executions that had begun in Jaffna following the election of President Rajapakse. On 13 May 2006, people were gathered in this house as usual when the men from the EPDP paramilitary group arrived at the house and ordered the people in the house to switch off the lights.

This was followed by indiscriminate shooting of the residents in the house. Eight out of the eleven people who were sleeping in the house were killed. Four people from one family that included a baby and a four year old child were killed in this shooting. One of the injured died because the Sri Lankan Navy prevented the injured from being taken to the hospital. All of the eight people killed in this shooting are members of one extended family.

Some other Sri Lankan Navy men entered the home of Shanugalingam in the neighbouring village of Puliyanhoodal and shot dead three people from that family. This was followed by the shooting of the tea shop owner Senthuran in his own home in the nearby village of Vankalavadi. A total of 14 civilians were shot and killed that night in this area. Many more civilians were injured. Many shops and property were damaged. See also: Amnesty report, ASA 37/014/2006, 16 May 2006

Available names of victims (name, age)

1. Abraham Robinson, 28
2. Joseph Anthonymuttu, 64
3. Kanesh Navaratnam, 50
4. Ketheeswaran Anex Ester, 23
5. Ketheeswaran Thanushkanth , 04
6. Ketheeswaran Yathursan, 0
7. Palachamy Ketheeswaran, 25
8. S. Sivanesan, 46
9. Sellathurai Amalathas, 28

127. Vadamunai pressure mine 07 June 2006

Vadamunai is a village near the border of the Batticaloa district on the Paduvankarai side of the Batticaloa Lake. This is located 25 kilometers from Valaichenai. On 7 June 2006, 20 people from this village were travelling in a tractor-trailer to purchase items for their homes. This is the practice of the people since the village is too remote and there is no regular bus service. Their tractor-trailer was targeted by a pressure mine attack carried out by the Deep Penetration Unit of the Sri Lanka military. Ten civilians were killed including a six months old baby. Another nine were injured. This deliberate attack on poor Tamil families living in a remote village was viewed by the villagers as a planned action aimed at forcing the people to leave the area so that Sinhala people could be settled there. The eastern districts of the Tamil homeland have seen many such massacres that were aimed at forcing the people to leave the area so that Sinhala settlements could be created in the same area. Remote areas are convenient for such activities because these are hardly noticed by the international or the Colombo based human rights groups.

The Vadamunai people have faced many such atrocities in the past too. In 1990 the people of this village was evicted by the Sri Lankan military. They began resettling in 1995. After the CFA, larger number of the evicted Tamil people began resettling. Following the Vadamunai massacre people are fearful to live in the village.

Available names of victims (name, age)

1. Iyathurai Srima, 33
2. Kasippillai Komathi, 40
3. Pathiniyan Sinnathamby, 56
4. Saravanamuttu Chandrakumar, 10
5. Saravanamuttu Dineshkumar, 11
6. Saravanamuttu Mathiyalakan, 22
7. Sivanesan Mathimalar, 24
8. Sivanesan Sinthujan, 0
9. Thalayasingam Thangaladchumy, 48
10. Thambimuttu Kavitha, 20

128. Vankalai family massacre 08 June 2006



Vankalai is a coastal village in the Nanaddan AGA Division in Mannar District. Most of the people of this village depend on fishing for their livelihood. A locality in this village is called Thomaspuri.

Massacres of Tamils

The family of Martin, the parents and their two children, lived in Thomaspuri.

On 8 June 2006, the entire family was stabbed to death in their home as the family slept. Martin is a carpenter and his carpentry tools were used to murder the family. His wife was raped before she was murdered. The father and the two children were hung from the roof after they were murdered.

Although there are no eyewitnesses to this massacre, military boot marks were found all around the home. The villagers also say that there were more than usual military movements in the village on that day.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Ann Deluxan, 7
2. Ann Deluxi, 9
3. Chitra, 27
4. Moorthy Martin, 35

129. Kaithady mass grave 06, 07, 08 June 2006



Kaithady is in the Jaffna district along the A9 road. It is 10 kilometers from Jaffna town. During the month of June 2006, workers who were mining gravel from the area discovered a human corpse in the open space in Kaithady not far from the A9 road. They reported it to the Grama Sevakar (GS) Ratnaraj who coordinated the exhumation of the area with the police and the SLMM after obtaining orders from the Chavakachcheri judge. Over three days of digging four bodies were discovered including that of a Hindu priest who went missing after he left his temple following a pooja. The items he had used for his pooja was also found with his body.

Ratnaraja, the GS, was later shot by persons on motorbike and he escaped with injuries.

130. Pesalai church massacre 17 June 2006

On 17 June 2006 morning, Sri Lankan Navy (SLN), following its serious defeat at a sea clash in Pesalai seas, took revenge on Tamil civilians in Pesalai. Tamils had taken refuge in the Church of Lady of Victory. The defeated SLN cordoned the Pesalai area. The Navy personnel proceeded to Pesalai blindly firing. They came around the Church of Our Lady of Victory at Pesalai and took positions outside its walls and started hailing grenades

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Information collected by SNE



inside the crowded church. One woman was killed. They also began shooting blindly at the fishermen who were rushing to the shore when they heard the clashes in the sea. Five fishermen were later found dead inside their boats. The boats on shores were also burnt down by the SLN, 40 boats and 25 huts were damaged. Fishing nets worth of 10

million rupees were also burnt down.

131. Action Contre La Faim staff massacre 05 Aug 2006

Action Faim is an INGO based in France that was working to assist the tsunami affected people in Trincomalee. They had an office in Muthur located in the Trincomalee district. Following widespread military clashes between the Sri Lankan Government and LTTE in August 2006, people were moving out the area. The staff of this INGO was ordered by their superiors to remain in their Muthur office.



The Sri Lankan military carried out a point blank execution of 17 employees of this INGO on 5 August 2006. The military had buried the bodies of the victims which were exhumed later for forensic examination. This massacre created an international outcry. This massacre was one of the few of massacres selected by the Sri Lankan Government for special inquiry under the supervision of an international monitoring group of eminent person headed by an Indian judge. The eminent person left the island in disgust in 2008 after losing confidence in the manner in which the investigations were conducted.

Action Faim is demanding an international investigation into the massacre.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. A Jaseelan, 31
2. Abdul Latif Mohamed Jauffer, 31
3. G. Kavitha, 27
4. G. Sreetharan, 36
5. Muraleetharan, 35
6. K. Koneshwaran, 24
7. K.Kovarthani, 28
8. M. Narmathan, 24

9. M. Rishikeshan, 28
10. Matahavarasa Ketheeswaran, 36
11. P.Partheeban, 27
12. Primus Anandarajah, 34
13. R. Arulraj, 24
14. S. Ganesh, 54
15. S.Romila, 25
16. V.Kokilavathani, 29
17. Y. Kodeeswaran, 31

132. Nedunkerni ambulance claymore 08 Aug 2006

Nedunkerni is located in the northern part of the Vavuniya district. Nedunkerni hospital provides the main medical services to the people for this region. This hospital is not well equipped and therefore any complicated cases are frequently transferred to the larger hospital in the Mullaithivu district. On 8 August 2006, around 7.00pm, an ambulance delivered a pregnant mother at the Puthukkudiyiruppu hospital in the Mullaithivu district and was on its way back to Nedunkerni hospital around 10.00pm. This ambulance came under the claymore attack of the Sri Lankan military Deep Penetration Unit. Five people, a doctor, his wife, two nurses, and the ambulance driver, in the ambulance were killed in the attack.



The killed doctor, Dr Jeyabalina, was the only doctor at the Nedunkerni hospital.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Jehanathan Nahuleswari, 37
2. Jeyamalina Ponnamma
3. Kasupathy Gopalasundaram, 54
4. Kathirkamathamby Jeyamalina, 68
5. Rasalingam Gnaneswari, 22

133. Eastern bombing and shelling Aug - Dec 2006

Over of period of six months the LTTE controlled parts of Trincomalee and the parts of Batticaloa adjacent to Trincomalee district were subjected to massive military onslaughts by the Sri Lanka military that did not spare the civilians. Indeed the area was cut off and as a result accurate recording has not been made to date of the events that resulted in more than 200 civilian deaths. This is a brief description of the events over this six months period. The number of people killed in each of these military assaults is sketchy.

However, accurate data obtained from AGA divisional offices, where families registered the loss of family members gives away the picture.



The onslaught was started on the pretext of taking control of a sluice gate that let water to the rice fields from a water tank called the Mavilaru. Tamils in Muthur in Trincomalee where this water tank is located closed the sluice gate that let water to several acres of paddy fields as a protest for not giving them the same

water supply facilities. Though this dispute was resolved with the mediation of the SLMM, the government went ahead with its onslaught.

The first onslaught from air and land over the Mavilaru issue was staged on 6 August. The villages that were affected on that day include, Eechilampattu, Nallur and Upparu.

Already, there were many displaced people in these villages who had displaced earlier due to previous assaults in Sampur nearby. The displaced civilians had by now got pushed from Muthur East in Trincomalee by continuous onslaughts into Vaharai, a narrow strip of coastal belt joining Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts. The second largest assault took place on 19 August targeting Vaharai. Again land and air attack on the civilians resulted in more than 100 deaths.

Families did not even have the chance to give decent burials for the dead. Civilians who were still left behind in the Muthur East area north of Vaharai were now considered to be families of LTTE members and the Sri Lanka military brutally attacked these people on 28 August. When the SLA started its attack, the people tried to move out using the bridge at Ilankathurai-Muhathuvaram. The bridge was destroyed by the SLA preventing any escape of the people. In the ensuing attack at least 25 civilians were killed.

Having expelled the people by such attacks on Muthur East, the SLA began its onslaughts on Vaharai, where the displaced civilians were crowded. This area saw massive attacks during November and December months, causing hundreds of deaths. While this was going on over a period of six months, the Government of Sri Lanka prevented, humanitarian agencies including the ICRC, and even the SLMM from visiting Vaharai. When the SLMM was finally permitted to go, people pleaded with the SLMM to give them protection from the bombing and shelling. For the six months the Government of Sri Lanka did not even allow food convoys to enter Vaharai. On more than two occasions, attempts made by ICRC to take food convoys were thwarted by the SLA.

Massacres of Tamils

Eventually, the SLA succeeded in its attempt to push all the people out of Vaharai as a way to expelling the LTTE from the area. LTTE too was criticized internationally for preventing the fleeing civilians and not allowing the civilians to leave Vaharai sooner. Some of the civilians took to their feet and walked through forests to escape the attacks and hunger. Five civilians who took by boat were drowned when their boat capsized. Tamil people on the other hand were critical of the international community for failing to condemn the indiscriminate attack on civilians and for denying them humanitarian aid.

See also AI Index: ASA 37/033/2006 (Public), 8 November 2006

Available names of victims (name, age)

1. Ariyam Arasaretnan, 42
2. Gopalapillai Konesarajah, 46
3. Gunanathagam Sarojini, 10
4. Gunanathagam Rajkumar, 6
5. Gunanathagam Sivitha, 10
6. Gunanathan Manchuladevi, 23
7. Ilayathamby Bavani, 24
8. Kathirkamathamby Natkunam, 36
9. Murugupillai Thangavel, 22
10. Seeniththamby Mahalingam, 32
11. Sellakkandu Chanthirakala, 18
12. Singaravel Thiraviyamalar, 55
13. Sinnathamby Muthulingam, 45
14. Sivakumar Rosipiriyar, 1
15. Sivalingam Sivakumar, 25
16. Sounthalingam Thavanya, 21
17. Subramaniyam Yoheswaran, 29
18. Suntharalingam Kanapathipillai, 62
19. Tharmalingam Poomani, 45
20. Velan Tharmalingam, 50
21. Vasanthakumar Thivya, 14
22. Jeevan Chithiravel
23. Kanthalingam Rajesvaran
24. Raman Thevarajah, 25
25. Sinnathamby Sivasangar, 27
26. Vetrivel Arumugam, 28
27. Nallathamby Thiyakarasa, 48
28. Alakuraja Selvaratnam
29. Kalikkuddi Pathma
30. Kumarappillai Thivakaran
31. Marimuththu Nahesvaran
32. Marimuththu Sounthararaja

33. Nagalingam Indran, 46
34. Naguleswaran Premalatha, 35
35. Sinnaththamby Sivasothy
36. Subramaniyam Nanthini
37. Vasanthakumar Sumanathan
38. Vettrivel Koneswaran
39. Vijayakumar Rathikala
40. Yogeswaran Sithamparam, 45
41. Alakuvel Yoganathan, 26
42. Ariyamalar Arasaratnam, 33
43. Arulampalam Jeganathan, 12
44. Arumugam, 34
45. Balasundaram Thavamany, 27
46. Chellaiya Jeyachandran, 24
47. Disanakka Pathmasiri, 27
48. Ganesalingam Sasikkuar, 17
49. Ganesh Gopal, 19
50. Inparasa Tharsini, 7
51. Jegatheesan Manikkapody, 19
52. Jeyathan Naguleswaran , 21
53. K.Ajanthan, 15
54. K.Pushpan, 25
55. K.Rathi, 31
56. Kanapathippillai Rajeendran, 27
57. Kanthasamy Sankar, 23
58. Kanthasamy Santhkanagam, 20
59. Konamalai Nagendran, 70
60. Kopalakirushnan Thanapakkiyam, 28
61. Kovintharasa Thavarasa, 32
62. Logitharasa Sasikaran, 26
63. Mahendran Varathan, 24
64. Markkandu Kallippilai, 52
65. Muththaiyah Sivamani, 58
66. Muththaiya Paskaran, 29
67. Myilvaganam Gunarasa, 31
68. N.David, 25
69. N.Gunarasa, 22
70. N.Pakkiyarasa, 40
71. N.Vimalenthiran, 35
72. Nagarasa Yokeswaran, 28
73. Naguleswaran, 32
74. Nakalingam Thiraviyamalar, 65
75. Nanthakumar Thanusalin, 4
76. Navaratnam Nishanthan, 20
77. Pathakuddy Nagentheran, 20
78. Pathakuddy Thiyananthini, 22

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79. Pattgunaraja Koneswaran, 31
80. Pillaiyan Thavanesan, 36
81. R.Ramachchanthiran, 32
82. Rasenthiram Prapu, 17
83. Ratheeswaran Sathursan, 0
84. Ratheeswaran Vijaya, 30
85. Raveenthiran Kopinath, 22
86. S.Jeyakanthan, 21
87. S.Kiruparaja, 30
88. S.Sivanesan, 25
89. S.Thayakaran, 29
90. Sabapathy Manikkapody, 27
91. Sabaretnam Sanmuganathan, 29
92. Saravanamuththu Santhirasekaran, 22
93. Sasikumar Chosspiriyan, 0
94. Seeniththambi Bavani, 22
95. Sellapillai Tharmalingam, 31
96. Selvaraja Srikantharaja, 17
97. Sinnaththambi Niranjan , 20
98. Sinnaththambi Niththiyananthan, 22
99. Sithuran Chandran, 39
100. Sivagnasuntharam Santhiramohan, 23
101. Sivakolunthu Pakkiyaraja , 30
102. Sivararasa Indran, 46
103. Sivarasa Vijaya, 34
104. Soundraraja Koneswaran, 28
105. Suntharalingam Yuvanathan, 10
106. Thambaiya Nimalanathan, 34
107. Thambipillai Varatharaja, 22
108. Thambiraja Pillaiyan, 51
109. Thampaiya Ranjan, 24
110. Thangaththurai Jokeswaran, 27
111. Tharmalingam Sumathy, 42
112. Tharmarasa Santhiran, 20
113. Thiyagarasa Tharshika, 11
114. Thiyakarasa Thashanth, 16
115. Varatharaja Gnanawathy, 58
116. Velupillai Ranjan, 35
117. Velupillai Manojkumar, 28
118. Vetrivel Navaneethan, 22
119. Vigneswaran
120. Vinayagamoorthy Viswalingam, 19
121. Viswalingam Thuraisamy, 44

134. Allaipiddy shelling 13 Aug 2006



Allaipiddy is one of the islets off the Jaffna coast. Following clashes between the Sri Lanka military and the LTTE near Allaipiddy, the military fired indiscriminately towards the PhilipNeri church where people had taken refuge. The total death toll which many say was very high remains unrecorded to this date. The Parish Priest of the PhilipNeri church, Fr Jim Brown, who witnessed the entire shelling incident, was later disappeared by the Sri Lanka military.

See also: PUBLIC AI Index: ASA 37/025/2006, 12 September 2006

One young girl who wishes to remain anonymous later wrote about her experience caught up in this shelling. Her writing is important because there are no other recording of the events of that night. According to her, they felt trapped as the shelling exploded all around them. They sought safety in the PhilipNeri church. Then the SLA persons came to the church and promised to escort the people to Jaffna. What the SLA did was to use the people as shields and then once they neared their own camp abandoned the people who had to dodge shells and find their way back to the church. The SLA repeated this a few times before people realized what they were actually doing. A few hours later shells came directly at the church. There was fire from the naval gunboats as well. Many people were by now dead. Children lost parents. After the carnage when Fr Jim Brown tried to recover the bodies but the Navy obstructed it. To date the exact number of people killed has not been recorded.

This same PhilipNeri church was at the centre of another large scale disappearance in the 1990 which is covered in Section 71 of this book.

Available names of victims (name, age)

1. A John Robert, 41
2. K Mary Manjula, 45
3. K Menis, 19
4. K Michael, 55
5. K Nadaraja, 60
6. K Thevakumar, 28
7. K Uthayakumar, 35
8. L Gnanapragasam, 70
9. M Ramesh, 26
10. P Thevanayaki, 30

11. P Velicia, 20
12. S Anandam, 51

135. Senchcholai bombing 14 Aug 2006

In the Senchcholai complex in Vallipunam in the Mullaithivu district



hundreds of female students in the age group of 17-20 were gathered on 10 August 2006 for a weeklong training in leadership and first aid which was intended for preparing the students for leadership in their school and community during the impending war.

On 14 August 2006 around 7.30am, Sri Lankan Air Force carried out extensive bombing. 52 students and two staff were killed. 130 students were seriously injured. Many more received minor injuries. Three of the injured girls lost one leg and another girl lost an eye. A further three of the injured girls were sent by the Mullaithivu hospital to Kandy for treatment. Sri Lankan Terrorism Investigation Department (TID) immediately put the three injured girls under arrest. The three girls were eventually cleared and were brought to Vavuniya hospital to return to their homes in Vanni when one of the injured girls died. The other two girls were immediately taken back Kandy hospital. Eventually the whereabouts of the two girls became mysterious except that their parents were permitted to meet the girls at prearranged locations. The parents of the girls remain at a loss as to the detention of the two girls without charges for almost two years.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Arulampalam Yasothini, 18
2. Balakrishnan Mathani, 18
3. Chandramohan Nivethika, 17
4. Chandrasekaran Vijeyakumari, 27
5. Kanagalingam Nirupa, 17
6. Kanagalingam Nirusa, 17
7. Kanapathipillai Nanthini, 18
8. Kandasamy Kumarasamy, 48
9. Kiritharan Thayini, 16
10. Kubenthiraselvam Lihitha, 19
11. Mahalingam Vasantharani, 18
12. Mahalingam Vensidiyoola, 17
13. Markupillai Kelansuthayini, 18
14. Murugaiah Arulselvi, 18

15. Muthaih Indra, 18
16. Nagalingam Kokila, 19
17. Nagalingam Theepa, 19
18. Naguleswaran Nishanthini, 19
19. Nallaipillai Ninthuja, 18
20. Navaratnam Santhakumari, 18
21. Nilayinar Nivakini, 17
22. Pathmanathan Kalaipriya, 18
23. Puvanesekaram Puvaneswari, 17
24. Rasamohan Hamsana, 19
25. Rasenthiraselvam Mahilvathani, 18
26. Raveenthirarasa Ramya, 18
27. S Jeyarubi, 20
28. Santhakumar Sukirtha, 19
29. Santhanam Sathyakala, 20
30. Sellam Nirojini
31. Shanmugarasa Paventhini
32. Sivamayajeyam Kokila
33. Sivamoorthy Karthikayini, 18
34. Sivanantham Thivya
35. Sivasubramanium Vathsalamary, 20
36. Solomon Singarasa, 65
37. Suntharam Anoja, 17
38. Thambirasa Lakiya , 17
39. Thambirasa Suganthini, 18
40. Thambirasa Theepa, 19
41. Thamilvasan Nivethika, 18
42. Thanabalasingam Bakeerathy, 19
43. Thanikasalam Thanusa, 19
44. Tharmakulasingam Kemala, 18
45. Tharmarasa Brintha, 17
46. Thevarasa Sharmini, 17
47. Thirunavukkarasu Niranjini, 18
48. Thuraisingam Sutharsini, 17
49. Thuraisingam Thisani, 18
50. Uthayakumaran Kousika, 19
51. Vairavamoorthy Kirithika, 19
52. Varatharaja Mangaleswari, 17
53. Veerasingam Rajitha, 18
54. Vijayabavan Sinthuja, 18
55. Vivekananthan Thadchayini, 18

136. Poththuvil massacre 17 Sept 2006

Poththuvil, located in the Amparai district, has a water reservoir called Raththan. The bank of this reservoir is in the Muslim Poththuvil GS Division but was transferred to the Lapugala Sinhala GS Division. As a result, there were many land disputes between the Sinhala and Muslim



communities. Tension prevailed between the two communities. On 17 September 2006, Sri Lankan Special Task Force (STF) of the police killed ten Muslim men who went to the bank of the reservoir to repair the bank. One survivor was rescued by the people and was admitted to the hospital. Angry Muslims threw stones at the STF and

demanded the STF out of their village.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Ameer, 19
2. Aneez, 19
3. Athukunchu, 18
4. Fairuz, 19
5. Faizal, 19
6. Hamsudeen, 18
7. Jawar, 20
8. Navaz, 18
9. Rishad, 21
10. Shiam, 20

137. PTK bombing 16 Oct 2006

Sri Lankan aerial bombing on 16 October 2006, in Puthukkudiyiruppu in the Mullaithivu district, killed four people including a baby and a four year girl.



Large number of shrapnel also fell inside a children's home, Arivuchcholai Children's Home, nearby that was housing more than 200 boys. One boy in the children's home was also slightly injured. Nine homes were damaged.

One of the families was in their bunker with their one month old baby. The bomb exploded only 8 metres from the bunker. The baby went into a coma and was rushed to the hospital and the baby recovered. One house that was damaged had 300 chickens kept in an enclosure. This has vanished without a trace. Another house in which a 12

year girl died and 6 members of the family were injured had two buses parked in its yard. These also completely disappeared.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Sivakumar Thanusiya, 4
2. Thavarasa Indra, 42
3. Thavarasa Thushanthini, 14
4. Yutechristin Thansika, 1

138. Kilinochchi hospital precincts bombing 02 Nov 2006

In the poorly resourced health service in the Vanni area the Kilinochchi district hospital is the only one with a few modern facilities. In 1998 it was bombed out and destroyed. The hospital was eventually rebuilt and opened in a new location in 2005.



Sri Lankan Air Force bombers bombed the precincts of the newly built Kilinochchi district hospital again on 2 November 2006. Sixteen bombs were dropped and fifteen of them exploded. One house behind the hospital was flattened. Five civilians inside the home, including two students of Kilinochchi Central College, were killed. The Kilinochchi district hospital sustained damages. Three hospital employees and three patients also were injured. The roof ceiling of the hospital fell down. Shrapnel were strewn inside many

of the hospital wards including the maternity ward. The bombing forced the patients to run out of the hospital in panic in the middle of treatment. Three hundred inpatients and 700 outpatients scattered in fear. Among them were newborn infants and mothers who had just given birth to them. Since it was school closing time school children also screamed and ran in panic. The SLMM and ICRC viewed the dead, injured and the damages to the hospital.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Muruhesu Markandu, 63
2. Muruhesu Shanmuharatnam, 53
3. Ratnam Saraswathy, 60
4. Shanmuharatnam Krishanth, 19
5. Shanmuharatnam Sasi, 20

139. Vavuniya Agriculture School massacre 18 Nov 2006

On 18 November 2006, the students of the Vavuniya Agriculture School in Thandikulam were taking part in a Shramadana activity of tidying up the yards of their school complex. Following an attack on the Sri Lankan military nearby, the military entered the school complex and ordered the students to come near them and then they opened fire. The students fell down to the ground. The military pointed to one student, Achchuthan, and ordered him to come near them. When Achchuthan walked towards them with his hands raised, he was shot many times and he died on the spot. The other students were then shot while they pleaded with the military to spare them. Four students died in this shooting and another eleven were injured.

140. Padahuththurai bombing 2 Jan 2007

On 2 January 2007, a small fishing community in Padahuththurai in Mannar district was bombed by the Sri Lankan Air Force. 15 civilians from one extended family, including six children, were killed and another 35 civilians were injured. Many among the injured were permanently maimed. The community is made up of about 40 tight knit extended families. Most are



refugees displaced from Jaffna in 1995 who decided to make this location their home. The Padahuththurai location was ideal for small scale fishing which most of the men in the community did in small manual boats. A further number of families from Jaffna joined them in 2006 as the death squads began killing

people who supported the LTTE in Jaffna.

On 1st January 2007, the New Year was celebrated by the community as most Christians in the island do. 2nd January was a relaxed day and the community awaited the arrival of one of its families who had gone away to celebrate new-year with other relatives 10 Kms away. For two hours, they heard the drone of the usual spy plane which concerned them but that was common. There was no noise of a bomber which would have send them scurrying for safety. At 9.35 am, the eagerly awaited Kuhan and his family arrived walking from the bus stand a bit further away. The entire clan, especially the children ran to greet, happy New Year. That was the last pleasant memory of the community. Some of the men had taken to the sea early that morning and they saw their homes in fire. They knew immediately what has happened and rushed back. Sahayarasa tells what he did.

“I was at sea, I heard the Kfir. I heard the bomb explosion. I saw our homes on fire. I got off the boat into the water and started to walk towards home. I could not get back immediately because pieces were flying. I met my wife and two children near the shore all of them injured. I ran towards my home. Mother was in her seat her head resting forward on a tree. She was dead. I lifted her head. My baby was on her lap. His head was blown up.

We had to put his body in sack. My sister was dead; her children were dead. All the bodies were bloodied”.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Alvin Ananthi , 32
2. Alvin Vtithusa, 4
3. Anthinipillai Irasakumary, 57
4. Anthoni Sathiyapillai, 26
5. Arulampalam Kuhan, 36
6. Kuhan Thayalan, 2
7. Kuhan Valestina, 30
8. Pavalam Jameson, 12
9. Sahajarasa Mathusan, 1
10. Uthayakumar, 55
11. Uthayakumar Malini, 27
12. Uthayakumar Tharshika, 1
13. Vijay Vinoyan, 4
14. Vijayan Tharshini, 8
15. Vijayan Vijitha , 35

141. Silavaththurai claymore attack 02 Sept 2007



Due to offensives of the Sri Lankan military on Mannar in 2007, people from Silavaththurai began fleeing their homes. One van carrying 13 fleeing civilians came under the claymore attack of the Sri Lankan military on 2 September.

Since the attack took place in the middle of military clashes the bodies of the victims were not removed for two days. The decomposing bodies were eventually removed by the ICRC and brought to Mannar hospital. Among the victims was a father, mother and their four-year-old son. Just three weeks later, on 26 September, Father Nicholas Pillai Pakiaranjith, was killed in a similar claymore attack, near the same area while he was transporting food for the refugees who have swelled in numbers as the attacks intensified. His assistant was also killed.

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Available names of victims (name, age)

1. Jesuthasan Eliszabeth, 42
2. Jeyaraj Oskar, 20
3. Krishnapalan, 25
4. Maniyam Jeyaraj, 50
5. Mrs Johns
6. Nakamuththu Saroja, 60
7. Pukenthiran
8. Puvi Suvetha, 4
9. Selvakumar, 24
10. Selvakumar Prinsy, 25
11. Selvarasa Rakulan, 4

142. Periyamadu shelling 25 Oct 2007



Following shelling by Sri Lanka military from the start of August 2007, people from the Manthai West AGA Division started to displace and the IDPs had taken refuge in camps in the village of Periyamadu.

On 25 October 2007, Sri Lanka military from the Thallady camp started shelling the Periyamadu village. Three civilians from one family were killed. Among them

was a full term pregnant woman. Nine people were injured. One of the injured women, Jepalasingam Thiraviyam, said from her hospital bed, *“After my first husband died of illness, I married Jeyabalasingam. We had five children. We displaced together with our relatives to Periyamadu just a month ago because our own village, Vannankulam, was coming under Sri Lankan Navy shelling. Now my husband and two of my daughters were killed by this shelling”*.

Parish priest of Periyamadu, Sebamalai said, *“I was in Madhu at the time of the shelling. I went to the location of shelling as soon as I heard about it. I could see human body parts all over the place. All the people affected in this incident were recently displaced from Mullaithivu.”*

143. Tharmapuram bombing 25 Nov 2007

On 25 November 2007, Sri Lankan Air Force dropped more than eight bombs over the Tharmapuram area in Kilinochchi district.

NESOHR

Information collected by SNE



Three civilians from one family in one house were killed by the bombing. Another child from another house was also killed. Six civilians, including a couple, were seriously injured. One of the injured died in the hospital a few days later. Another injured victim lost her leg. Three houses were flattened in the bombing and another seven houses were damaged.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Kamalraj Thanayoham, 19
2. M Lubashini, 15
3. Varnalingam, 54
4. Varnalingam Sarasvathy, 49
5. Varnalingam Sumithananthini, 25

144. Iyankulam claymore attack 27 Nov 2007



Iyankulam is a very poor village in the Mullaithivu district. The only school in the village is Iyankulam GTM School. The senior students in this village school were regularly given training in first aid and they also help the medical staff working in the nearby Alankulam hospital.

On 27 they were travelling in an ambulance with their trainers to provide first aid for the large crowds that would be gathering for the Heroes' Day celebrations in Vanni. Their ambulance came under the claymore attack of the Sri Lankan military's Deep Penetration Unit.

Six school students, two of their trainers and the driver were killed in the attack. Among the children who were killed are a sister and brother. One girl survived the attack to recount a description of the attackers.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Atputharasa Ajinath, 21
2. Chandrasekaram Dirosha, 17
3. Kanthan

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4. Karunakaran Kowsika, 14
5. Nagaratnam Mathikaran, 15
6. Nagaratnam Piratheepa, 16
7. Nithyanandam Nitharsana, 14
8. Shanmugavel Sakunthala, 17
9. Vairamuthu Kirusha

145. Voice of Tigers Radio station bombing 27 Nov 2007



The Voice of Tigers Radio (VOT) station located on the A9 road in Kilinochchi, the A9 road section in front of VOT, and civilian houses nearby were bombed by Sri Lanka Air Force on 27 November 2007 at 4.30pm. Three VOT employees were killed. Seven more civilians in their houses and travelling on the A9 road were also killed. Ten more civilians were

seriously injured.

The VOT building and equipment were destroyed and were made unusable. This attack on VOT media was condemned by UNESCO. The bombing took place on the day when Tamils commemorate the war heroes and the VOT plays a crucial role in broadcasting the event to the Tamils.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Anantharasa Theivanayaki, 55
2. Kanesamoorthy Subajini
3. Karupaih Priyatharson, 19
4. Muralitharan Sinthujan, 11
5. Rasalingam Piratheepan, 21
6. Sivakumaran, 40
7. Suresh Limbiyo
8. Tharmalingam
9. Thavanamanithevi, 62
10. Thiagaraja Maheswaran

146. Thadchanamadhu claymore attack 29 Jan 2008

On 29 January 2008, a bus carrying mainly school children and teachers came under a claymore attack by the Sri Lanka military Deep Penetration Unit, near the Madhu church complex in the Mannar district. Twenty people in the bus were killed and a further twenty one, seventeen of them seriously,

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Information collected by SNE

were injured. Among those killed are thirteen school children and a school principal. All the 13 students who died were aged between 10 and



On that fatal day, the children and others from the displaced community that had taken refuge in the Madhu church complex were returning home, most of them from the Mannar Sinapandivirichchan Government Tamil Mixed School (GTMS), which is 5 Kms away. Both the children and the public take the same bus that plies between Madhu and their school as there is no school bus service. Around 2.30pm as the bus was nearing the Madhu church the claymore exploded.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. A Bruno, 12
2. A Jenistan Peries, 12
3. A Preeton, 14
4. Anton Satheeson, 10
5. Gnanaprakasam John Milton, 16
6. Gunasingam A Tessman, 15
7. K Gerard Gnanakaran, 28
8. K Shanmugasuntharam, 65
9. Mrs Lambert, 50
10. Pathmarasa Janarthanan, 11
11. Rajasooriyan Mangaleswary, 37
12. Rajasooriyar Tharsika, 15
13. S Mary Josepin, 30
14. Santhan Bernard, 16
15. Soosaiappu Samson Souza, 12
16. Stalin Suresh Lambert, 23
17. Vimalanathan Reetamma, 41
18. Xavier Arns Basilio, 10
19. Yute Collins Jeni, 12
20. Yute Conston Rennie, 15

147. Kiranchi bombing 22 Feb 2008

On 22 February 2008, Sri Lankan Air Force bombed the village of Kiranchi in Poonahar in the Kilinochchi district. Eight civilians staying in three

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homes died on the spot. Among them were a mother, her baby and her four years old child. Twelve civilians were taken to hospital with serious injuries and one injured woman died of her injuries in the hospital.



Names of victims (name, age)

1. Indran Lalitha
2. Kathiravelu Neelakandar, 79
3. Kisnasamy Sivananthi, 27
4. Sasikaran Kajeewan, 4
5. Sasikaran Kowrinayaki, 34
6. Sasikaran Thamiventhan, 0
7. Suthakaran Sumathi, 30
8. Tharmalingam Poomani, 68
9. Vijayakumar Vithusha, 9

148. Murukandy claymore attack 23 May 2008



On 23 May 2008, a private van carrying nineteen members of an extended family including several children was travelling on the Murukandy-Akkarayan road in Kilinochchi when the van came under a claymore attack of the Sri Lanka military Deep Penetration Unit, near Murukandy. Sixteen civilians including five children were killed and the other three passengers were injured. The extended family in the

van was returning from Mulankavil where they had visited a relative who was a patient at the Mulankavil hospital. All the five children killed in this attack are not only from one extended family but they also attended the same school in Parathipuram.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Alagan Subramaniam, 40
2. Chandramohan Karthika, 10

NESOHR

Information collected by SNE

3. Chandrsekaram Keerthika, 11
4. Kanes Thanaraj, 34
5. Karuppaih Unga
6. Pannerselvam Alahurane, 45
7. Periyasamy Vijayaratnam
8. Rasenthiram Kalavalli, 29
9. Samikannu Karuppaih
10. Selvarasa Vimalathevi, 34
11. Subramaniam Sarasvathi, 46
12. Subramaniam Thanaladchmi, 54
13. Vijayaratnam Loganantha
14. Vijayaratnam Priyathanushan, 7
15. Vijayaratnam Sivalaksala, 16
16. Vijayaratnam Vithushan, 9

149. Nahathambiran pilgrim claymore attack 02 June

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, due to the frequent claymore attacks and aerial bombing, such temple festivals and other public functions did not attract huge crowd in the Vanni area during the period of this attack. 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 travelling on the Oddisuddan-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.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Iyathurai Vasanthakumar, 30
2. Kanapathipillai Kanesh
3. Kanapathipillai Muruhathas, 38
4. Kanesalingam Kanista, 8
5. Muruhathas Thanushan, 4
6. Tharmalingam Loheswari, 45

150. PTK bombing – 15 June 2008

Puthukkudiyiruppu (PTK) is the biggest and the busiest town in the Mullaithivu district. On 15 and 16 June 2008, Sri Lankan bombers conducted extensive aerial raid over this town. Four civilians were killed and a further 10 were injured in the attack on the 15th. School, hospital, temple, market, commerce buildings and homes were damaged. PTK MV School, Zonal Education Office, PTK hospital and Sri Kanthasamy Murugan temple sustained damages. Seven homes were completely damaged and a further 25 homes sustained some damages.



Names of victims (name, age)

1. Iyathurai Suntharalingam, 47
2. Subramaniam Suhanthan, 19
3. Thavarasa Banushan, 19
4. V Nahathabmirasa, 20

151. Puthumurippu IDP shelling 30 August 2008

The ongoing movement of IDPs that began in Mannar in mid 2006 had by August 2008 reached crisis proportion. The number of recent IDPs in Vanni has by then reached 150,000. Puthumurippu in Kilinochchi is one location where these IDPs were crowded in August 2008. Three young families from Parapukadanthan in Mannar had started their displacement around August 2007. They moved to Kaliyadi in Mannar, then to Paliyaru in Mullaithivu, then to Mulankavil and then to Vannerikulam both in Kilinochchi. They moved to Puthumuruppi in Kilinochchi just ten days prior to the shelling attack on them.



On 30 August Sri Lankan military fired shells fell right in the middle of the three shelters the three families have setup in a piece of land. The resulting carnage was heavy, affecting the young parents and their very young children. Five people from the three families including a one month old baby who was yet to be given a name and a toddler were killed.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Visvanathan Thilakes, 35
2. Karuppai Anantharasa, 28

3. Anantharasa Gowtham, 2
4. Alahesan Pathmalatha, 28
5. Baby, 0

152. Kumarapuram bombing 10 Oct 2008



Kumarapuram is about seven kilometres from the Kilinochchi town centre. The aerial bombardment on 10 October 2008 is part of a very long series of aerial bombardment of the densely populated Kilinochchi town centre and its surroundings during this period. It was a time when massive exodus of the

people both residents and IDPs were taking place as a result of this. The bombing on this particular occasion killed a female school teacher, her ten year old daughter and another woman. The teacher's husband, their son and five more civilians sustained serious injuries. The injured husband said after the tragedy,

"I am a local government employee of the Pachilaipalli AGA Division. We have three children. We displaced from our home town in Pachilaipalli in August 2006. We built a mud house in Kumarapuram in Kilinochchi and were living there since 2006. On the fatal day at 6.25am, my wife and I were cooking for the day prior to leaving for work. We heard the noise of the bombers. We took our three children and ran to the bunker. Three bombs fell around our home. One fell very close to our bunker. My wife died on the spot. My daughter was unconscious and later died in the hospital. My son and I received injuries and we both found it difficult to breathe immediately after the explosions. My hearing has also been affected by the noise and shock. We have displaced again and are living with relatives. We held the funeral for my wife and daughter at this relative's house".

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Arumainathan Chandrathevi, 54
2. Arumainathan Archika, 10
3. Manoharan Usha, 36

153. Uruthirapuram shelling – 24 Oct 2008



Uruthirapuram is about four kilometres from Kilinochchi town and even in late October when the attack took place the Uruthirapuram Sivanagar Government Tamil Mixed School was

still functioning with an enrolment of 350 students. People who had recently displaced returned frequently to remove their possessions. This settlement was hit by shelling on 24 October. The location of the attack is shown in the map which depicts the density of civilian institutions in the area. A father and his adult son were killed in this attack. Sathananthan, son and brother of the two victims says,

“We displaced from our home in Kilinochchi two weeks ago due to constant shelling. However, we go back to our home sometimes to bring our remaining possessions. Our father is also the president of the temple committee of the temple near our home. On that day all three of us with other members of the committee went and we had just loaded a tractor-trailer with some of our things and some of the temple property. My father and my brother were following the tractor on a motorbike. We were staying back at our home for a little longer. My father warned us before leaving to be careful because the shelling was heavy. Tragically it was they who were killed by the shelling. This is my brother’s two year old child”.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Ramalingam Vijayanathan, 32
2. Sinnaih Ramalingam, 68

154. Vallipunam bombing 30 Oct 2008

Aerial bombing on a settlement bordering the Vallipunam Kanista Vidhyalayam School on 30 October at 9.30am killed a fourteen year old boy and injured six more civilians. More importantly, the bombing took place while the school was in session and close 1000 children who were at school were immediately sent home. The school roll at this time had swelled to 2000 due to large scale displacement and the school was running two sessions to cope with the numbers. Just 200 meters from the school was the Senthair Children’s Home caring for 190 children. Several pieces of shrapnel also fell in the land of this home, one just behind the children’s hostel, one in front of the children’s dining room and one on the well used by the children. It was sheer luck none of the children were hurt on this occasion.



Three months after this attack, and following frequent shell explosions near it, this children’s home displaced to Suthanthirapuram in February 2009. In their new location a child belonging to this children’s home was killed and three more were injured in shelling attack.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Selvarasa Satheeswaran, 15

155. Ulavanoor cluster bombing 29 Nov 2008

At 1.30am on 29 November, as the IDP residents in the Ulavanoor kudiyiruppu, who were just recovering from a disastrous flood, were asleep, sixteen cluster bombs were dropped on the Ulavanoor settlement. The newly settled IDPs who due to the floods, did not even have bunkers to take cover, ran into the forests through flood water in thick darkness. A five year old child and another civilian were killed and nineteen more civilians were seriously injured, among them are seven children. Two of the injured have lost their limbs and some suffered

A Russian made bomb dropped on 29 November that did not explode is pictured above. This type of bomb is known as cluster bomb. It contains several smaller bombs inside and cause damage to wide area thus often having disastrous effects on civilian population. For this reason there is currently an international ban on this type of bomb. Several countries have already announced that they will not use these bombs. The use of cluster bombs was reported several times in attacks on Vanni that continued for six months after this attack. However, deteriorating conditions prevented on the spot collection of evidence.



Names of victims (name, age)

1. Sivakumar Sutharson, 5
2. Raman Ramasamy, 80

156. Vaddakkachchi bombings 1-20 Dec 2008



Heavy shelling of Vaddakkachchi area in the Kilinochchi district from 1st to 22nd December caused death and injury to several children. On 1 December a six year girl, Nirojini Arulanantham, walking home from school was killed on the spot by shelling. On 13 December five months old baby, Jeyaruban Ajanthan, was killed by shelling while he was sleeping. On 17 December five months old baby, Ravishankar Rajithan, was killed and his mother was seriously injured by shelling. Two more adult

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civilians were killed during these shelling attacks. Two siblings, eight year old Sinthuja and ten year old Mithushan received serious injuries to leg, chest and abdomen. Altogether 19 civilians were injured in the attacks in Vaddakkachchi during this period. Dr Krishnapillaik of Vaddakkachchi hospital that was operational at the time said,

“70 in-patients and about 550 outpatients faced great difficulties in seeking protection from the aerial attack. People jumped into the muddy bunkers frightened of the attack. The operation theatre of the hospital was damaged by this aerial attack.”

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Ponnaih Ramachandran, 45
2. Ravishankar Rajinthan, 0
3. Selvaratnam Jesuthan, 29
4. Jeyaruban Ajanthan, 0
5. Yoalingam Thushyanthan
6. Arulanantham Nirojini, 6

157. Murasumoddai bombing 31 Dec 2008



Two consecutive air attacks on 31 December on the same area of Murasumoddai killed five civilians and wounded sixteen. The repeated attacks caused the exodus of the people in the area. The people fleeing after the first air strike came under the second aerial attack causing widespread panic among them.

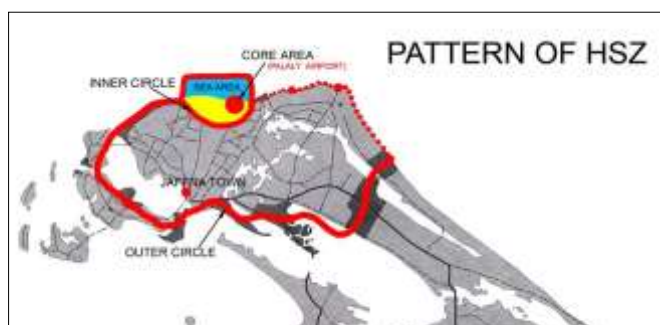
One of the bombing was close to the branch office of the ICRC. A cow was killed in this air strike and it was seen lying in front of the ICRC office.

Names of victims (name, age)

1. Namanathan Mariammah, 55
2. Namanathan Judha Margaret, 24
3. Markandu Sivananthan, 30
4. Pararajasingam Chandrabose

158. Jaffna from 2006 – 2008

Jaffna has been gradually encircled since 1980 with large military installations using the land that have been taken over after evicting the people in it. People evicted from these areas almost 30 years ago are still living as IDPs or refugees in other countries without receiving any compensation. From 2006, the military and its allied paramilitaries unleashed a terror campaign on the people of Jaffna thus encircled by large military installations.



In this period, all residents at every home in Jaffna were ordered to take a group photo and have it ready when the military comes “checking”. If there is a person in the home who is not on the

group photo, that person immediately becomes a suspect and is arrested. The effect of this on the social life of a community is far reaching. Deaths and disappearances became a daily occurrence. In the name of “checking” military would enter private homes at midnight and shoot on the spot or abduct residents in a “white van”. NESOHR had collected data on nearly 800 extrajudicial killing by shooting and other face to face killings and nearly 600 disappearances mostly by “white van” abductions between 2006 and 2008. These statistics for Jaffna makes up half of the total toll due to these two types of violations for the entire island for this period. During this period a unique phrase, “voluntary remand”, became part of the terror culture in Jaffna. Civilians who are threatened would seek protection with the Jaffna branch office of the Human Rights Commission who would in turn place them in prison to save their life. Prisons became overcrowded with such persons whom at times included entire families including children. Victims and their families refused to speak about the terror they faced even in anonymity. Court cases were initiated on these incidents and the court records were impressive for its lack of facts. Witnesses for the cases described in courts how the victim was dragged out from their homes, shops, and the roads and shot dead in the full view of many. Yet in no cases did the witnesses identify the killer except by the phrase “unidentified gunmen”.

159. Events since 2009

The events after the dawn of 2009 still remain darkened due to a war of genocide without witness carried out by the Sri Lankan military on the people caught in a small area that was under the control of the LTTE at the time.

There were clear signals of this impending disaster from the beginning of 2008. As early as 2007, severe restrictions were imposed by the military on the goods arriving to the LTTE area. Several international NGOs that were involved in rebuilding, following the 2004 tsunami, withdrew due to these restrictions on the goods that could be brought in. The restrictions were gradually tightened as time progressed.



Fuel restrictions were the first to come forcing the fuel prices in Vanni to be eight to ten times higher than the rest of the country. Then came the problems with the medical supplies. Health service professionals in Vanni began repeated appeals for medicine stock that were running out while hospital admissions increased due to injuries caused

by attacks. Schools that initially suffered shortages of text books and stationary were forced to undergo multiple displacements often functioning without the basic space and furniture. Eventually even food supplies started to run very low. Local food production has also ceased as a result of farmers forced out of their land due to artillery and aerial attacks

In 2008, the Sri Lankan Government pulled out of the 2002 ceasefire agreement. This forced the withdrawal of the Scandinavian peace monitors who had arrived in 2002 to monitor the implementation of the ceasefire. This was followed by the eviction of all international agencies from Vanni in September. By now the alarm signals for an impending genocide was unambiguous. Yet the UN agencies left with the others amidst protests by the locals attempting to stop them leaving.

The attacks and large scale repeated displacement continued. January 2009 saw a marked stepping up of indiscriminate attacks on a small area in which the people were now hemmed in. By this time NESOHR staff was unable to travel to work or visit locations of incidents thus bringing an end to the reports that were released regularly by it until then.

Sri Lankan government declared its first “No Fire Zone (NFZ)” in January. The attacks on NFZ continued. This first NFZ was followed by two more NFZ as the area held by the LTTE shrunk further. Starvation became common place. Hospitals inside NFZ came under repeated attacks. More than thirty attacks on hospitals, both permanent and makeshift, were reported by various sources. As hospitals displaced and injuries increased, the hospitals became just an open space where injured people were brought. ICRC came two or three days in a week to evacuate the seriously injured people by ship to hospitals outside the war zone. The table below from the March situation report by the Mullaitivu district secretariat giving statistics on ICRC evacuation of the injured is typical. The numbers of victims rose exponentially from this period onwards. The same report said 3551 injured civilians were admitted at Puthumathalan Hospital, the only one operating at that time, in the month of March 2009 and 546 died after admission.

S.No	Date	Name of the Ship	No. of Patients transported
1	02.03.2009	Seruwila 2	148
2	04.03.2009	Green Ocean	344
3	06.03.2009	Green Ocean	402
4	14.03.2009	Green Ocean	447
5	16.03.2009	Green Ocean	482
6	20.03.2009	Green Ocean	454
7	26.03.2009	Green Ocean	493
8	28.03.2009	Green Ocean	496
9	30.03.2009	Green Ocean	540
Total			3806

Four doctors, three working for the Sri Lankan Government health service and one working in the private Ponnambalam hospital, stayed on to treat the injured. The emails sent out by these doctors appealing to the outside world became the only independent source of news from the war zone from now till May 2009. The emails sent out by the doctors during the later part of April painted the very grim picture in Vanni. By now the media also widely quoted internal UN figures of 7000 civilians killed and 14,000 injured up to end of April 2009. The same figures also showed that 116 civilians were killed every day in April compared to 33 by end of January.

In May 2009 the attacks reached crescendo and the media quoted UN sources estimating 1000 deaths per day until 19 May. On 12 May, an email from one of the doctors said,

“NFZ hospital under shell attack on 12 May 2009. This should not happened and unfortunately without end disaster is continuing. Today around 8 am Mullivaikkal new hospital was shell attacked. The time was very busy and many injured civilians were waiting to get their morning

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treatment. Injured civilians relations were on the way to hospital and some were busy with giving their morning meal. Shell hit in front of the admission ward. 26 people died on the spot and few died after. 43 death bodies are kept at hospital. Doctors and hospital are facing problems to work because of the safety. Even the disaster situation few staff engaged in the work. In front of us preventable deaths are happening. What we can do? Who will help the innocent? If further attack, then almost all services will be paralyzed then thousands of patients will suffer and many of their life will not be saved. Administrative Officer of Mullaitivu Regional Director of Health Services died on the spot while he was arranging the admission ward patient.”

By 19 of May, the entire population had left the area under a constant rain of artillery fire. These people are currently incarcerated in detention camps under inhumane conditions. The people who know the full extent of the massacres are thus interned and are prevented from telling their stories. They will be prevented for a long time from telling their stories by the terror tactics that have already been in place in other parts of the Tamil homeland.

The world awaits the full story of 2009.

160. In Pictures



People in Kilinochchi appealing in September 2008 to UN agencies to not leave them



300,000 civilians pushed into a - No Fire Zone (NFZ)

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Living in the NFZ by the sea in the vain hope of international rescue



No Fire Zone under a constant rain of artillery fire



A typical parent-child scene in NFZ



A carnage scene

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Who will hear us cry?



Hospitals not spared



White phosphorous used in the artillery



White phosphorous burns

IPKF Massacres of Tamils

1987 - 1989



NESOHR

North-East Secretariat On Human Rights

(www.nesohr.org)

Introduction

Recording and remembering history is an essential part of the Tamil people struggling against great odds to gain their sovereignty. This publication is part of that essential step of recording history.

The Indian forces under the misnomer IPKF (Indian Peace Keeping Force) arrived in the Tamil homeland in the island of Ceylon in 1987 following the Indo-Lanka accord signed between the Indian and the Sri Lankan Government. The Indian forces soon began military operations against the LTTE and committed many atrocities against civilians in the process. What is recorded here is only a very small part of the more widespread killing of civilians during their military operations. Three aspects of the conduct of the Indian forces demand specific mention: the massacre of staff and patients in the Jaffna hospital, the Valvai massacre in 1989 and the extensive rape of Tamil women.

Many books have been written by Indians who were directly involved in this project. However, there was only one publication by the victims of this project, the people of Tamileelam. This was the book about the Valvai massacre written by Anantharaja, who was directly affected by this massacre. Even this book has gone out of print and is hard to find. There were several copies of this circulating in Vanni but all that has been now destroyed in the final phase of the war in May 2009.

NESoHR (North East Secretariat on Human Rights) and SNE (Statistical Centre for North East) have jointly worked to record large scale massacres of Tamils prior to 2009. This book is the second part of that effort. A book on the massacres carried out by the Sri Lankan military, "Massacres of Tamils – 1956-2008" was published in 2009. This book records the massacres carried out by the Indian forces stationed in the Tamil homeland from 1987-1990.

During the early 1980's India, under Prime Minister Indra Gandhi, aided the Tamil resistance movements probably with the view to control an evolving conflict in its own backyard. This raised hopes among the Tamils that India might invade and create another "Bangladesh" in the island. But the same India turned against the LTTE and the Tamil people during its operations in the period covered in this book confounding Tamils with their perceptions about "mother India". This confusion among Tamils, however, is a reflection of their naiveté about international politics. Tamils have come a long way since. Yet, the reasons for the continuing extreme anti-Tamil stance of the Indian state have not been fully explained. Exposing these reasons is an important task facing the people of Tamileelam.

1. Pirambadi, Potpathi massacre – 12 October 1987



Kokuvil village is situated in the Nallur AGA Division. Kokuvil, Pirambadi Road is about 500 metres west of the Jaffna University Medical faculty.

On 12 October 1987, the Indian forces stationed in the Palaly military camp moved forward in heavy military vehicles towards Jaffna town along the Railway Station Road. It rounded up the Pirambadi Road and started shooting at the people inside their homes. Forty civilians, including babies, women and elderly were killed in this massacre.

On the same day another section of the military moved through a different route and rounded up Potpathi Road. It arrested the people living in the road and took them to the community building located 400 metres northwards from the Kokuvil Pillayar temple. There it ordered the people to lie on the road and ran heavy military vehicles over their bodies. All together 64 civilians were killed in this massacre.

In these incidents that took place in Pirambadi and Potpathi lanes on 12 October 1987 more than one hundred civilians were killed.

Thechenamoorthy Sivarajalingam of 87, Potpathy Road in his affidavit said,

“My brother, Thedchanamoorthy Thavarajalingam aged 44, a Health Supervisor, his wife Thavarajalingam Kanagamalar aged 38, his sons,

Thavarajalingam Haran aged 10, Thavarajalingam Gajendran aged 6, and his daughter Thavarajalingam Dharmika aged 18 months were living in their house at 24, Pirambadi Lane, Kovuvil. Another nephew of mine, Harshan aged 11, was also living with my brother's family.

On that day, we heard heavy firing in the direction of my brother's house. I could go to his house only the next day around 7.00am. There I found the bodies of my brother, his wife, and their baby daughter inside the house. There were two more bodies in my brother's house compound.

I found the three boys, Haran, Gajendran and Harshan hiding under the bed in one bedroom. Gajendran and Harshan were injured and were bleeding."

Nagalingam Nageswari of Ward-7, Nainathivu said in her affidavit,

"I was living with my married older brother Nagalingam Jeevaratnam at 24, Pirambadi Lane, Kokuvil. Our parents died few years earlier. There were, my brother, his two children Kausala and Manoharan, my sisters Anandagowri and Sarathadevi and myself in the household.

From about 1.00am on that day, we were all kept awake by the sound of gun fire. About 5.30am, the Indian soldiers entered the compound of our house and asked us to come out of the house. While the soldiers were in our compound we heard shells exploding nearby. Then, perhaps frightened by the explosions, they turned their guns on us. They shot dead my brother and his six year old son Manoharan. Both my sisters and seven year old niece Kausala were injured by the gun fire and they were later admitted to the Jaffna hospital."

2. Puthukkaddu Junction massacre – 11 October 1987

Puthukkaddu junction is in the Pachchilaipalli AGA Division of Kilinochchi District and lies on the A9 road. Soranpattu, Karanthai and other smaller villages surrounds this junction. This is a T-junction that joins the roads to Maruthankerni, Palai and Kilinochchi. Thus this junction is mostly crowded with travellers going to these areas.

On 11 October 1987, around 3.30pm Indian forces in heavy military vehicles moved from their Elephant Pass military camp towards Jaffna. At the Puthukkaddu junction, the Indian forces suddenly jumped off their vehicles and started shooting at the people who were waiting at the junction, to catch buses for their onward journeys and to shop at the adjoining shops. Eight civilians were killed in this shooting and four more were injured.

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Ilayathambi Perambalan, who owned a shop at this junction and lost two of his children in the above massacre, says,

“The Indian forces suddenly jumped off their vehicles and started shooting at the people waiting in the bus stand and at the shops. Because it was a Sunday, my eldest son and youngest daughter were with me at my shop. In addition one of my shop employees was also there. The Indian forces set fire to the three of them together with the shop. I recovered the three burnt bodies later. All four shops at this junction were smashed by their tanks. A car parked at the junction was also set on fire”.

Available details of those killed (No., Name, Occupation, Age)

01. Kanagaratnam, Driver, 35
02. Kulanthaivelu Selvarasa, Retailer, 22
03. Ponnaih Navaratnam, Security guard, 34
04. Ponnaih Subramanium, Retailer, 40
05. Perambalam Maheswaran, Student, 10
06. Perambalam Kohiladevi, Student, 14
07. Velayutham Senthilnathan, Student, 14
08. Sinnathamby Pasupathipillai, Farmer, 41

Available details of those injured (No., Name, Age)

01. Kanapathipillai Ketheeswaran, 14
02. Subramanium Ehamparan, 45
03. Sinnakuddi Sivarupan, 16

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04. Arumugam Balasingam, 30

3. Jaffna Hospital massacre – October 21, 22 1987

Jaffna hospital was located at the eastern end of Jaffna city. This hospital was the main hospital for all 800,000 people living in the Jaffna peninsula as well as some surrounding cities including Kilinochchi and Mullaithivu. Since 1970 it had been operating with many wards including an emergency ward and a surgery ward treating over 1000 out patients in a day.

Fighting had begun from October 10, 1987 between the IPKF and the LTTE and since that day the IPKF fought continuously to capture Jaffna peninsula.



The IPKF stationed in the Jaffna Fort was continuously bombarding the peninsula with artillery and aerial bombings. Despite the continuous bombings the workers, nurses, and doctors of the Jaffna Hospital continued to work to save peoples' lives despite danger to their own lives.

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On October 21, 1987 the Indian forces advanced towards Jaffna city while continuously bombarding it with artillery and aerial bombs. The patients, nurses, doctors and workers of Jaffna Hospital, seeking safe grounds, went into the X-ray ward of the hospital. At around 3.00pm in the afternoon, the Indian forces had infiltrated the city. At around 4.30 pm, the Indian forces entered the Jaffna Hospital and began shooting workers in uniform, patients, and other innocent people in the hospital. All together 21 staff on duty and 46 patients and visitors died in this massacre. However, families of victims in their affidavits claimed that 135 people were killed in total. This figure is probably based on what they heard others talk of at that time.

The bodies lay in the hospital for three days before they were cremated on the hospital rubbish heap. Every year the Jaffna Hospital holds a memorial for the 21 doctors, nurses, and workers who died while on duty and the 46 patients who also died.

Shanmugalingam Loganayagi of Murugan Veethi, Urumpirai East, Urumpirai in her affidavit said,

“My husband Vaithilingam Shanmugalingam was employed as an Ambulance driver at Jaffna General Hospital. Our house caught fire due to shelling. I fled with my children to the hospital and stayed in his hospital quarters. On 21 October, my husband remained in the Overseer’s office with my two children and I stayed in the X-ray room with my other two children. All around the hospital I heard gun fire and shell fire. The Indian forces entered the hospital premises and started to fire at everyone in sight. They then entered the X-ray room and started firing and throwing grenades. On the next day at 5.00pm, I went to the Overseer’s office and found the

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dead body of my husband. My two children who were with my husband had left the hospital as soon as the firing has started. My youngest child was injured and he was carried to Anaipanthi hospital by his brother.”

Thavamany Rajaratnam of Kalikovilady, Alaveddy North, Alaveddy in her affidavit said,

“My husband, Ariyakuddy Rajaratnam was admitted to Jaffna General Hospital on 18 October for a knee operation. On 23 October, I heard that the Indian forces have entered the hospital and gunned down many patients and staff. But no one dared to go to the hospital because the Indian forces were occupying the hospital. It was only on 15 November my brother-in-law went to the hospital and he was informed by the hospital authorities that my husband was one of the victims shot dead by the Indian forces.”

Pasupatheeswary Krishnaraja of Arasady Road Kondavil East, Kondavil said in her affidavit,

“My husband, children and I were living in our home in Kondavil. Following the clashes between the Indian forces and the LTTE, my husband took us to the General Hospital Jaffna where he was employed as a Supervisor. We were living in his room in this hospital from 12 October. On 21 October, the Indian forces entered the hospital and gunned down several hospital staff, patients and visitors. My husband who was on duty was also shot and killed. The Indian forces burnt the bodies of the dead including that of my husband in the hospital compound.”

Selvaraja Nageswary of 168, Kasturiar Road, Jaffna in her affidavit said,

“My husband was a Hospital overseer attached to the Government Teaching Hospital, Jaffna. On 21 October, he left home for work at 6.30am. The same day about noon my son took me to the hospital to get an insulin injection. As I entered the hospital I found the hospital staff and patients in a state of fear. Mortar fire was being directed at the hospital.

Outpatients, hospital employees and visitors were among the people advised to take shelter in the hall of the ground floor of the administration section. My husband, my son and I were among those who took refuge here. Even at 4.00pm we were all there. About the same time Indian forces in uniform came to the road side entrance of the hall and started firing at us seeking shelter there. We all lay down to the ground. I saw my husband and some others were hit by the gun fire. I receded backwards but I was hit by a grenade. I managed to crawl near my husband and found him lifeless.

The dead, wounded and others who were not injured were still there in the hall next day till about 10 or 11am. The hospital authorities then called out

for us to come out. Since I was injured, I was admitted to the hospital. The dead bodies including that of my husband were still there in the hall. My son and I identified my husband's body on 23 October. My son later told me that the bodies were burnt en masse in the hospital rubbish heap."





The Jaffna Hospital was occupied by the IPKF about 4 p.m. on Deepavali day, October 21, 1987. About 50 people died in the process and their bodies were burnt lay within the hospital premises. On October 23 about 81 bodies were burnt on the orders of Brigadier Brar of the IPKF, the whole operation being supervised by Captain Bist of Headquarters Fort Camp, Jaffna, with the assistance of Dr. Kanagarajah and Dr. Bansari, both of the IPKF. No inquests or postmortems were held before the bodies were disposed of.

REPORT

The dead included 20 members of the hospital's Administrative and X-Ray Branches. Also killed that day were many patients warded in the hospital and their relatives who were visiting them at the time of the IPKF operation, totalling 30. Another 12 bodies in an advanced stage of decomposition were in the mortuary. None of the 12 could be identified.

All 20 of the hospital staff were identified by their colleagues. Of the other 30 only 11 were identified either by relatives or by the identity cards found on the bodies. Some of the dead were beyond identification as the bodies were badly mutilated from the shooting and shelling. Many of the unidentified were believed to have been patients, but positive identification was not possible as many BHTs (Bed Head Tickets) were missing in the chaos and confusion that accompanied the IPKF occupation of the hospital and by the shelling.

Many of the deaths of patients was due to lack of medical care. Several patients badly injured and bleeding profusely after the IPKF shelling of the hospital could not be taken up for immediate surgery as the Operating Theatre had also been damaged by shells. The power failure resulted in the death of 3 patients including an infant in the Intensive Care Unit who at the time was fitted with an electric sucker. The other two were on Ventilators at the time. The Blood Bank could not function after the power failure.

A page (A3 size) in the local paper, Saturday Review, a few weeks later carried a report about this massacre which is reproduced below. Enlarged and thus legible versions of sections of the page numbered 1-3 are also included. The remaining section not enlarged contains the list of victims that are presented in normal text like other sections in the book.

Massacre at the Hospital

We give below the names and designations of the hospital staff killed by the IPKF and where their bodies were found:

1. Dr. A. Sivapathasunderam, Consultant Paediatrician (in X-Ray Block); 2. Dr. M.K. Ganesharatnam, Registrar, Sugery (X-Ray Block); 3. Dr. Parimelalakar, MO, OPD (hospital entrance, facing Clock Tower Rd.); 4. Miss. Vadivel, Matron (AO's Office); 5. Mr. Kanapathy Krishnarajah, Overseer (X-Ray Block); 6. Mr. Kandian Selvarajah, Overseer (X-Ray Block); 7. Miss. Mankayatkarasy; 8. Paramanathan, Nursing Office (X-Ray Block); 9. Miss. Leelawathy, Nursing Office (X-Ray Block); 10. Mr. Vaitilingam Shanmugalingam, Ambulance Driver (Overseer's Office); 11. Mr. Ramalingam Suhumar, labourer (Overseer's Office); 12. Mr. Gopalapillai Uruthiren, labourer (Overseer's Office); 13. Mr. Sivaloganathan, labourer (Overseers' Office); 14. Mr. Ponnambalam Varatharajah, labour (Overseers' Office); 15. Mr. Kurusu John Peter, labourer (Overseers' Office); 16. Mr. Markandu, labourer (Overseers' Office); 17. Mr. Muthukumaru Thurairajah, labourer (Overseers' Office); 18. Mr. Kaniah Vetharanium (Wd. 12 corridor); 19. Mr. Rajaratnam Ratnarajah, labourer (Overseers' Office); 20. Mr. Pandian Sivarajah, labourer (Overseers' Office); 21. Mr. Sinnappu Joganathan, labourer (Overseers' Office).

(died when Ventilator could not be operated after power failure); 65. 4-day old baby (died from neonatal Jaundice); 66. young man, about 20 yrs. Wd. 25 (shell blast); 67. old man, 60 yrs. Wd. 25 (cause of death could not be ascertained).

A report containing all available details as given above was handed over to Dr. Natchinarkiniyan of the Jaffna General Hospital on November 7, 1987.

Available details of those killed (No., Name, Occupation, Age)

1. Arunaselam Sivapathasuntharam, Doctor (Hospital staff)
2. M K Ganesharatnam, Doctor (Hospital staff)
3. Kathirkaamu Parimelalakar, Doctor (Hospital staff)
4. Ramanathan Mankayarkkarsi, Nurse (Hospital staff), 31
5. Mrs Vadivelu, Nurse, (Hospital staff), 48
6. Muthiah Leelavathy, Nurse (Hospital staff), 28
7. Paramanathan, Nurse (Hospital staff),
8. Kandiah Selvarajah, Supervisor (Hospital staff), 56
9. Kanapathi Krishnarajah, Supervisor (Hospital staff), 50
10. Rajaratnam Ratnaraja, Laboratory Technician (Hospital staff), 28
11. Vaithilingam Shanmugalingam, Amb Driver (Hospital staff), 49
12. Kandiah Vetharaniem, Labourer (Hospital staff), 27
13. Kanthan Markandu, Labourer (Hospital staff), 39
14. Kurusumuthu John Peter, Labourer (Hospital staff), 24
15. Kanapathi Sivaloganathan, Labourer (Hospital staff), 23
16. Ramalingam Sukumar, Labourer (Hospital staff), 24
17. Muthukumaru Thurairajah, Labourer (Hospital staff), 26
18. Ponnambalam Varatharajan, Labourer (Hospital staff), 28
19. Gopalapillai Uruthiran, Labourer (Hospital staff), 24
20. Sinnappu Jeyanathan, Labourer (Hospital staff), 36
21. Thangavelu Soundararajah, Student, 6
22. Peliseeyan Satheesyogenthiran, Student, 15
23. Markandu Thiyagarasa, Driver, 48
24. Anonymuthu Antony, Manager, 35
25. Appaiyah Manikkam, Housewife, 79
26. Ariyakuddy Rajaratnam, Driver, 53
27. Ariyaratnam Lilynesam, Housewife, 75
28. Alfred Antonympillai, , 65
29. Alfred Mary Josephine, , 37
30. Jepamani Keethaponkalan, Housewife, 43
31. John Sinnayah, Worker, 65
32. John Simiyon, Carpenter, 67
33. Thomas Perinpanayakam Pastiampillai, Manager, 66
34. Sebastian Thambirajah, MPCs Worker, 55
35. Selliah Thangamani, , 58
36. Sellar Sivapuram, ,

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37. Vellupillai Saravanamuthu, , 60
38. Gnanapragasam Senthormurugan, Business, 40
30. Subramaniam Jeyamohan, Business, 32
40. Sathiyaseelan Jeyaseelan, Student, 17
41. Sinnathambi Velupillai, , 75
42. Sinnavi Sinnathurai, , 57
43. Sivalai Kunaratnam, Postal Worker, 49
44. Soodamani Aavodaiyamma, Housewife, 55
45. Rajadurai Maheswari, Housewife, 46
46. Iraippu Soosaipillai, Retiree, 74
47. Ramasamy Ilangeswaran, Worker, 25
48. Irasu Subramaniam, Cook, 46
49. Nadarajah Jeyaseelan, Harbour Worker, 21
50. Kandiah Navaratnam, Security Guard, 50
51. Kandaih Sivaraja, General Labour, 25
52. Kirubakaran Indrani, Housewife, 32
53. Pastiampillai John Ariamalar, Housewife, 60
54. Pastiampillai Noila Vijaynthi, , 20
55. Thuraisamy Rajendra, Retiree, 70
56. Thuraisamy Mahendra, Banker, 73
57. Thuraisamy Arumugam, , 72
58. Thambipillai Kanagalingam, Technology Assistant, 64
59. Thambipillai Kirubakaran, Worker, 33
60. Thiagarasa Mathiyarasan, Student, 17

Available details of those injured: (No., Name, Occupation, Age)

01. Julius Pradeepan, , 6 months
02. N. Annam, Senior, , 90
03. N. Navarathinam, Worker, 54
04. N. Selliah, Worker, 21
05. Nadarasah Thanabalasingam, Store, 20
06. Navartnam Sunthirakumar, Worker, 18
07. P. Visuvanathan, , 34
08. Pathmanathan Thanapakiyaluxmi, Housewife, 43
09. Patkunarajah Kamala, Student, 25
10. T. Rasenthiran, Worker, 44
11. M. Annaluxmi, Housewife, 75
12. A. Shanmugarasa, Business, 36

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13. A. Kandasamy, Cleaner, 36
14. K. Balaiah, Electrician, 44
15. S. Pathmanathan, Office Worker, 46
16. S. Thavarajan, , 22
17. Sinnappodi Theivanai, Housewife, 65
18. V. Mathijeevan, Driver, 23
19. Rajaratnam Jenarathanan, Student, 20

4. Aralithurai massacre – 22 October 1987



Aralithurai is situated in the Valigamam West Sanganai AGA Division in Jaffna District. The Pannai Bridge in Jaffna that was the main exit route to reach the Jaffna islets was out of use during this period due to the presence of Sri Lankan military close by in the Jaffna Fort. As a result, Aralithurai was serving as the main route to reach the islets. The route was heavily used by people travelling in motorised boats to and from the islets and Jaffna mainland.

On 22 October 1987, about 300 passengers were travelling in about 15 motorised boats towards Jaffna. When the boats docked at the Aralithurai coast, the Indian forces started firing at them from helicopters. Panicked people ran to the Aralithurai Inn for safety. More than seven “rockets” were fired aiming at these people. All together 36 passengers were killed by this

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attack and more than 30 were injured. Seven of the boats were destroyed. Other boats were partially damaged. The injured and the bodies of those killed were taken back to the other shore and from there transported to Urkavalthurai hospital in tractor-trailers. Among those killed were school students and government employees.

Pius Mariyathas of 9/3 4th Cross Street, Near Water Tank, Gurunagar said in his affidavit,

“I am a fisherman. On 10 October there were shells explosion in our area. These shells were fired from the Fort where the Indian forces were stationed. As a result I left home around 4.00pm with my family and took refuge at St Patricks College. Then on 12 October we sought refuge at St Mary’s church in Columbuthurai. Since shells started falling near this area too we shifted again to Chundukuli Girls College.

On 20 October a shell exploded in one of the rooms in the Chundukuli Girls College killing three people and injuring 15 others. About 70 of us arranged a bus to take us to Kayts through the Araly jetty. We arrived at the jetty around 8.00am. Some of us boarded four boats and were moving towards the Saravanai jetty when helicopters hovering over us started firing at the boats. They did this for one hour.

My daughter Mariyathas Sulogini (15) and my mother-in-law Salamipillai were killed by the helicopter fire and my wife Mariyathas Imelda (36) and my father-in-law Sebastie Xavier were seriously injured. Since we were by now close to the shore, I lifted my three other children and put them in the sea. My sons Surenthiran and Suthakar were injured while they were standing in the sea. I took my three children to the shore. Then I carried the rest of my family both dead and injured to the shore.

The dead and injured were transferred to Kayts hospital. My wife succumbed to her injuries at the hospital. Her body with 13 others killed in the incident were buried at the Kayts cemetery. Five more bodies were handed over to the families.”

Christuraja Ritamma of 10 Central west Road, Gurunagar said in her affidavit,

“On 10 October we sought refuge at Our Lady of the Rosary church at Columbuthurai. On 11 October we again fled to Columbuthurai Hindu College. Again on 14 October due to firing near where we were staying we fled to St Patricks Church. Again we were forced to flee to Chundukuli Girls College. On 20 October five people were killed in this college due to shelling. We decided to go with 70 people to Araly jetty desiring to cross to

Saravanai. While we were crossing on the boat we were attacked from helicopter.

Women held up their babies to show that they are civilians but the attack continued. My daughter Kamalanayaki and my father Mudiappu Christian were killed and I sustained injury to my wrist. My two other daughters Saganayaki and Meera also received injuries in their legs.

On 22 October, those of us who were seriously injured were transferred to Moolai hospital. On 1 November, Moolai hospital came under helicopter attack and many were killed. I left the hospital and stayed with a relative.”

Available details of those killed (No., Name, Occupation, Age)

01. Jesuthasan Jeevakumar, Student, 06
02. Jesuthasan Kumuthini, Student, 09
03. Mudiappu Christian, , 70
04. Christuraja Kamalanayaki, Student, 10
05. Arokiyam, Home maker, 40
06. Mariathas Sulogini, Student, 15
07. Mariathas Imelda, Home maker, ,
08. Salampillai, ,

5. Kokuvil Hindu College massacre – 24 October 1987

Kokuvil village is in the Nallur AGA Division of Jaffna District. Kokuvil Hindu College is located about four miles west of the Kokuvil junction on KKS Road.

Following the clashes between the Indian forces and the LTTE that started on 10 October, there were widespread aerial attacks and artillery attacks. More than one thousand people from, Kokuvil east and Annaikoddai had taken refuge in Kokuvil Hindu College fearing these attacks. The people also flew white flags in the main spots inside the college to notify that those inside the college were civilians taking refuge.

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On 24 October, the Indian forces moving in heavy military vehicles along the KKS road towards Jaffna town started firing artillery from their tanks directly into the Kokuvil Hindu College buildings where people had taken refuge. All together 26 civilians taking refuge in one classroom was killed by these attacks. A further 14 injured civilians died without medical care while they were being taken to smaller hospitals. Among the 40 civilians killed in this attack is the Dean of Education Department of Jaffna University, Professor Chandrasekaram. Another 80 people were injured in the attack.

Since the environment did not permit proper cremation of the dead bodies they were all buried in one ditch dug in the playground of the college.

Sinnathurai Panchalingam of Nanathavil West Lane, Thavady said in his affidavit.

“We took refuge in Kokuvil Hindu College which is about 500 metres from our home because of firing in our area. On 26 October we were in the Kokuvil Hindu Primary School when Indian forces started firing from Kokuvil junction. My sister Kamaladevi was killed on the spot. Three others nearby were also killed. We left the dead body of my sister and moved to Kokuvil Hindu College. Already 30 people were killed at Kokuvil Hindu College and their bodies were cremated on 1 November by the military personnel.”

Available details of those killed (No., Name, Occupation, Age)

01. Rasaih Panchalingam, , 43
02. Rasaih Selvarani, , 37

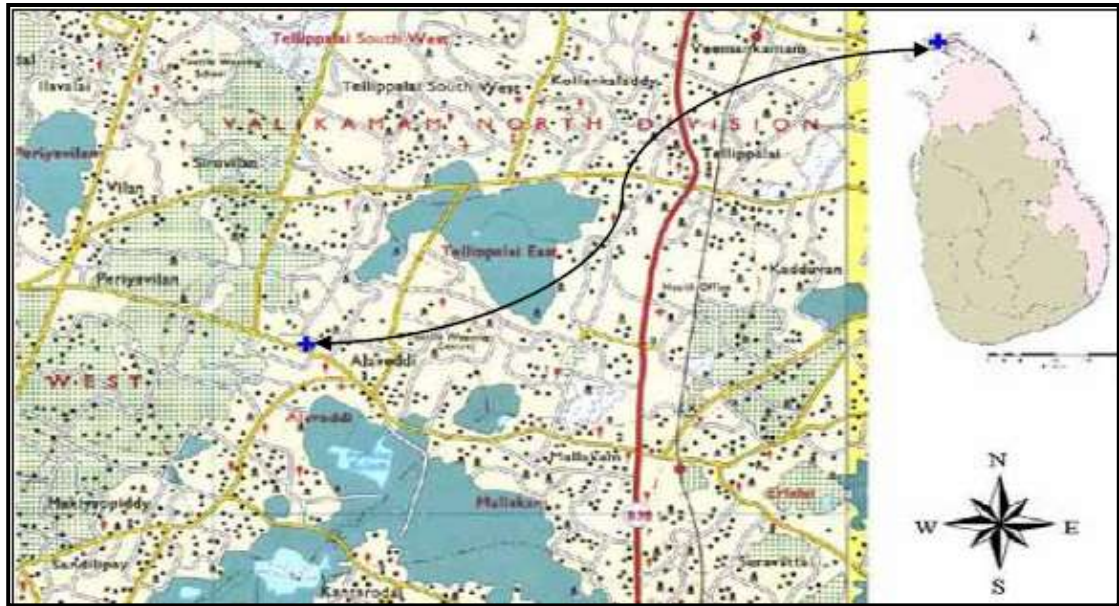
03. Ramu Rasu, Farmer, 60
04. Nagaratnam Vijayaratnam, , 46
05. Nadarasa Rasakumaran, , 44
06. Nadarasa Rajeswari, , 24
07. Nadarasa Gunarani, , 35
08. Nadarasa Thamilselvi, Student, 10
09. Nadarasa Sabeshkumar, Student, 06
10. Nadarasa Ramathy, student, 13
11. Nadesu Parameswari, ,51
12. Nallaih Pakiyam, , 50
13. Kandaih Sangarapillai, Retailer, 65
14. Kanthavanam Maheswari, , 52
15. Kunabalasingam Pathmasri, Student, 08
16. Paramu Thangamani, Home maker, 24
17. Parameswaran, Manonmani, , 35
18. Parameswaran malini, , 01
19. Tharmalingam Nisanthan, , 02
20. Thuraisamy Kumarasamy, Retired, 72
21. Thambirasa Nadarsa, Retired, 61
22. Venugopal Mahathevan, , 41
23. Mahathevan Rasammah, , 28
24. Mahathevan Balamurugan, Students, 09
25. Mahathevan Venukrishna, Students, 07
26. Mahathevan Vigneswaran, Student, 10
27. Annasingam Kamaladevi, Home maker, 33
28. Periyathambi rassaih, , 30
29. Chandrasegaram, Professor,
30. Selvanayagam manickaratnam, Retired, 69
31. Sellar Thiraviyam, , 53
32. Suppiral Govindasamy, Retired, 72
33. Sivaguru Sellathurai, Retired, 85
34. Visvanathi Vijayaratnam, labourer, 40

6. Alaveddi achiramam – 26 October 1987

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Alaveddi is situated in the Valigamam north area of Jaffna in the Tellipalai AGA Division. Alaveddi Hindu achiramam is located in front of the Alaveddi-Mallakam Multi Purpose Co-Operative Society. This achiramam was functioning as an old people's home as well as a children's home for children badly affected in the civil war.

On 26 October 1987, Indian forces fired rockets at this achiramam from MI-24 Helicopters. All together, 15 residents of the achiramam, including the elderly and the children, were killed by this attack. Another 12 were injured.



Available details of those killed (No., Name, Occupation, Age)

01. Rasaratnam Komathi, Student, 15
02. Rasaratnam Gnanaganeson, , 21
03. Gunaseelan Koneswari, Electrician, 28
04. Pathmanathan Selvachandran, Student, 12
05. Tharmalingam Srisikandaraja, Driver, 25
06. Thuraisingam Mathy, Baby, 01
07. Thambirasa Sribavan, Student, 12
08. amirthanathar Nesammah, , 50
09. Sinnathurai Thangalingam, Retailer, 47
10. Sinnathany Thambirarasa, Telephone operator, 56
11. Sinnathamby Ratnam, Retailer, 47
12. Sinnaih rasaratnam, Retailer, 62
13. Sivagurunathar Sivapakiyanathan, Retailer, 41
14. Vijayaratnam Pathmaranee, Home maker, 33

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Information collected by SNE

15. Vinasithamby Iyathurai, Farner, 80

7. Chavakachcheri market massacre – 27 October 1987



The Thenmaradchi area, the southern part of Jaffna, connects Jaffna peninsula to the Vanni mainland. Chavakachcheri town is the main town of the Thenmaradchi area and it is located 15 kilometres from the Jaffna town on the A9 road.

27 October 1987 was a special temple festival day known as “Sooran por”. As part of this festival, there was a procession from the temple in town with large number of temple goers moving with the “Sooran” statue on the street. The Chavakachcheri market was also buzzing with buyers and sellers as usual.

Around noon Indian forces fired from MI-24 helicopters on the people. People scattered in panic.

Buyers and sellers at the Chavakachcheri market came under the attack of the helicopters. All together 68 civilians in the market were killed. 175 people were injured. The “Sooran” statue in procession was also destroyed.

Vathsala Kanagaratnam of 23/5 Central East Road Gurunagar said in her affidavit,

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“We were taking refuge at St Patricks College. On 27 October my husband left for Chavakachcheri market to buy provisions. When he did not return I was very worried. On the third day I was informed that my husband, Palaniyandi Kanagaratnam was killed when the Chavakachcheri market was shelled from the air. I also learnt that his body was buried at the Chavakachcheri burial ground. I am expecting a child and I am now without an income after my husband’s death.”

Available details of those killed (No., Name, Occupation, Age)

01. Ilayathamby Nagarasa, Farmer, 50
02. Rasaih Thiraviyam Mariampillai, Farmer, 32
03. Rasanayagam Nanthini, Student, 20
04. Rasanayagam Arunthavarasa, Student, 13
05. Rasa Sritharan, Retailer, 26
06. Rasathurai Rasenthirabose, Student, 18
07. Rajasingam Manoharan, , 38
08. Rajasingam Gowrithas, Student, 20
09. Nagamuthu Thangamma, Home maker, 66
10. Nagamuthu Thavarasa, Toddy tapper, 27
11. Nagarasa, Pushparasa, Student, 13
12. Nagarasa Thanaladchmi, , 21
13. Nagarasa Maheswari, , 41
14. Nagarasa Shanmugarasa, Student, 10
15. Nallathamby Rasaih, Retailer, 56
16. Kanahu Ponnu, , 57
17. Kandaih Manonmani, Retailer, 58
18. Kanthan Thangam, Retailer, 51
19. Kandasamy Vaitheeswarasarma, Priest, 26
20. Vaitheeswarasarma Kalaiselvan, Baby, 02
21. Kandasamy Kentheeswaran, , 20
22. Karthikesu Benedict Mathews, Retailer, 32
23. Kanapathy Mayilvahanam, Manager, 40
24. Palaniyandi Kanagaratnam, Labourer, 34
25. Pillainkuddi Thuraisamy, Driver, 49
26. Philip rasenthiram, Mason, 42
27. Vaithilingam Mayilvahanam, Retailer, 45
28. Thambu Jeyaratnam, Labourer, 22
29. Thambirasa Chandramohan, Student, 21
30. Markandu Thurairasa, Tobacco roller, 55

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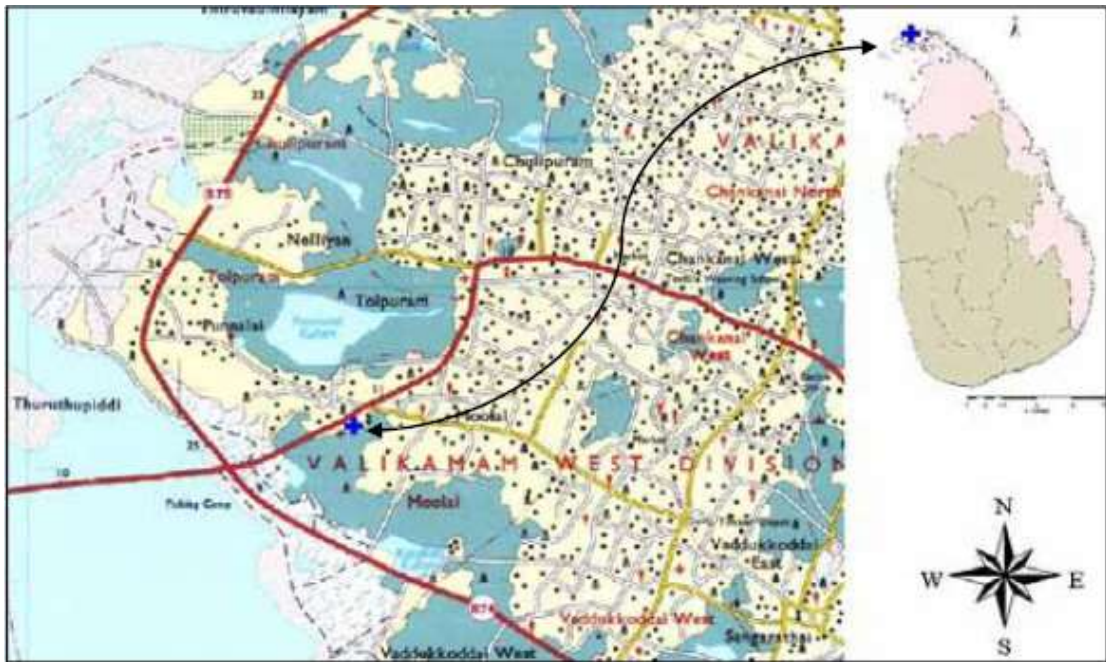
Information collected by SNE

31. Murukesu Nadarasa, CTB employee, 50
32. Murukesu sivasubramanium, Black smith, 41
33. Ananthasamy Arunthavasivanesan, Driver, 25
34. Arumugam Visvanathan, Retailer, 31
35. Afred Nobert Lewis Steven, Tea shop worker, 29
36. Jeyaratnam Veera jeya paramsothy, Retailer, 23
37. Kovinthasamy Mahenthiran, Retailer, 27
38. Ponnuthurai Kamaleswari, Student, 10
39. Ponnuthurai Thangaratnam, Retailer, 56
40. Ponnuthurai Maheswari, Home maker, 49
41. Ponnuthurai Manjulathevi, Home maker, 28
42. Ponnambalam Kanagasingam, Labourer, 41
43. Poloranj Ariyamalar Rasasingam, Home maker, 65
44. Thesingam Chellaih, Student, 14
45. Donald Naveen Gindeks, Electrician, 20
46. Somasundaram Chinnachchi, Home maker, 38
47. Sellathurai Thayaparan, Student, 16
48. Sellathurai Renganathan, Farmer, 32
49. Vettivelu Sivasri, Student, 18
50. Velupillai Gunabalasingam, labourer, 30
51. Velupillai Thangamma, , 72
52. Velupillai Yogeswaran, Bus conductor, 19
53. Gnanamuthu ranjithamalar, Retired, 63
54. Subramanim Paranthaman, Student, 12
55. Subbaih Ponnamah, Retailer, 60
56. Sinnavan Nagamuthu, Farmer, 76
57. Sinnavan Chellaiyan, Labourer, 45
58. Sinnarasa Arumairarasa, Mechanic, 33
59. Sinnaih Ambikaipalan, Labourer, 27
60. Sithamparampillai Kumarasamy, Retailer, 52
61. Sivakolunthu Maheswaran, Goldsmith, 55
62. Shanmugam Pararajasingam, Retailer, 34
63. Vanniyasingam Baskaran, Student, 19
64. Visuvanathan Kandaih, Retailer, 59
65. Eliaz Sirayutheen, Retailer, 27

8. Moolai hospital massacre – 5 November 1987

Moolai village is situated in the Sanganai AGA Division of the Valigamam west area of the Jaffna District. Moolai hospital has been providing health services to the people in the surrounding villages.

The people of the village were living amidst severe lack of medical services



and the Moolai hospital was their ray of hope for obtaining some of the much needed medical service. On 5 November 1987, the hospital was crowded with the usual number of inpatients, outpatients and visitors when it came under the artillery attack of the Indian forces. More than five civilians were killed, many more were injured and the hospital sustained damages.

Available details of those killed (No., Name, Occupation, Age)

01. Nagar Mahenthiran, Retailer, 44
02. Kandaih Mahathevan, Driver, 48
03. Kandasamy Sritharan, Retailer, 18
04. Iyathuraai Perinpanayagam, Retired, 58
05. Joseph Yogarasa, Labourer, 35

9. Nedunkerni junction massacre – 11 November 1987



Nedunkerni is the main town of the Vavuniya north AGA Division in Vavuniya District. Most of the people of this village are either farmers or labourers working for daily wages. Following the start of clashes between the Indian forces and the LTTE, Nedunkerni was the preferred refuge village for the IDPs displaced from Mullaithivu villages like Mulliyavalai and Thanneeruttu.

The displaced people were staying in schools, temples and other public buildings. On 11 November 1987, the Indian forces carried out rocket attacks from helicopters on the densely populated buildings around Nedunkerni junction, including the Nedunkerni hospital. 15 civilians were killed and more than 25 were injured in these attacks.

One Nedunkerni resident from Marailuppai, T Thavamany said,

“My daughter Nanthini was unwell and she was admitted to the Nedunkerni hospital. I was also staying with her at the hospital. Around 5.00pm, a helicopter belonging to the Indian forces started circulating above the hospital. People in the area, believing that the hospital will not be attacked, ran inside the hospital for safety. The pilot of the helicopter, noting this,

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fired in front of the hospital. The hospital window glasses shattered. At this time I was injured in my head.

While those injured fell down, others ran in panic. When I tried to run with my daughter I noticed blood running down her leg. She fainted. There was no one to help. I grabbed a piece of cloth and bandaged her leg and also bandaged my injury.

There were no medical people left in the hospital to treat us. Only at 10.00pm that night, doctors from a private medical clinic came and treated us. We could not travel in vehicles even on the next day because there was curfew. We were later sent in a bus to the Vavuniya hospital where we stayed for three months receiving treatment.

I still have a shell piece in my head and as a result I cannot do any work. My daughter's condition is the same."

Sivarasa Yogaratnam of Mulliyavalai said of this incident,

"In 1987, people were displacing from Mulliyavalai, Thanneeruttu area due to attacks by the Indian forces. At that time I was working as an assistant to our Gramasevakar Sithamparapillai. We were doing our best to help the displacing people by taking them to Nedunkerni and arranging them to stay in schools and temples there. On that day, it would be around 5.00pm, Indian MI-24 helicopters referred to as "Crocodile helicopter" by the people was circulating above. Frightened we all sought safety. The attack took place in front of the Nedunkerni AGA office.

At that time, Ponnambalam Ramanathan, a CTB driver from our area, who came there to take a ladle for cooking for the IDPs, was killed on the spot. Mahenthiran, son of Mahathevan, an employee at the AGA office, was killed while travelling on his tractor. Thambiah of Kulavisuddan, older brother of Sivarasa, also an employee at the AGA office and Thuraisamy, driver of a tractor-trailer helping the displacing people to move were also killed on the spot.

The second attack took place on the displaced people staying at the Nedunkerni MV School. Many civilians died and their body parts were scattered everywhere. Doctors from a private clinic in Nedunkerni, Dr Jeyanatha, Dr Kajendra as well as the Medical Officer of the government hospital treated the injured and checked the dead. The injured were then sent to Vavuniya hospital for further treatment and the dead bodies were sent to their relatives.

It has been several years since this took place. I can still see the scene in my mind as if it all happened only yesterday. I carry this memory as a deep scar within me.”

Available details of those killed (No., Name, Occupation, Age)

01. Kandaih Sritharan, Farmer, 22
02. Kathirkamu Karthikesu, Farmer, 44
03. Thambaih Natkunam, Farmer, 31
04. Mahathevan Mahenthiran, , 31
05. Mohamud Sarif Raheem, , 26
06. Muthaih Thurasamy, , 64
07. Abdulkathar Mohamud Limas, ,24
08. Ponnambalam Ramanathan, Driver,

10. Batticaloa common market massacre – 12 Dec 1987

The main market for the Batticaloa District, located in the Batticaloa town, is used by a very large number of people of the town and district. On 12 December 1987, around 10.00am in the morning, a large contingent of Indian forces was on duty surrounding the market. Suddenly, the Indian forces started shooting at the people in the market. They burnt down the shops in the market. They threw the dead bodies of the civilians and even those who were dying into the fire. Among those thrown alive into the fire by the Indian forces were two babies.

More than 159 civilians were killed on that day in the Batticaloa market by the Indian forces. More than 85 bodies were burnt down together with the shops. Another 39 bodies of those killed was taken to the Batticaloa hospital and buried.

11. Kaththar Sinnakulam massacre - 07 January 1989



Kaththar Sinnakulam is a village in the border of Vavuniya AGA Division of Vavuniya district. Farming is the main stay of the people of this village. The villagers have suffered a great deal in the hands of the Sinhala people who were settled in the adjoining areas.

On 17 January 1989, the people were carrying out their normal daily work without realising that the Indian forces had entered their village. The Indian forces started firing at the people. People eating their breakfast, farmers working in their fields, pregnant mothers and children were killed in the shooting. More than 14 people were thus killed. Several were injured and many homes were set on fire.

Available details of those killed (No., Name, Occupation, Age)

01. Rasaih Mohan, , 44
02. Ramasamy Maruthamuthu, ,
03. Rasalingam Muthaih, Farmer, 75
04. Kuppan Sinnaih, Farmer, 75
05. Karupalahu Sarasvathy, , 32
06. Tharmalingam Suntharalingam, Student, 14
07. Manickam Sellamma, , 60
08. Meena Subbaih, ,
09. Anumanthu Subramaniam, ,
10. Alagan Veeraih, ,

11. Ponnusamy Karuppaih, Labourer, 36
12. Perumal Meena, ,67
13. Perumal Sinnathamby, Farmer, 22
14. Subramanium, Farmer, 54
15. Suppaih Sinnathamby, ,

Available details of those injured: (No., Name)

01. Panchalingam Nanthini
02. Panchalingam Thavamani
03. Sinnamuthu Arumugam

12. Valvai massacre - 2, 3, 4 August 1989



Presently the village of Valvettithurai in the Vadamradchi area consists of four adjacent villages of approximately 5 square kilometres and it is a Municipal town. At the time of the incident it was just 300 acres sized small town.

On the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of August 1989, the Indian forces declared curfew in Valvettithurai. On 2nd August 1989 the Indian forces began their movement towards Valvettithurai settlement from their camps in Urikkadu and Polikandy. The operation was lead by Brigadier Shankar Prasath of the Indian forces. Assisting him were Captain Menon and Captain Kapoor. Under their leadership, the Sikh regiment, Blackcat regiment, Gurka regiment and others took part in this. Since curfew had been declared everyone was inside their homes. The Indian forces rounded the small village of Valvettithurai.

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It then began killing women, the elderly and children by shooting, burning and stabbing. Some young men were arrested and then they were lined up in the Valvettithurai junction and shot dead.



More than 50 women were raped. Many Hindu temples in the village were destroyed. Young men were even shot and killed inside the temples in front of their relatives. Hundreds of homes and shops were burnt down.

This massacre came to be referred to by the people as the “India’s Mylai Massacre”. More than 63 civilians, including children, women and the elderly were killed in this massacre.

One victim, N Seevaratnam said,

“As my relatives who had gathered at our home for refuge pleaded with the Indian forces, they were shot and killed in front of us. My home, car and all my property in it were destroyed. I, with assistance from my wife and my children, burnt two decomposing bodies that were in our home for three days. Because there was no firewood to burn, I burnt the bodies with the wooden furniture in my home. I thought a vehicle tyre may be useful for burning the bodies and went to the next lane looking for one. I found more bodies there as well. We put those bodies also together and burnt them all.”

Available details of those killed (No., Name, Occupation, Age)

01. Rajalingam Satheeskumar, Student, 18
02. Rasaih Rajaratnam, Fisherman, 33

03. Ramachandran Navaratnam, Retailer, 26
04. Rasakuru Yavanaraj, Student, 13
05. Rasakuru Pushparanee, Retailer, 45
06. Rasa Jeyamayil, Retailer, 20
07. Rasamanickam Nadarasa, Postmaster, 62
08. Easwaramoorthy Rasaladchmi, , 24
09. Nagarasa Gnanakulasingam, Fisherman, 22
10. Nagalingam Pavabrintha, Student, 14
11. Nadarasa Nallamuthu, Home maker, 72
12. Nadarasa Sivakumaran, Student, 25
13. Nadarasa Raveenthiran, Fisherman, 31
14. Nallararatnam Banugopal, Blacksmith, 23
15. Kanthasamy Thangarasa, Retailer, 70
16. Kanthasamy Velumayilum, Labourer, 45
17. Kathikamathamby Sivanesarasa, Retailer, 36
18. Kumaravel Selvananthavel, Student, 18
19. Ganesalingam Sasi, Baby, 01
20. Kulanthaivadivel shanmugavadivel, Labourer, 37
21. Gunaratnam Rasasegaram, Fisherman, 18
22. Balakrishnana Premathas, Driver, 20
23. Balasubramanium Mahenthirathas, Student, 15
24. Balasubramanium Yogenthirarasa, Fisherman, 28
25. Peter Vijayarajan Krishnavatha, Home maker, 33
26. Thalayasingam Jeyamohan, Fisherman, 18
27. Thalayasingam Sivakumar, Fisherman, 21
28. Thuraiasa Nagathas, Electrician, 28
29. Thangavelaytham Jeyakumar, Mechanic, 20
30. Thangavelayutham Sambasivam, Fisherman, 18
31. Thanikasalam Ravichandran, Retailer, 28
32. Murukesu Sellathurai, Driver,
33. Appathurai Mathivanan, Retailer, 18
34. Athiarunasalam Parasar, Retailer, 20
35. Athiarnasalam Paramsothi, Retailer, 18
36. Athiarunasalam Sunthareswaran, Student, 12
37. Amirthalingam Umathevi, , 26
38. Arulpragasam Swarnathas, Fisherman, 19
39. Arulappu Ilankainathan, Fisherman, 22
40. Arunasalam Ilayaperumalharbour worker, 76

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41. Arumuganathan Ramachandran, Mason, 41
42. Ponnuthurai Rasenthiram, Fisherman, 23
43. Ponnuthurai, Shanmugalingam, driver, 43
44. Ponnambalam Ranjithakumar, Fisherman, 25
45. Ponnaih Kalithas, Blacksmith, 26
46. Senthivel Sakthivel, Fisherman, 24
47. Sothilingam Rameshkumar, Fisherman, 18
48. Sellaih Yogarasa, Farmer, 19
49. selvakathiramalai Mayivahanam, , 55
50. Selvasunthat Thavaseelan, Student, 07
51. Venkadasalam Subramanium, Surveyor,
52. Velumayilum Selvachandran, Sailor, 26
53. Suntharamoorthy Umashankar, Retailer, 22
54. Suntharalingam Gnanavel, Fisherman 21
55. Subramanium Amuthan, Merchant, 28
56. Subramanium Perinpam, student, 20
57. Sinnathurai Thambithurai, Fisherman, 60
58. Sinnathamby Ganesalingam, Labourer, 25
59. sinnathamby Sivalingam, Toddy tapper, 50
60. Sinnavan Kanthan, Labourer, 30
61. Sivaprakasam Sabanayagam, Retailer, 77
62. Sivapakiyam kanthasamy, Washerman, 42
63. Sivalingam Ramanathan, Driver, 35
64. Vadivelu Kumarasamy, Labourer, 89
65. Vijayaratnam Muralitharan, Fisherman, 20
66. Vinayagamoorthy Arulsothi, Labourer, 29

13. The affidavits

The following section is a summary excerpt from about 500 affidavits made by families of other victims of the wanton killing by the Indian forces during the period concerned.

Schools where people had taken refuge from the shelling had come under attack as described in the next two affidavits.

1. ***Chellaih Thurairaja, of Thiruchelvan Lane, Palaly Road, Kondavil*** in his affidavit said that his family had sought shelter at Chundukuli Girls College on 20 October 1987. With him was also his daughter who had just given birth to a baby. Around 7.00pm, shells fired by the Indian forces stationed in the Navatkuli camp exploded on a classroom and one of his daughters was killed by shrapnel. Thurairaja said in his affidavit that ***ten people died*** on that day in the Chundukuli Girls College due to shelling.
2. ***Kamalambikai Karuppaih of 70, Kannathiddy Road, Jaffna*** in her affidavit said that her family took refuge in Navalar School on 20 October. On 24 October, Indian forces approaching the school opened fire at the people who had sought shelter inside the school ***killing 17 civilians*** including her 58 year old husband Sivalingam Karuppaih. She said that the dead bodies were burnt by the Indian forces the next day on the school grounds.

Affidavit after affidavit claims how the Indian forces had hunted people, men, women, young and the old and killed them by shooting point blank. A sample of nine such affidavits is given.

1. ***Rasaih Segaran of Power House Chunnakam*** in his affidavit said that on 12 October 1987, around 5.00pm about 28 of the people in the area had collected in one spot after hearing the news that the Indian forces are moving towards their area in several gun carriers. When the Indian forces arrived a little later it ordered the 28 people to come out in the open space and then it opened fire at the people. ***Eight people among the 28 were gunned down in the incident.*** The Indian forces left at 6.30pm. While the injured were removed those survived the attack fled the area. Segaran said that he returned to the area only on 16 October. He said the dead bodies of the victims were still there in highly decomposed state. Segaran lost his father and mother and in his affidavit he lists the names of those killed in the incident as follows: Kanapathy Rasaih aged 45; Rasaih Manonmani aged 37; Nannithamby Ranjinihevi aged 14; Muthan Kathiri aged 33; Muthusingam Pooranann aged 33; Kanagan Selli aged 60; Kathirgamanathan Sarojinidevi aged 20; and Kathirkamanathan Vimalanathan aged 89.
2. ***Puvanendram Yogamma of Pokkanai, Urelu*** said in her affidavit that on 12 October 1987, Indian forces ordered them to walk out of their homes with their arms raised. As they walked out, the Indian forces opened fire on them. Her daughter was hit by a bullet and she fell down but Yogamma had to leave her injured daughter and move on as ordered. When they were allowed to return home, her daughter was dead and her house was burnt.

3. ***Rajalingam Vijaya of Urelu, Unrumpirai*** said in her affidavit that on 12 October 1987 around 10.00am, Indian soldiers knocked on their door, entered the house and searched. As they left, they informed the family that they will not harm them and they should stay indoors. Later Vijaya learnt from neighbours that the Indian soldiers have done the same thing to other households in the area too. Around 3.00pm another batch of Indian soldiers had come to Vijaya's house and knocked. When her husband carrying their child opened the door, the Indian soldiers opened fire. Her husband fell to the ground with the child. The Indian soldiers then left and Vijaya with the help of neighbours took her husband and child to the hospital. Her husband died on the way to the hospital. Her child's right arm below the elbow had to be amputated.
4. ***Senior Santhirakumaran of Surwatha, Chunnakam*** in his affidavit said that on 13 October 1987, his wife, Santhirakumaran Easwary aged 32 and their three children aged 12, 8 and 3 were shot point blank and killed by the Indian forces near Chunnakam Power station.
5. ***Sivagnanasundarampillai Sivanesan of Palay Road, Vasavilan*** in his affidavit said that on 16 October 1987 his father Ilagupillai Sivagnanasundarampillai aged 63, his mother, Sivagnanasundarampillai Sivapakiyam aged 59, and his brother, Sivagnanasundarampillai Sivaharan aged 32, were shot and killed by the Indian forces in their home. Sivanesan had just gone to the shops and as he returned he heard from others that the Indian forces had entered his home. Sivanesan was able to go to his house only on 25 October to find the highly decomposed bodies of his three family members.
6. ***Sinnamah Poopathipillai of Karanthan Road, Urelu, Chunnakam*** in her affidavit said that on 20 October 1987 her 65 year father, Elayavan Ramu, was moving with the rest of them away from their home due to the forward movement of the Indian forces. About 200 meters from their home the Indian forces opened fire at them and her father was hit and he died on the spot. The rest of them fled leaving the father there. She said they were able to return to their home only one month later to find her father's skeletal remains at the same spot.
7. ***Nageswary Rajasingam of Kalaivani Road, Anunkai, Kondavil***, in her affidavit said that on 16 October 1987, Indian soldiers entered her house and shot dead her husband and her 78 years old mother-in-law, Chellaih Archchipillai. Nageswary escaped and it was only on 21 November that she was able to return home to find the skeletons of her husband and mother-in-law.

8. ***Arumugam Nagalingam of Vannar Kovilady, Vasavilan*** in his affidavit said that on 19 October his wife was visiting a neighbour when the IPKF soldiers entered the neighbour's house and opened fire injuring one person. The others ran into the kitchen seeking shelter. The Indian soldiers broke open the kitchen door and opened fire killing one person on the spot. Three more people were injured including Nagalingam's wife. She later succumbed to her injuries.
9. ***Rev Fr Veeravahu Nathaniel Tharmakulasingham of Jaffna Road, Uduppiddy*** in his affidavit said that Indian soldiers entered his home on 15 February 1989 through the rear and the front of his house. They shot at his brother who was carrying his young son in his arms. The brother and his young son were slightly injured. Then they opened fire on his two sisters one of whom was pregnant and killed both of them. The child, who was in the arms of the pregnant woman, was injured in his thighs.

Entire families who were a little too late to leave home as the Indian forces approached had been killed by shelling. Elderly who were too feeble to walk to the refuges had also been found as skeletons by families when they returned home.

1. ***Sinnaih Kanagasabapathy of Kondavil North, Kondavil*** in his affidavit said that on 10 October 1987 his family sought refuge at the Nallur Kandasamy temple but his 88 years old father, Kanthar Sinnaih, being too feeble to walk stayed behind at their home. On 16 October, a neighbour informed Kanagasabapathy that Indian soldiers shot and killed many people in their area and among those killed was also his old father. The situation did not permit Kanagasabapathy to go to his house to check on his father. They returned home only on 21 November to find a skeleton which they could identify as their father only through the clothes he was wearing.
2. ***Dr Nagalingam Therugnanasampanthan of Palaly Road, Kondavil*** lost his brother, brother's wife and their son. In his affidavit he said,

"Prior to 14 October we were living in our own house. When shells started falling around our house, we sought refuge at Nallur Kandasamy temple. By 1 November we had moved to 268, Navalar Road seeking refuge there.

My brother Nagalingam Jeyaseelan, a retired Divisional Agricultural Extension officer aged 68, was living with his family at his own house, Ēaswaran Illam", Irupalai, Kondavil. In their

household in addition to my brother, there were his wife, Rukumani, their son Gnana Easwaran, and two domestic aids, Kanaga Kalarani and Kanaga Wijayaledchmy.

On 1 November, a neighbour of my brother informed me that my brother, his wife, his son and the two domestic aids were found dead in the rear of their home with gunshot wounds. We could not go to their home due to the prevailing situation. Few days later, other neighbours of my brother informed me that the five bodies of the dead were cremated in the same compound. On 16 November we managed to go to my brother's home and found the house had been ransacked with many of their personal belongings missing. In the compound we found signs of bodies burnt and few pieces of bones were there."

3. ***Sangarapillai Thilaiampalam of 392 Navalar Road, Kailasapillaiyar kovilady*** said in his affidavit that a lot of his relatives had taken refuge in his house on 11 October 1987. Indian forces stationed in Jaffna Fort started firing and three shells exploded on his house, instantly killing his son-in-law Yoganathan aged 32, his 90 years old uncle Pasupathy, his cousin Sinnamah, and his niece Nirmaladevi. His son Kathirkamanathan aged 32, daughter Bavani Yoganathan aged 28, and his nephew Maheswarakumar were seriously injured and were admitted to hospital where all three of them succumbed to the injuries. The two little grandsons of Thillaiampalam aged two and three were also badly injured.
4. ***Kumarasamy Tharumalingam of 66/3, Palam Road, Jaffna***, in his affidavit said that on 5 November 1987, Indian bomber and helicopter gunships attacked their area. One bomb exploded over their home killing five members of his family. His daughter Tharumalingam Navaranjin aged 18 was among the dead. The entire family of five, parents and three children, of his brother-in-law was also killed inside the house.

People had been killed while travelling, sometimes on mercy mission with permission from the Indian forces.

1. ***Pararajasingam Puvaneswary of Sandipay Jaffna*** in her affidavit said that her husband in a car transported to Tellipalai hospital four civilians who were injured on 9 November 1987 when a shell exploded on the Kalvalai Pillaiyar temple. The same day he returned and told his wife that he had to take some patients from Tellipalai hospital to Jaffna General Hospital and they were in the car. He then left for the General Hospital. The next day she was informed that her

husband and five others in the car had been shot dead by the Indian forces.

2. *Muthu Ponnuthurai of Anpuvalipuram, Trincomalee* in his affidavit said that his family had been living as refugees in Neervely MPCPS refugee camp in Jaffna since 1986. On 27 October his wife and two daughters left for Trincomalee. In November he came to know that that a van bound for Trincomalee was shot by the Indian forces and 16 people including one Brahmin priest were killed. It was only in December 87 that he came to know that his wife, Maheswary Ponnuthurai aged 49 and two daughters, Ponnuthurai Manjuladevi aged 28 and Ponnuthurai Kamaleswar aged 10 were in that same van and that they too had been killed.

In many of the affidavits of victims, torture was recorded.

Ponnambalam Logendran of Theniyambai Valvettithurai in his affidavit describes the beating, electric shock and other forms of torture meted out to him, his two friends and four other young men following their arrest by the Indian forces on 16 November 1987. Logendran was kept in one place with two others while the rest were taken elsewhere. Two days later they were all put in a van and driven to Vellaiveli, a vast open land. One of the young men taken, Paramasamy Paramanathan, was in the van only as a corpse and he was buried in Vellaveli by the accompanying Indian soldiers. A fellow detainee of Paramanathan told Logendran that they were severely tortured and Paramanathan died of the torture. In his affidavit Logendran stated, an Indian soldier named Anilkumar was the key torturer of Paramanathan. After burying the body of Paramanathan, the Indian soldiers ordered the remaining detainees to dig graves. One of the detained, Munusamy Baburaj, was then ordered to lie facing up in the grave he had dug and he was then shot and killed in the grave by the Indian soldiers. The rest were then warned of the same fate. Subsequently, the rest of them including Logendran were released.

14. Rape by Indian forces

Rape of Tamil women by the Indian forces during this period was widespread. It was so widespread that one Indian military leader stationed in Jaffna had to tell civilians who went to him with complaints of rape that they should not bring such complaints to him but only bring complaints if his forces shoot someone. So widespread was rape that the military leaders were forced to tell the civilians not to treat rape as a serious crime.

Massacres of Tamils

Many Tamil physicians working in the Tamil homeland during this period treated hundreds of young victims of rape by the Indian forces. Rajini Thinaragama a University Teacher and a social activist who was later murdered also wrote in detail about rape by Indian forces. Rape by Indian forces had been the subject of reports by Amnesty International. Both local and international media of this period were full of reports of rape crimes committed by the Indian forces.

Due to heightened fear of rape during this period, the recruitment of young women into the armed Tamil militant movements increased dramatically. Many of these young women cited rape of friends and neighbours by the Indian forces as their motivation for joining the armed movements. Anthropologist would say that this decision by a young woman made her shed her status as a potential victim and take on an empowered role in the community.

Statistics

A vast collection of documentation of rape during this period had been collated by Tamil activists. Documented evidence of more than 60 individual incidents of rapes committed between October 1987 and June 1988 had survived. Some of this documentation is accompanied by medical evidence. Almost 350 women and girls had suffered rape in these collated incidents. The ages of women range from as young as 14 to 45, and includes pregnant women. Almost half of the cases involved girls under the age of 18. The majority of rape incidents took place in Jaffna district, with the next highest number of rape incidents in Batticaloa district. Women from Kilinochchi, Mullaithivu and Trincomalee also suffered rape at the hands of the Indian forces. Due to the sensitive nature of this crime in Tamil culture, a large number of cases have not been documented. However, the documentation of eye witness accounts and affidavits portray the characteristics and nature of rape as a systematic form of violence used by the Indian forces.

Common characteristics of rape by Indian forces

As the rape cases show, rape was committed in a repeated fashion and was a shared practice among Indian forces. In many of the documented cases, women were raped in their own homes and in other cases the Indian forces abducted women and raped them in army camps or deserted areas. Soldiers stationed at camps or checkpoints along roads and intersections would go to residential areas and enter the homes. Two or more soldiers would assault members of the family and then rape or sexually abuse the women and girls. Afterwards they would pillage the home, taking the family's personal belongings or valuables. In some cases the women were killed after being raped.

NESOHR

Information collected by SNE

On 2 January 1988 in Punnalaidduvan in Jaffna district, three members of the Indian forces entered the home of Moothathamby Kanageswary. They harassed and sexually abused her and then looted her home. In the same town, three other soldiers entered Mr. Nagammuthu Saravanai's house and tried to molest his daughters.

On 17 November 1987 in Kondavil West in Jaffna district, two members of the Indian forces stationed at the junction of K.K.S. Road and Muthaddu Madam Lane entered the home S. Satkunathevy and raped her. They also tied up her husband and assaulted him. On 26 November 1987 a group of soldiers entered the home of G. Selvanayagam and raped her. These two cases describe the common method of gaining forced entry into homes and raping.

On 21 November 1987 in Uduvil, in Jaffna district, several women were taken to the Uduvil army camp and were raped by soldiers there.

On 17 October 1987 in Urumpirai, Jaffna in Jaffna district, 30 girls were abducted by the Indian forces and were believed to have been raped.

On 20 October 1987 a mother and her daughter were raped in Manipay, Jaffna.

A Tamil physician working in Vadammaradchi until 1989 treated several victims of rape by the Indian forces. From the stories she heard, women were attacked during military search operations where soldiers would round up male members of households, leaving women and girls in the home. Other members of the Indian forces would then enter the homes and rape women and girls. In one particular case three sisters, ages 8, 10 and 12, were sexually abused by the soldiers. During examination, the physician discovered bite marks around the girls' breasts.

This physician had treated the victims of rape for their physical trauma, psychological scars as well as sexually transmitted diseases. Women were also faced with pregnancy as a result of the rape. The physician said these physical traumas were easy to treat but it was much harder to treat their psychological trauma. Most of the women the physician saw suffered from guilt, expressing that they believed it was their fault. It was a struggle for the physician to draw her patients out of this mindset.

Responses of rape survivors and their communities

Tamil women who survive rape or their families do not usually report the incidents because of the social stigma attached to women who were raped.

Massacres of Tamils

Despite this belief, some rape cases were reported and families demonstrated ways in coping with the harshness of these attacks.

In April 1988 in Iranamadu in Kilinochchi and Visavamadu in Mullaithivu, six women were raped. Upon hearing of the news neighbours and people in the area stayed indoors and closed shops and businesses on April 10 and 11. This action was not only a sign of protest, but also a time for families to lament the suffering of the women who were brutally attacked.

On 30 November 1987, a statement released by 47 citizens of Kondavil West, in Jaffna district expressed,

“These incidents have driven fear into the minds of the people of the area and some of them are fleeing. When we returned to our house in the hope of living in security we are being harassed by Peace Keeping Personnel.”

Responses of authorities

The Indian forces and Sri Lankan government authorities' response to cases of rape was either denial or minimization of the rape. These tactics were not only used to evade responsibility and justice, but also to further ingrain the sense of lost hope and dignity within the Tamil psyche. The actual act of rape was immensely damaging to the women and their community, but the further denial and minimization intensified the collective trauma of Tamils.

On 21 November 1987 several women were raped by the Indian forces in the Uduvil army camp. Later parents of the raped women and girls went to the authorities to report the incident. The authorities told them, “Rape is a very common occurrence, don't come here to complain about it, if a person had been shot dead, of course we are ready to take note of it.” This response sought to minimize the rape by categorizing it as a “common occurrence”, decreasing the seriousness of the crime and human rights violation.

A document submitted by the Sri Thurkka Community Centre of Punnalaikadduvan North on 2 January 1988 was signed by 60 residents of the village. The document outlined the atrocities committed by the Indian forces, including a report about many of the girls in the village who were raped and molested.

The Jaffna Headquarters of the Indian forces denied reports in the media that soldiers were raping Tamil women. They described the report as “slanderous, vicious and mischievous, designed to arouse the passions of the gullible.” They further stated,

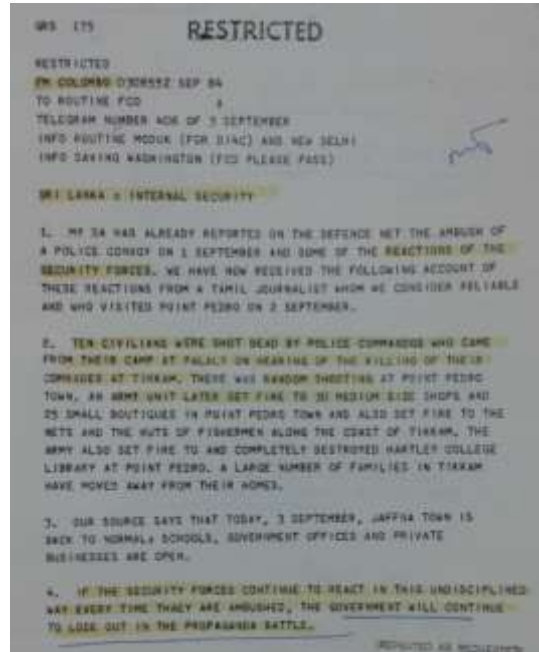
“The respect and reverence for women is a precious part of the Indian culture and psyche; it is inconceivable that the Indian soldiers, who have always shown great respect towards all Sri Lankan Tamil men, women and children, can ever commit such a heinous crime.”

Clearly, the Indians were using the “Indian culture’s respect for women” to bluntly deny the act of rape by its soldiers.

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

Number 13 - Point Pedro – Thikkam massacre 16 Sept 1984

The date of the incident is 2 September 1984 as reported in the UK Foreign Ministry's declassified document below.



Number 37 - Vankalai church massacre 06 Jan 1986 :

The year of the incident is 1984 and not 1986.

Number 95 - Kumarapuram massacre 11 Feb 1996

The victim list had been missed in the English version but was included in the Tamil version.

Ramajeyampillai Kamaleswaran, Student, 14,
Rasenthiram Karunakaran, - -
Kanagarasa Sabapathirasa, Farmer, 16
Kiddinan Govinthan, - -
Pakiarasa Vasanthi - -
Thankavel Kaladevi, Student, 11

Ananthan Annamma, - , 28
Amirthalingma Rajnikanth - -
Alahuthurai Parameswari, - 27
Arumaithurai Vallippillai - -
Arumathurai Thanaladchumi, Student, 16
Arunasalam Kamaladevi - -
Arunasalam Thangavel - -
Somu Annaladchumi - -
Sellathurai Pakiarasa, Labourer, 26
Suntharalingam Pirapaharan, -, 13
Suntharalingam Subashini, Student, 4
Subramanium Pakkiam - -
Subbaih Sethurasa, Labourer, 72
Sivakolunthu Sinnathurai, Farmer, 58
Sivapakkiyam Prasanthini - -
Shanmuganathan Nithakaran, Studen, 11
Vadivel Nadarasa, Labourer, 27
Vinayagamoorthy Suthakaran, Student, 13