

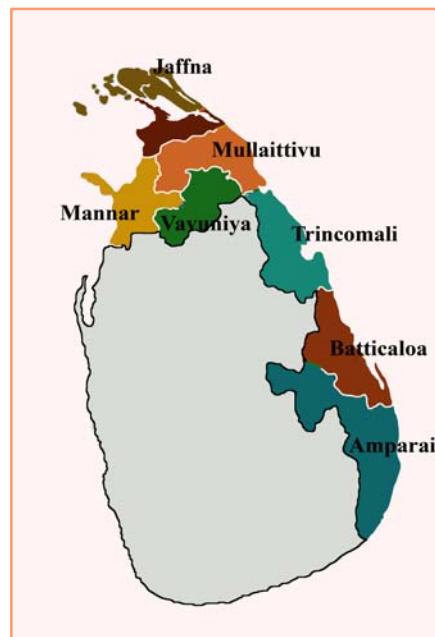


Human rights and humanitarian situation report in Tamil Eelam for December 2006

Press release of LTTE Peace Secretariat

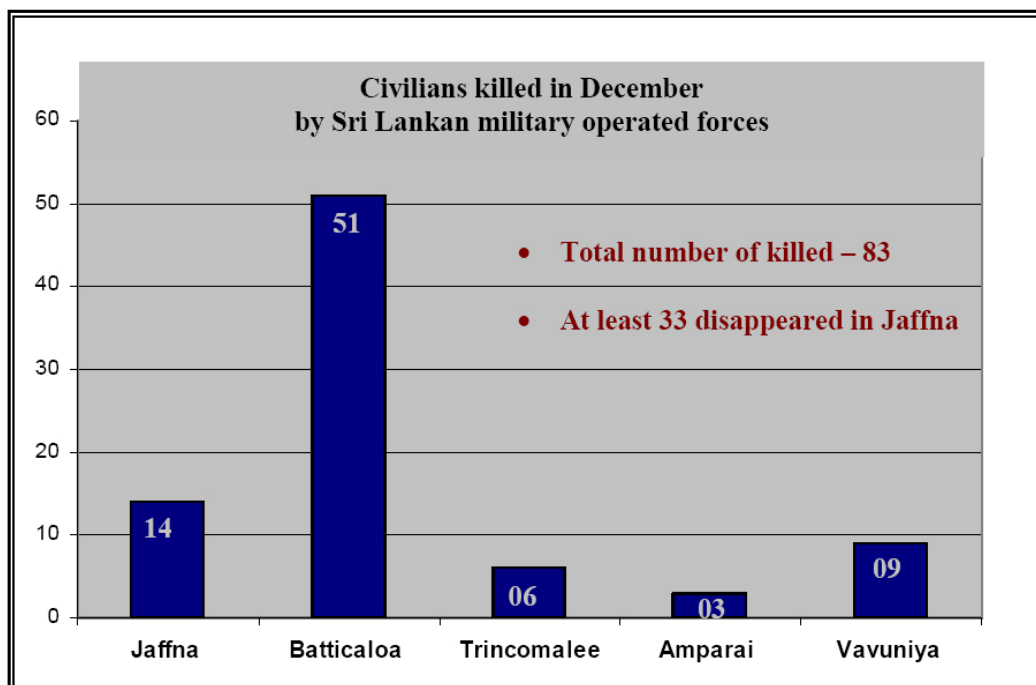
**Civilian casualty during Cease fire
– 2002 till present**

<i>Type</i>	<i>Number</i>
Killed	1475
Disappeared	545
Displaced	210,000
Evicted	300,000



Summary

Eighty three (83) Tamil civilians were killed and at least another 33 were disappeared by the GoSL operated forces in the Tamil homeland during the month of December 2006. Vaharai people were attacked again with artillery fire on two successive days. Forty civilians including eight children were killed on these two days. The graph shows Tamil civilian death toll in December on a district basis. A sample of civil rights violations by the occupying military force during December is listed in the Table on next page.





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Sample incidents during the month of December

- **Amparai:** On 1 December, *three daily wage* workers were abducted from their homes in Vinayapuram and were shot and killed in Amparai
- **Batticaloa:** On December 5, *four bodies* of Tamil youths abducted from Batticaloa were found in the Sinhala dominated area of Habarana in Polonaruwar district.
- **Jaffna:** On 7 December, Sri Lankan military abducted *three civilians* from Imayan village. One of them later escaped with injuries to tell the story. The other two civilians abducted are still missing.
- **Jaffna:** On 7 December, *13 Tamil civilians* were arrested by the Sri Lankan military on various locations in Valigamam in Jaffna. When the families went to the camp and asked for arrest warrant the military refused to give arrest warrants to the families. These cases are therefore treated as cases of disappearances.
- **Batticaloa:** On 7 December, *a customer and the salesman* were shot in the shop at 6th Mile Post in Nilaveli Rd.
- **Batticaloa:** On 9 December, *19 civilian* killed in Vaharai by Sri Lankan artillery fire on a refugee camp at the Palchenai school.
- **Batticaloa:** On 10 December, *22 civilian* killed in Vaharai by Sri Lankan artillery fire on a refugee camp at the Vammivedduvan school.
- **Jaffna:** On 14 December, *Rasaratnam* disappeared from Alaveddi in Jaffna. Earlier he lodged a complaint with the police about Sri Lankan military which had taken his lorry which is the basis of Rasaratnam's livelihood.
- **Batticaloa:** On December 16, *sixteen year old Kanthan* was abducted by the Karuna paramilitary group from Pandiruppu in Batticaloa.. He was shot dead by the group when he tried to escape.
- **Batticaloa:** On 23 December, *Sivanesan aged 23* was killed by the Karuna paramilitary group that entered a funeral house in Puthukkudiyiruppu in Batticaloa.
- **Batticaloa:** On 27 December, *Kiritharan* was shot and killed by the Sri Lankan military when he went to hire chairs for his brother's baby's 31st day ceremony in Thuvrankadu in Batticaloa.



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Vaharai



Vaharai children in bunkers

Refugee

*A night all asleep, military pounced
Our roots destroyed we fell
At dawn we reached this temple
Children go no more to school
They shrink with no bread no soup*

- Translation of poem by a Tamil Eelam poet

For a detail account on Vaharai see the November human rights report. Also see the slide show that can be down loaded at:

- <http://www.ltteps.org/?view=1818&folder=2> - Vaharai slide show
- <http://www.ltteps.org/?view=1787&folder=2> - November HR monthly report

Vaharai hospital doctor, Dr Varatharajan recounted the scene in front of his hospital as follows,

“People are still without roof over their head because they have just displaced to here. It is raining and some are seeking shelter under trees. Shells are still falling near the hospital. People have not had time to dig bunkers (hole in the ground). Some who have are inside their bunker. Others are lying down under trees hoping for protection against the shells. Some people are hastily digging bunkers. There aren't enough tools to dig. People are using anything that they can to dig. I can see children digging with eating plates. People having seen all deaths and are in a state of terror and it is reflected in the haste with which they are digging.”

Sri Lankan Air Force bombs Tamil homeland on significant days for the Tamils

It has now become an established tradition of the Sri Lankan armed forces to disrupt culturally significant commemorations of the Tamil people and also destroy their culturally significant places.

Tamil Eelam nation was observing five days of mourning for the passing away of the Voice of the Nation Balasingam. Throughout the Tamil homeland flags flew at half mask as the nation mourned the loss of a nationally significant figure in the Tamil struggle. On the final day of mourning and the day of the funeral, Sri Lankan Air Force Kfirs bombed a civilian settlement in Mullaithivu damaging civilian homes and forcing the civilians to run for cover.



Destroying shrines and cemeteries of Maveerar (fallen heroes) is another well established tradition of the Sinhala establishment. The Alankulam Maveerar cemetery in Trincomalee for 634 Maveerar was bulldozed to the ground in August 2006. The list of similar destructions of culturally significant places of the Tamils by the Sri Lankan military in the past is very long indeed.



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On the 2nd anniversary of the tsunami

The report released in November 2006 by the office of the United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy for Post-Tsunami assistance, titled "Approaches to Equity in Post-Tsunami Assistance, Sri Lanka: A Case Study", noted the inequity in the assistance provided to the Tamils and Sinhalese who were affected by the tsunami. Some of the comments in the report are,

"South and west collectively receiving approximately 20 percent more than required commitments compared with a similar shortfall of commitments for the north and east."

"The absence of P-TOMS implementation affected the context for recovery, especially in the north. Development partners withheld resources and activities in anticipation of the agreement, and some eventually withdrew some recovery commitments that hinged on P-TOMS".

"...the government's policy, adopted in 2005, to allow families with housing grants to additionally access supplemental NGO support for house construction appears to have benefited southerners disproportionately. Research undertaken for the World Bank reported that over 76 percent of houses surveyed in the south and west had been co-financed, compared with only 30 percent in the north and east."

Fifteen year old Ashok's whose mother and baby brother was killed in the tsunami said on the 2nd anniversary, "I was away at tuition class. The tsunami swept my entire family, father, mother, and three brothers and dropped them in the jungles. Mother died without recovering from her unconscious state. My baby brother's body was never recovered. Father suffered a stroke ten days later and needs full time care. I stopped school to take care of my father" says Ashok now 17. Ashok's family has displaced four times and presently they are displaced from Jaffna to Mullaithivu to escape Sri Lankan military artillery fire.

Power Plant proposed in Sampur after evicting the Tamils

Consortium of Civilian Based Organizations of Trincomalee in a press statement about the proposed power plant in Sampur said,

"Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) is planning to build a coal powered electricity generation plant in in Sampur. Sampur is densely populated by Tamil people. Sixteen thousand Tamil people live in this area. These permanent residents of Sampur were displaced from their homes on 25 April 2006 as a result of aerial bombardment and artillery fire by the Sri Lankan military. Twelve Tamil civilians were killed in this attack. Attacks on this area by the Sri Lankan military continued with the view to occupy Sampur. On 26 August 2006 another 40 Tamil civilians were killed by artillery fire from the Sri Lankan military. After this cruel onslaught the entire people displaced from the area and Sampur became a deserted land which the Sri Lankan military then occupied. It is to build a coal powered electricity generation plant in this area that the agreement between GoSL and the Government of India has been signed. The plan of the GoSL is to make these people permanent refugees by building the electricity plant in their land."

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