

# Kfir fodder

A report on the aerial bombing of  
the fishing village of Padahuthurai in Mannar district  
on 2 January 2007

*Kfir is an Israeli built bomber plane*

Child Protection Authority  
Kilinochchi  
10 January 2007

## Introduction

For those who doubt the borders of the Tamil homeland, Tamil people have a convincing response. If every location which was bombed by the Sri Lankan Air Force bombers are painted that area Tamils say is the Tamil homeland. The aerial bombardment of Tamil areas by the Sri Lankan Air force has been that extensive over the last two decades. Indeed when the civilian casualty and damage to civilian property, livestock, and cultivation are taken into account the devastation on people's lives caused by aerial bombardment is enormous.

In 2006, there were 10 major air raids on civilian population taking 211 lives, maiming and injuring double that number and in some incidents totally destroying people's habitats (see Table). There were of course many more bombardments that destroyed property and livestock.

The bombing of the Padahuthurai community in Mannar district on 2 January 2007, ought to confound the consciousness of humanity for *it killed 7 children among; them were three pre-school children and two babies* who were celebrating the new year.

<b>Aerial bombardments in 2006 taking 211 Tamil civilian lives</b>			
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	25-Apr-06	Muttur-east (Trincomalee)	15 civilians killed and 25 injured
2	26-Apr-06	Muttur-east (Trincomalee)	3 civilians killed and 8 injured
3	26-Jul-06	Mavilaru&Kathiraveli (Trincomalee)	7 civilians killed and 8 injured
4	29-Jul-06	Karadiyanaru (Batticaloa)	8 civilians killed and 4 injured
5	10-Aug-06	Muttur (Trincomalee)	97 civilians killed and more than 200 injured among displacing civilians.
6	14-Aug-06	Vallipunam (Mullaithivu)	55 girls killed and 155 injured in the Senchcholaibombing.
7	26-Aug-06	Muttur (Trincomalee)	2 civilians killed and 5 injured
8	16-Oct-06	Puthukkudiyiruppu (Mullathivu)	Four killed (three children) and nine injured.
9	2-Nov-2006	Kilinochchi hospital	Five from one family killed near Kilinochchi hospital
10	2 Jan-2007	Iluppaikadavai (Mannar)	15 killed (6 children) and 35 injured.



**Mulankavil**

**Iluppaikadavai**

**Pallamdu**

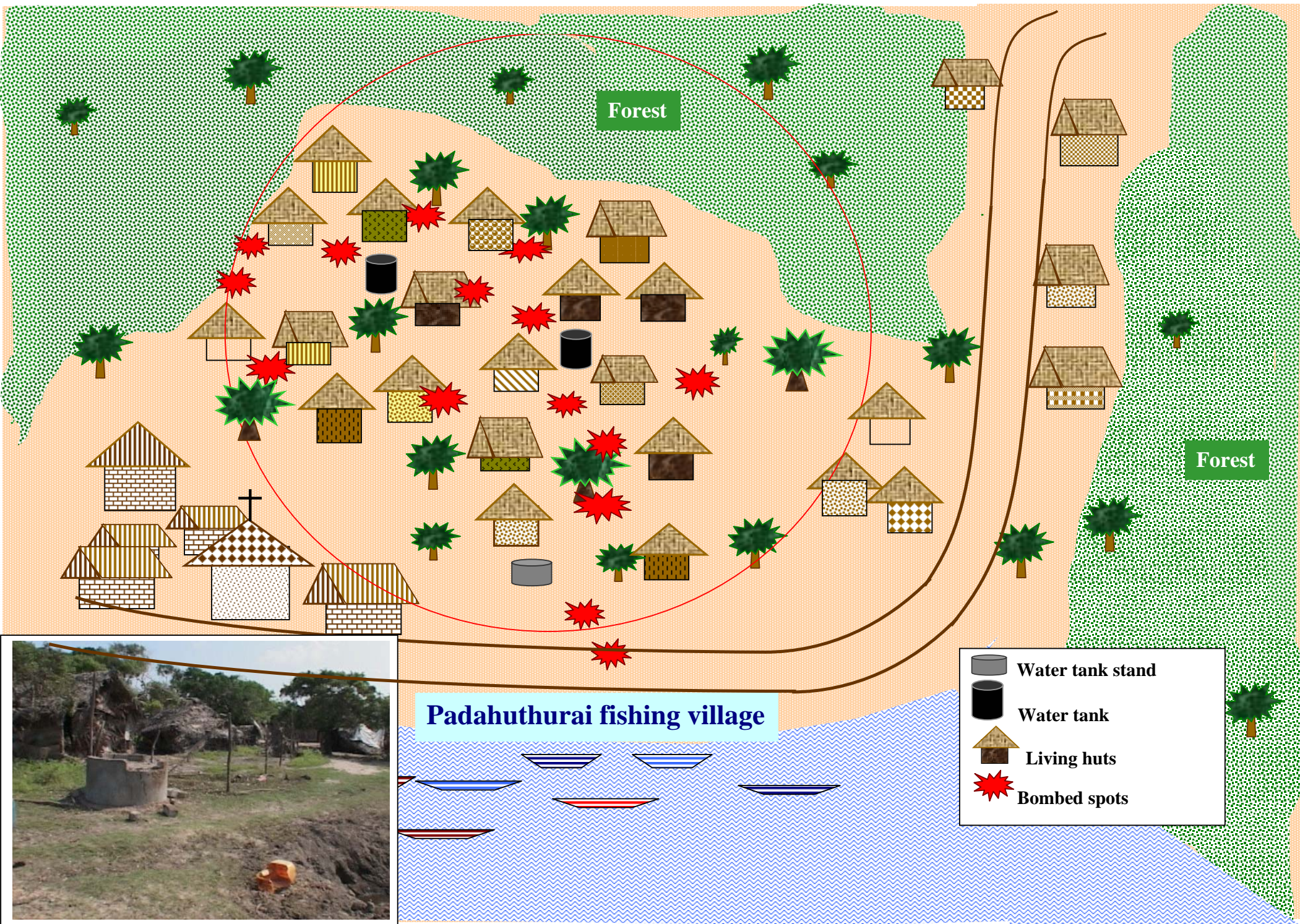
**Kilinochchi**

**MANNAR ISLAND**

**Mannar**







Forest

Forest

Padahuthurai fishing village

-  Water tank stand
-  Water tank
-  Living huts
-  Bombed spots



## On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2007

The Padahuthurai fishing community is made up of about 40 tight knit extended families. It is a Christian community with a small church and a priest that served them. Most are refugees displaced from Jaffna in 1995 who decided to make this location their home. A further number of families from Jaffna joined them in 2006 as the death squads began killing people who supported the LTTE in Jaffna.

The grand old lady of the community is 57 year old Grandma Rasakumari. Most of the families in the community are that of her children, her nieces or nephews. She was active and played her grand mother role for the children and it was appreciated by all the families.

The Padahuthurai location was ideal for small scale fishing which most of the men in the community did in small manual boats. The Sri Lankan military positions across the sea in Mannar were always a threat to the community. However, the community was out of reach of the military's artillery range providing them a sense of safety. The community did fear aerial raids and were ready to run for safer places for the slightest warning.

On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007, the new year was celebrated by the community as most Christians in the island do. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

.....BOMBS. ....

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”.*

## **Emergency medical assistance**

The injuries of survivors were horrendous, the closest hospital at Pallamadhu, eight kilometers away, lacked the facilities, yet all injury victims were taken there for initial first aid. Injury victims topped 50. There was no vehicles close by. Motorbikes and trailers were the only immediately available mode of transporting the victims.

At Pallamadhu there were two ambulances waiting. Mannar hospital authorities sent more ambulances from Mannar. These ambulances were turned back by the Sri Lankan military at the checkpoint. The only doctor there had to stabilize the lowering blood pressure of victims caused by excessive blood loss. Very young were in serious danger and doctors struggled to find a vein to put saline into the little bodies. Almost thirty of them were then transferred to Mulankavil hospital and from there to Kilinochchi hospital 50 kilometres away.

The Mannar hospital in Government controlled area was only 10 Kms away from the Pallamadhu hospital. The doctor, however, did not feel confident sending the victims to Mannar hospital for several reasons. He feared that the Sri Lankan military at the border will delay the victims at the checkpoint. He also feared that the patients maybe turned back. Military could also stop relatives going with the victims. Thus the decision was made by the doctor to send the patients 50 Kms away to Kilinochchi hospital.

At Kilinochchi the doctor in charge Sathananthan had a handful of severely injured patients. His words,

*“We have severe shortage of gauze, cotton, bandage and antibiotics. These are all essentials for surgery. We are facing problems treating these bomb victims many of whom are very young children. The shortage of many medicines is created by the Ministry of Defense which delays the clearing at the border. We have informed all INGOs working here about this situation. They are all well aware of it. They say that they are unable to do much about it. There is really no point in us doctors working here if there are no medicines.”*



## The children

Many were confounded by the relatively large percentage of children killed, maimed and injured. The explanation lies in the children excitedly crowding around the returning Kuhan family to greet them happy new year and one bomb exploded exactly at that location.

Five years old *Kuhan Thayalini*

Her loss: Father Kuhan, Mother Valestina, Two year old brother Thayalan, Grandma Rasakumari



Grandma Rasakumari's eldest son, *Sahayarasa*, was at sea. His loss: Baby son Mathushan died asleep on Grandma's lap.

His injured daughter *Jaksala* and wife *Luthumary* in hospital.



Grandma's grand nephew *Vithuran* is without parents to console him. Vithuran has a piece lodged in his neck that may require surgery. Mother Malini and his baby sister Tharshika are dead. Father *Uthayakumar* half conscious at Kilinochchi hospital..



Grandma's son-in-law **Vijayan** (right). He lost his wife and eight year old daughter Tharshini .

Grandma's son **Vijey** lost his leg. His four year old son Vinojan dead. His wife **Stella** and eight year old son **Vithusan** are at hospital. Vithuson also lost his leg



Grandma's youngest daughter-in-law **Marylogini**. Her husband, Grandma's youngest son, Santhiapillai (alias kutty), dead. Less than a month ago he eloped with his sweet heart Marylogini. Mary is injured and receiving treatment. Mary's brother 12 year old Jameson also died.





Grandma's grand nephew **Preethan** and Preethan's mother **Sahayarane** seriously injured (left).



Grandma's nephew, 15 years old **Christie** injured in stomach.



Little **Thanushan** injured is more comfortable when carried and he is always in his father Thavachelvan's hands. Thavachelvan is related to Grandma Rasakumari by marriage to Grandma's niece.

Families of four sisters of Thavachelvan paid dearly. His sister Alvinas Ananthi is dead and her daughter five year old Vithusha is also dead.

His sister Jeyanthi's children **Banushan** and **Pathikumar** are injured.

His sister Menka's 11 year old daughter lost a leg and her 14 year old son is injured.



His sisters Saratha and Inthumathy are injured. Saratha's daughter Thavapriya also is injured.

## **Sri Lankan Government response**

Responding to the outcry of the civilian death the Sri Lankan military spokesperson said that he is definite that the bomber hit LTTE bases because spy planes were confirming the spot prior to during and after the bombing. When pressed by a BBC journalists that very young children were killed in the bombing, Samarasinghe said that “*the LTTE keeps children in their bases*”. This response, a knee jerk reaction to use the “child soldier” issue to cover up any horrendous crime against children, and thus convince them and hope to convince the world that the culprits are the LTTE and not them, has become a hallmark of the Government of Sri Lankan in general.

## **Displacement and death of Grandpa**

This community of Padahuthurai displaced from the village of Navanthurai in Jaffna with 100 other families of the same village in 1995 and settled in Nachchikuda. Most of the families still live in Nachchikuda. In 1996, Grandma Rasakumari’s husband was killed in Sri Lankan Air Force bombing of Nachchikuda. This extended family displaced from Nachchikuda after that and settled in Padahuthurai. They liked this location because it suited their style of fishing.

History will record that both grandparents died in aerial bombardments. Grandma died with one of her baby grandson in her lap. Three of their children and one son-in-law died, one of their son maimed. Four of their grandchildren died. One of their grand-son maimed. That totals 10 people from Grandma’s immediate family killed by Sri Lankan Air Force aerial bombardments.

## **Future**

The children and their surviving relatives presently cope with this loss by supporting each other to recover from the loss of limbs and injuries and not thinking about their future. When they do, to face the loss of their family, their village, their livelihood, their homes, their property, how will they face it?

## The civilian toll

	Name	Age	Relationship with Grandma
<b>Killed</b>			
1	Sahajarasa Mathusan	1	Grand-son
2	Uthayakumar Tharshika	1	Grand-nephew
3	Kuhan Thayalan	2	Grand-son
4	Vijay Vinoyan	4	Grand-son
5	Alvin Vtithusa	4	Grand-niece
6	Vijayan Tharshini	8	Grand-daughter
7	Pavalam Jameson	12	Daughter-in-law's brother
8	Anthoni Sathiyapillai	26	Son
9	Uthayakumar Malini	27	Niece
10	Kuhan Valestina	30	Daughter
11	Alvin Ananthi	32	Niece
12	Vijayan Vijitha	35	Daughter
13	Arulampalam Kuhan	36	Son-in-law
14	Uthayakumar	55	Neice's husband
15	Anthinipillai Irasakumary	57	Grandma
<b>Maimed</b>			
1	Vijay Vithusan	5	Son
2	Antonykulas Junistala	11	Grand-niece
3	Anthonippilai Vijay	25	Grand-son



	<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Relationship with Grandma</b>
	<b>Injured</b>		
1	Sahayarasa Mathusan	1	Grand-son (died in her lap)
2	Vijay Sachchin	2	Grand-son
3	Uthayakumar Banusan	3	Grand-nephew
4	Konsarve Preethan	3	Grand-nephew
5	Thavachchelvan Thanusan	4	Grand-nephew
6	Sahayarasa Sajanthini	4	Grand-daughter
7	Uthayakumar Vithusan	5	Grand-nephew
8	Kukan Thayalini	5	Grand-daughter
9	Sahajarasa Jaksala	6	Grand-daughter
10	Kukan Mayuran	8	Grand-son
11	Uthayakumar Paththikkumar	9	Grand-nephew
12	Antonykulas Juniton	14	Grand-nephew
13	Sahajarasa Kristipan	15	Grand-nephew
14	Elvis Kriston	17	
15	Santhayapillai Marylogini	18	Daughter-in-law
16	Tharmarasa Thavapriya	20	
17	Kristeepan Jeny	22	
18	Josaph Laxala	23	
19	Anthonipillai Antonitta(Jeny)	25	
20	Sumanan Inthumathy	26	
21	Antoy Stella	28	
22	Sahayarasa Lunthumery	28	Daughter-in-law
23	Perumal Uthayakumar	30	Nephew
24	Konsarve Priya	32	
25	Thavachelvan Jeyakulathevi	32	Newpew's wife
26	Santhirakumar Sivatharshini	34	
27	Antonykulas Menaka	35	Niece
28	Uthayakumar Jeyanthi	38	
29	Sahayathan Adaikkalarani	40	Cousin's wife
30	Thurairasa Saratha	48	