

# **IPKF Massacres of Tamils**

**1987 - 1989**



**NESOHR**

**North-East Secretariat On Human Rights**

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## **Acknowledgements**

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**This Book is dedicated to the thousands of Tamils  
Who lost their life at the hands of the  
Indian Peace Keeping Force**

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## 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.

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
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.



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 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*



**REPORT**

**T**he 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.

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, totaling 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.

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**The Jaffna General Hospital literally stinks.**

**'There is no water and no electricity.'**

**The mortuary is full of corpses.**

**Up to Friday, 75 people's (ages ranging from one year to 85) bodies were brought to hospital.**

**SR learns more bodies are yet to be brought to hospital.**

**The Nurses' Quarters was hit by shells. The nurses escaped death because they took refuge in the ground floor. They are understandable reluctant to work.**

**The Tellipalai Govt. Hospital has closed down.**

**A private hospital at Manipay - Green Memorial Hospital - has also been forced to close down**

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# 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. Antonyimuthu 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, ,
37. Vellupillai Saravanamuthu, , 60
38. Gnanapragasam Senthoomurugan, Business, 40
39. 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 Vijaynathi, , 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. Thiyagarasa 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 Thanapakialuxmi, Housewife, 43
09. Patkunarajah Kamala, Student, 25
10. T. Rasenthiran, Worker, 44
11. M. Annaluxmi, Housewife, 75
12. A. Shanmugarasa, Business, 36
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

#### 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 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.*

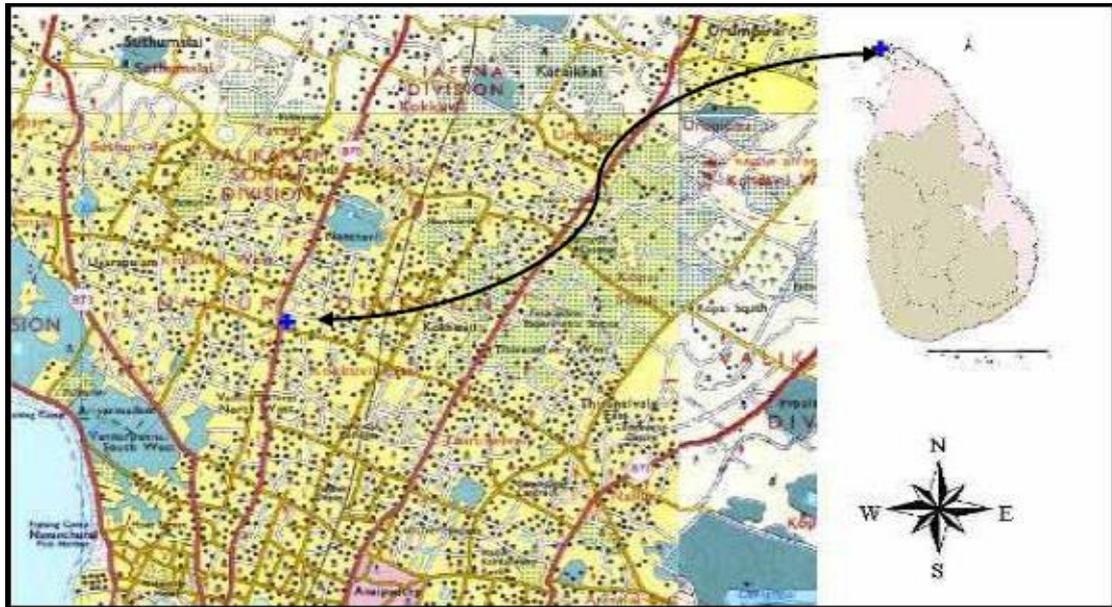
*Women held up their babies to show that they are civilians but the attack continued. My daughter Kamalanayaki and my father Mudiappu Christian were killed and I sustained injury to my wrist. My two other daughters Saganayaki and Meera also received injuries in their legs.*

*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.

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.

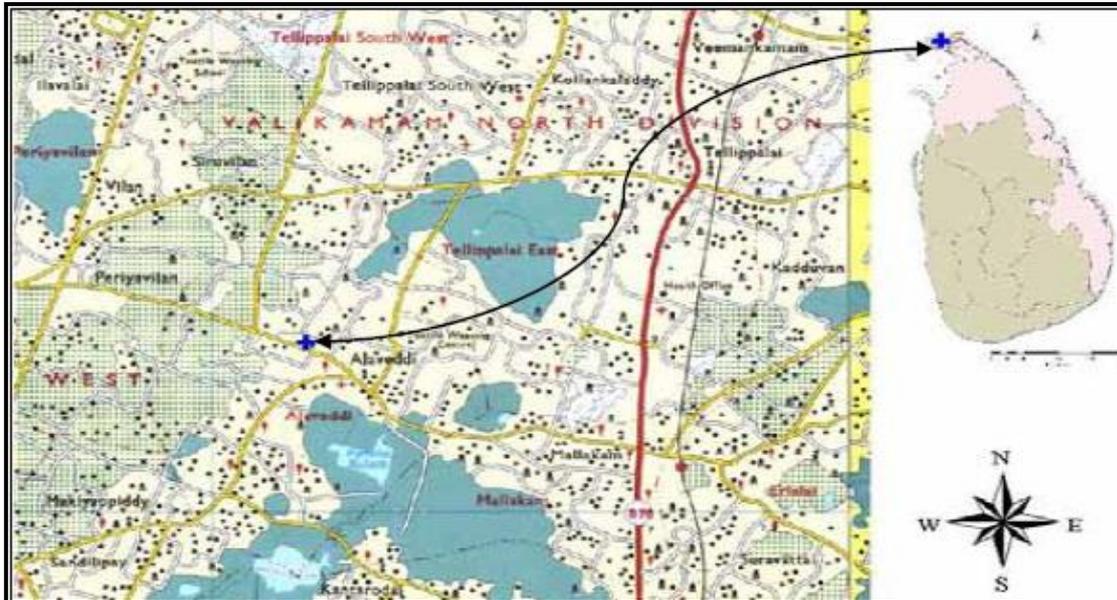
*“We took refuge in Kokuvil Hindu College which is about 500 metres from our home because of firing in our area. On 26 October we were in the Kokuvil Hindu Primary School when Indian forces started firing from Kokuvil junction. My sister Kamaladevi was killed on the spot. Three others nearby were also 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



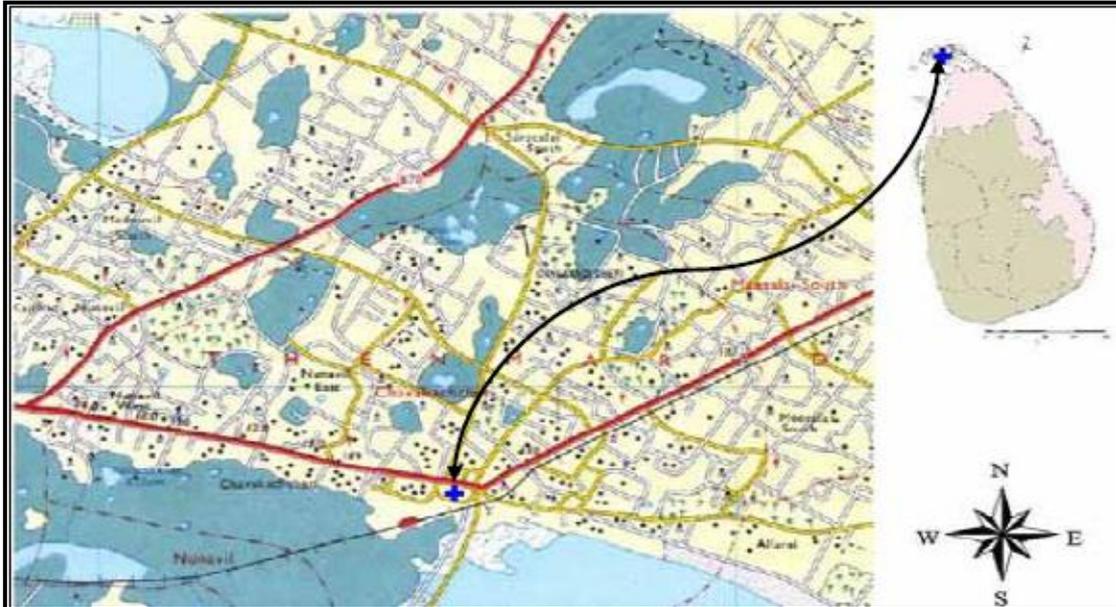
Alaveddi is situated in the Valigamam north area of Jaffna in the Tellipalai AGA Division. Alaveddi Hindu achiramam is located in front of the Alaveddi-Mallakam Multi Purpose Co-Operative Society. This achiramam was functioning as an old people's home as well as a children's home for children badly affected 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 Sriskandaraja, 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

## 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,

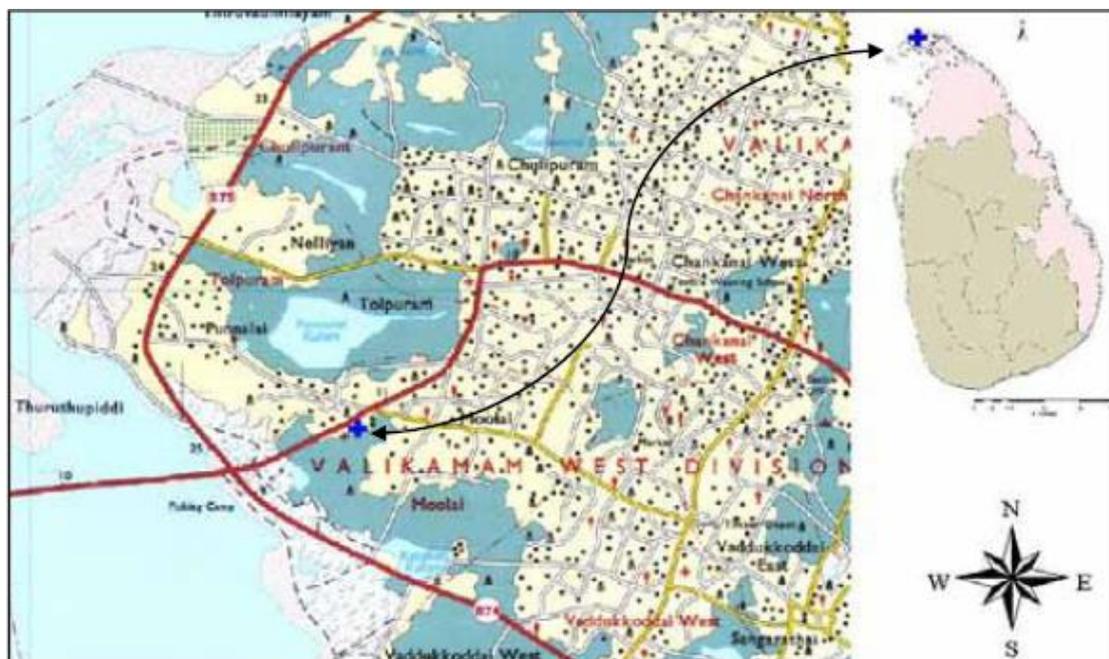
*“We were taking refuge at St Patricks College. On 27 October my husband left for Chavakachcheri market to buy provisions. When he did not return I was very worried. On the third day I was informed that my husband, Palaniyandi Kanagaratnam was killed when the Chavakachcheri market was shelled from the 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
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. Kovinthatasamy 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 Kanagasingham, 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 Sanganaï 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, 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)

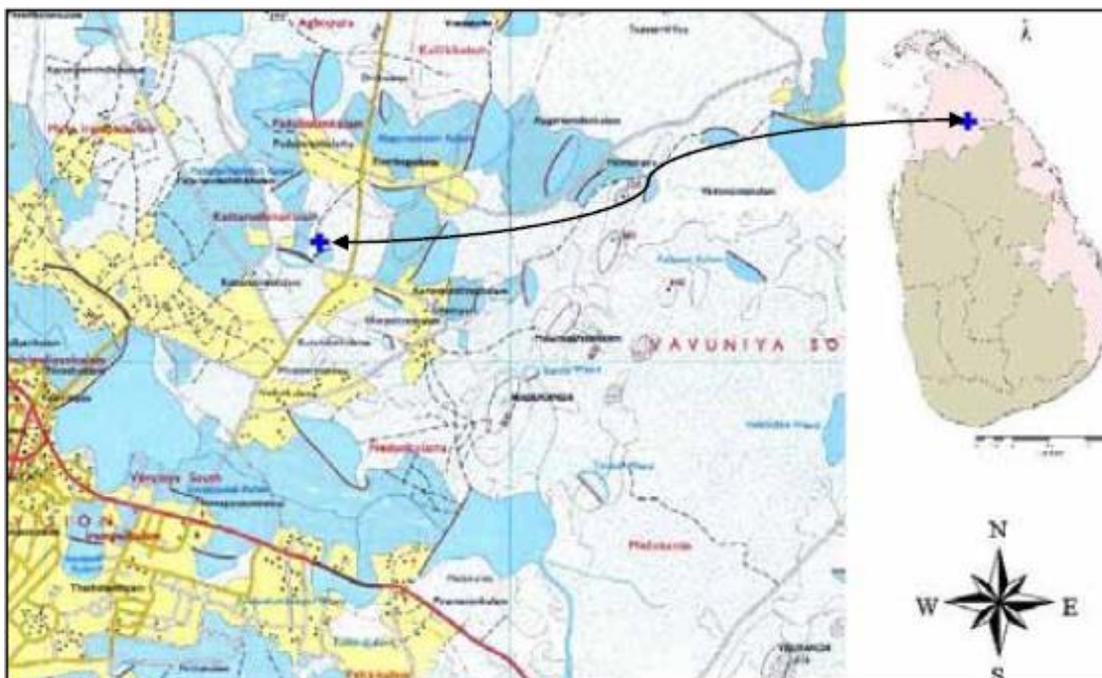
01. Kandaih Sritharan, Farmer, 22
02. Kathirkamu Karthikesu, Farmer, 44
03. Thambaih Natkunam, Farmer, 31
04. Mahathevan Mahenthiran, , 31
05. Mohamud Sarif Raheem, , 26
06. Muthaih Thuraisamy, , 64
07. Abdulkathar Mohamud Limas, ,24
08. Ponnambalam Ramanathan, Driver,

## **10. Batticaloa common market massacre – 12 December 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 Subramanium, ,
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

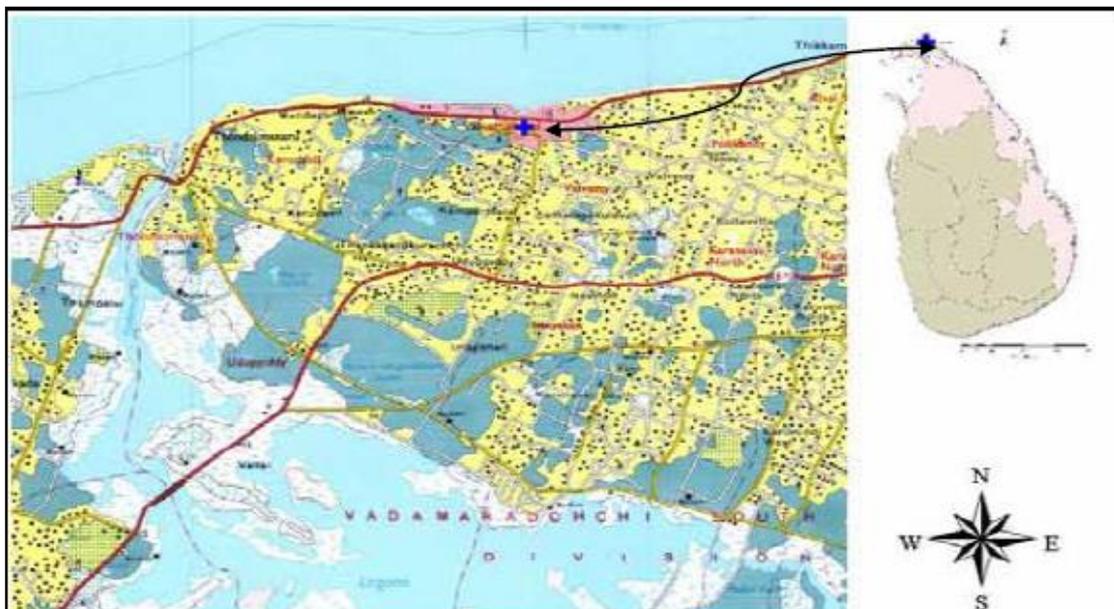
## 12. Valvai massacre - 2, 3, 4 August 1989



Presently the village of Valvettithurai in the Vadamaradchi 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1989, the Indian forces declared curfew in Valvettithurai. On 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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. Nallaratanam 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. Balasubramaniam Mahenthirathas, Student, 15
24. Balasubramaniam Yogenthirarasa, Fisherman, 28
25. Peter Vijayarajan Krishnavatha, Home maker, 33
26. Thalayasingam Jeyamohan, Fisherman, 18
27. Thalayasingam Sivakumar, Fisherman, 21
28. Thuraiyasa 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
41. Arumuganathan Ramachandran, Mason, 41
42. Ponnuthurai Rasenthiram, Fisherman, 23
43. Ponnuthurai, Shanmugalingam, driver, 43
44. Ponnambalam Ranjithakumar, Fisherman, 25
45. Ponnai Kalithas, Blacksmith, 26
46. Senthivel Sakthivel, Fisherman, 24
47. Sothilingam Rameshkumar, Fisherman, 18
48. Sellaiyogarasas, Farmer, 19
49. selvakathiramalai Mayivahanam, , 55
50. Selvasunthat Thavaseelan, Student, 07
51. Venkadasalam Subramaniam, Surveyor,
52. Velumayilum Selvachandran, Sailor, 26
53. Suntharamoorthy Umashankar, Retailer, 22
54. Suntharalingam Gnanavel, Fisherman 21
55. Subramaniam Amuthan, Merchant, 28
56. Subramaniam 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 Thurai Raja, 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. Thurai Raja said in his affidavit that ***ten people died*** on that day in the Chundukuli Girls College due to shelling.
2. ***Kamalambikai Karuppai 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 Karuppai. 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 Ranjinithevi 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 Kalavani 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, Chellai 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 Tharmakulasingam 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, Navalur 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, 'Easwaran 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 MPCS 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.

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.

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 Vadamaradchi 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. 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.