

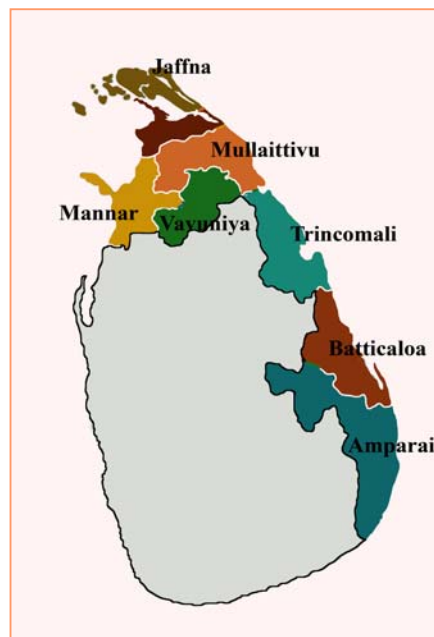


Human rights and humanitarian situation report in Tamil Eelam for November 2006

Press release of LTTE Peace Secretariat

**Civilian casualty during Cease fire
– 2002 till present**

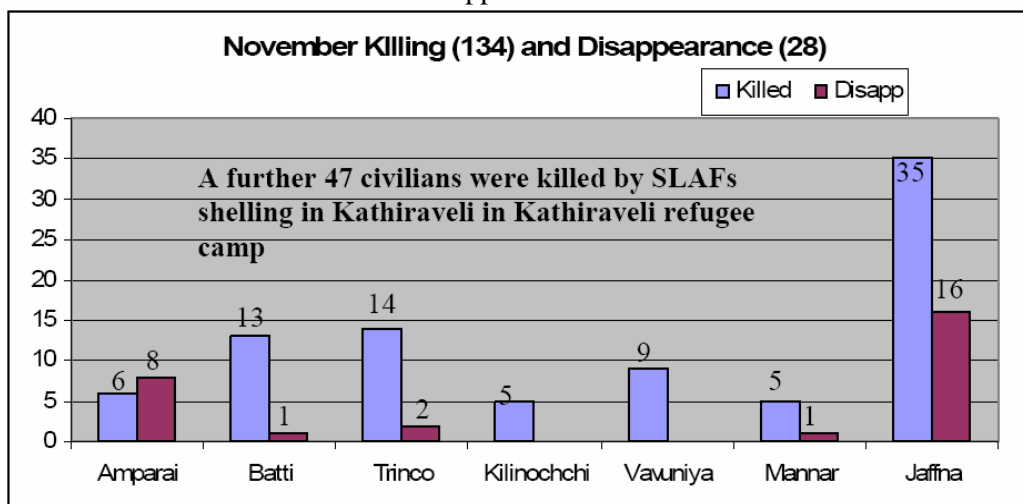
<i>Type</i>	<i>Number</i>
Killed	1392
Disappeared	512
Displaced	210,000
Militarized	300,000



- *Summary of events*

One hundred and thirty four civilians were killed and a further 28 were disappeared by the GoSL operated forces in the Tamil homeland during the month of November 2006. The chart below shows the civilian toll over districts of the Tamil homeland. Bombs dropped from air exploded just 600 metres from the newly rebuilt Kilinochchi district hospital. Five people from one family in a house nearby were killed. Hospital sustained serious damages. Forty seven refugees including eight children in a refugee camp in Batticaloa were killed by artillery shelling. Four tertiary students in Vavuniya were shot and killed and another thirteen were seriously injured. A prominent Tamil member of parliament was shot and killed in Colombo. At least 28 youths have sought protection in the Jaffna prison from the marauding death squads operated by the Sri Lankan military.

The only land route, the A9 route, into Jaffna remains closed and Vaharai people remain besieged and denied basic essential food and other supplies.



LTTE Peace Secretariat



Human rights and humanitarian situation report in Tamil Eelam for November 2006

- **Kilinochchi hospital bombing**

On 2 November Sri Lankan Air Force Kfirs dropped several bombs very close to the Kilinochchi district hospital. Kilinochchi is the current nerve centre of the Tamil struggle for independence. Five people from one family were killed. Among them were two senior school students studying at the Kilinochchi Central College. The bombs fell very near the hospital which is also located very close to the city centre. Hospital roof and windows sustained damages.

At any given time 300 in patient and 700 out patients are receiving treatment at the hospital All the 1000 patients and the staff ran out as bombs fell. Mothers half way through labour ran out still bleeding. Mothers carried new born babies as they ran out. The bombs were dropped at 2.00pm, closing time for the schools. Children were crying and running in panic. Since this incident there have been several sorties of bomber planes that have flown over Kilinochchi town. Though there were no deaths, each time children hear the noise they panic and very young children are subjected to trauma as they hear the bomber noise. It is tragic to see that INGOs that claim to care for child welfare remain silent about bomber sorties flying over civilian areas.

- **Vavuniya tertiary students killing**

On 18 November, a claymore attack on a Sri Lankan military post took place near an agricultural school in Thandikulam in Vavuniya. Immediately the military entered the agricultural school, lined up the students who were working in the garden and shot dead four of them. A further thirteen were injured. Friends of the students killed described how the military shot the students as they begged them not shoot because they are innocent. One student began crying while speaking to BBC Tamilosai describing the event. He said that they were all first told to lie down. Then his friend Achchuthan was ordered to get up and walk towards the military and as he walked he was shot dead.

- **TNA member of parliament killed**



Nadaraja Raviraj,
TNA Member of Parliament

Tamil Member of Parliament for the Tamil National Alliance, Raviraj, was shot and killed in Narahenpitya in Colombo in 9 November. MP Raviraj spoke, just the day before he was killed, in all three languages, Tamil, Sinhala and English, in Colombo in a protest against the killing and blockades. MP Raviraj hails from Jaffna and is a human rights lawyer as well as a member of parliament. He is the father of two children. He joins a long list of Tamil members of parliament and former members of parliament killed during the ceasefire period as listed below.

1. A Chandra Nehru, former Member of Parliament for Amparai, shot and killed on 23 Feb 2005, while traveling from Kilinochchi to Batticaloa near Batticaloa.
2. Joseph Pararajasingam, Member of Parliament for Batticaloa, shot and killed on 24 December 2005, in a church in Batticaloa town.



Human rights and humanitarian situation report in Tamil Eelam for November 2006

3. Vanniasingam Vigneswaran, selected by TNA to replace Joseph Pararajasingam, shot and killed on 7 April 2006, on his way to work in Trincomalee.
4. Sinnathamby Sivamaharasa, a former TNA Member of Parliament, shot and killed on 21 August 2006, near his home in Jaffna.
5. Nadaraja Raviraj, TNA Member of Parliament for Jaffna, shot and killed on 8 Nov 2006, in Narahenpitiya in Colombo.

• **Besieged Vaharai**



In August Sri Lankan military occupied the LTTE area of Sampur pushing the people south into the Vaharai area. The refugees who went to Vaharai joined the Vaharai residents who were devastated by the 2004 tsunami and were already living in temporary shelters. Having trapped 36,000 civilians in Vaharai, on 20 October the Sri Lankan military closed the entry points into Vaharai, denying the people even essential food. SLMM and all humanitarian agencies were restricted from going to Vaharai.

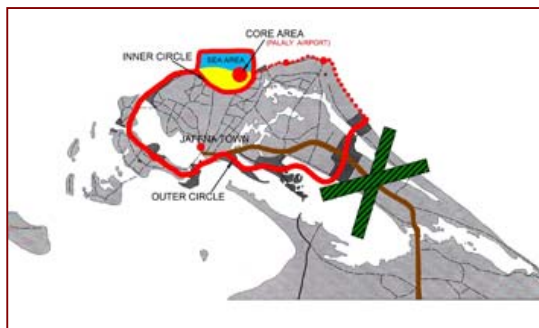
On several occasions convoy of food taken to Vaharai by humanitarian agencies were turned back by the Sri Lankan military. To date people continue to face starvation. It appears that the humanitarian agencies have yielded to

GoSL callousness in dealing with the humanitarian situations and given up further attempts.

Vaharai has been under constant shelling from many Sri Lankan military camps and people under constant threat of death. On November 6, Sri Lankan military shelled a refugee camp in Kathiraveli in Vaharai killing 47 civilians including eight children and injuring a further 125 civilians. The shelling has been going on in spite of this massacre.

• **A9 travails**

A9 is the only route that connects the Jaffna peninsula with the rest of the island. On 11 August, Sri Lankan military closed this route suddenly. Very little food has reached the people since then. Opening the A9 route was discussed at the latest talks in Geneva in October held between the GoSL and the LTTE. GoSL simply refused to open the lifeline to the people of Jaffna.



Reports of children under the age of five affected for life due to poor nutrition have begun to be reported. The amount of food and medicine taken by the GoSL by ship falls far short of the very minimum requirement for the 600,000 people trapped in Jaffna.



Human rights and humanitarian situation report in Tamil Eelam for November 2006

Food and medicine are not the only things denied to the people of Jaffna. A near total ban on fishing has entirely halted the livelihood of 17,000 fishermen who support 75,000 people. Fish is also the main source of protein to the people. Jaffna which in the 1980's exported 45% of the fish consumed in the entire island is now unable to produce enough for its own basic protein need due to the ban by the Sri Lankan military.

Farming the second biggest livelihood occupation of the people of Jaffna is also under threat. Lack of fuel, fertilizer, and seeds have prevented normal farming activities.

With travel to and from Jaffna extremely limited many teachers who travel from Jaffna to the mainland Vanni to teach in the schools in Vanni are unable to do so, disrupting education in Vanni schools. Relatives who frequently visit from Jaffna to Vanni to see their family have been denied this. This has prompted some to describe the closure of the A9 as the Berlin wall of the Northeast.

Puthuvai Rathnathurai, a well known poet of Tamil Eelam in one of his poems spoke of this "Berlin Wall". Indeed this is also the case in Vaharai at present.

With hope in my lap

*Berlin wall came down, joy filled all the hearts.
But here the sea lagoon, it became the impassable wall.
Loved ones on both ends, cut off from each other.
Husband, wife, mother, father, child, sibling, friend.*

*On that side....., the wind, it says nothing.
It just comes and goes. Jaffna became the dark prison.
Why? Where did they go? What happened to them?
Nothing is known. Just with hope in my lap.*

- **War budget**

GoSL announced its budget for 2007 in November. A comparison of military spending in this budget with the military spending of other South Asian countries are given in the table. The figures should shock anyone. The budget figures for the other countries were taken from their 2003 budget.

Comparison of the size of military and defense spending			
Country	Defense expenditure as a percentage of the nation's GDP	Defense expenditure per year per person in US dollars	Number of citizens for each soldier
India	2.6%	14.00	820
China	3.9%	43.08	580
Sri Lanka	4.3%	71.00	130
Pakistan	4.5%	20.00	251
Bangladesh	1.2%	4.60	1109

Note: For extensive information on the above and other human rights topic in the Tamil homeland please visit : <http://www.ltteps.org>