



# Human rights and humanitarian situation report in Tamil Eelam for **March 2007**

## Press release of LTTE Peace Secretariat

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

Type	Number
Killed	1703
Disappeared	754
Displaced	340,000
Militarized	300,000



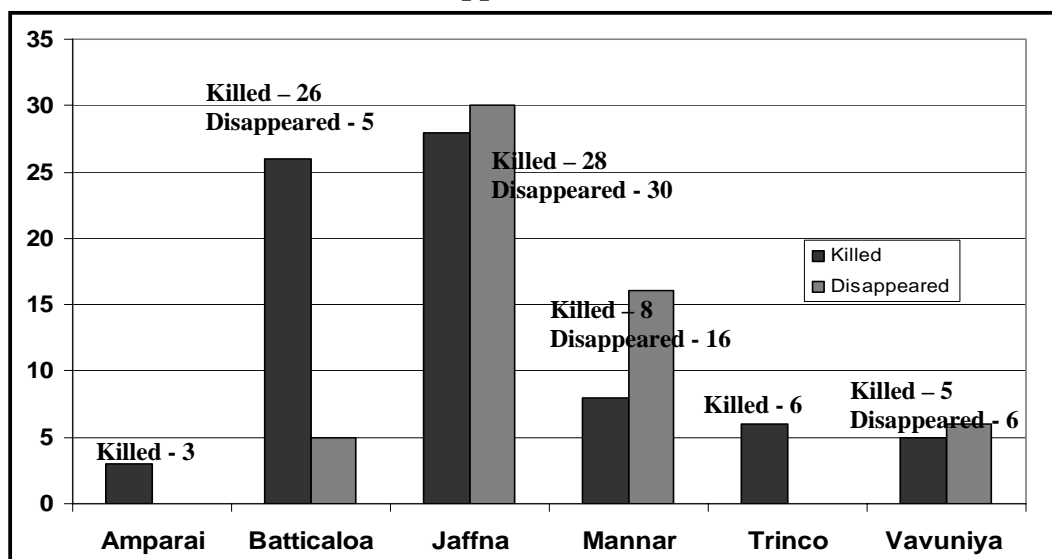
### Summary

76 civilians were killed and 57 were disappeared in the month of March 2007 by GoSL

26 civilians in Batticaloa, six civilians in Trincomalee, eight civilians in Mannar, five civilians in Vavuniya, three civilians in Amparai and 28 civilians in Jaffna were killed. A further 57 civilians were disappeared by the Sri Lankan operated forces in Tamil homeland.

The trend of highest number of killing and disappearance of civilians in Jaffna continues in the month of March as well. 57 civilians were disappeared including a pastor's family in Thandikkulam, Vavuniya on 8 March 2007. The March monthly bar-graph shows clearly the humanitarian situation in the whole of Northeast, specifically in Jaffna and in Batticaloa.

### Tamil civilians killed and disappeared in March in Tamil homeland



LTTE Peace Secretariat



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### **Batticaloa displacement**

One hundred thousand people were forced out of their homes in the LTTE areas of Batticaloa by deliberate artillery fire by the Sri Lankan military over a period of just a few days during the middle of this month. Despite the fact that the displacement was caused in a deliberate manner by the GoSL and there were no arrangements made to give decent accommodation to such a large number of refugees created over a few days. Indeed, Batticaloa was already struggling with 40,000 refugees from Vaharai and the conditions for them even after two months is appalling. International humanitarian agencies warned of conditions worse than that prevailing in Dafur.

In order to protect their stations in Vaharai the Sri Lankan military is also forcing displaced people from this area to return against their wish causing Human Rights Watch to issue a statement in which it said, "Sri Lankan authorities are using threats and intimidation to force civilians who fled recent fighting in Sri Lanka's civil war to return home Government and military officials are threatening to cut aid and withdraw security for displaced persons who refuse to return. Since March 12, the government has been returning people from at least six internally displaced person sites in eastern Batticaloa district."



Pic. by Reuters

One of the areas that was emptied of Tamil people is Kokkadichcholai.

This is a very ancient Tamil town that was well developed even before the first European set foot in this island. During the nearly three decades of war the Tamils of this area never displaced. Even such an ancient area was emptied of people in this forced exodus.

In order to fully comprehend the implications of this forced exodus of Tamil people, one must know the 50 year history of land confiscation with military threats and massacres from Tamil that were then settled with Sinhala prison inmates who were given guns and free food by the GoSL to keep the Tamil land owners away. The full story of this colonisation is yet to be told in all its details and brutality.

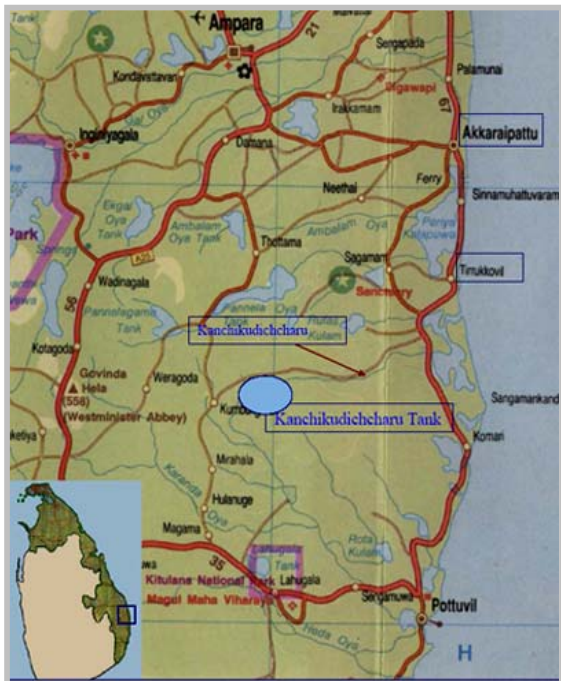
One of the artillery positions from which the indiscriminate shelling was carried out by the military is the one in Webber stadium in the middle of Batticaloa town (see Google map). Two major schools, the large district hospital and Batticaloa public library are all located close to this sport ground. School principals and hospital doctors raised concern about the detrimental effect of the loud and frightening noises to the children and patients. Yet, the military when asked to cease using Webber stadium as an artillery position told them they must relocate and the artillery position cannot be moved.



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### Kanchikudichchru water tank destroyed by military

The Kanchikudichcharu camp in Amparai district (see map) used to irrigate 1800 acres of paddy land owned by Tamil farmers. Presently the farmers have just completed sowing the fields. On 1 April evening Sri Lankan army deliberately destroyed the dams holding the water in this tank and flooding the fields and settlements near it.



Over and above loss of irrigation for 1800 acres of land and the destruction the tank has denied livelihood for 100 families depended on fishing off this tank.

More than 10,000 livestock in the area also depended on the water from the tank. All of these livestock will soon be dead of dehydration.

In total more than 4000 families depended on this tank water for paddy cultivation, drinking water for their livestock and for fishing off the tank.

It is clear that the military will do anything to prevent Tamil people from resettling back in their homes in this very fertile area that is supported by this tank.

### Children and Kfirs in Northeast

The increasing frequency of aerial bombardments of the Vanni area by Sri Lankan Air Force is having permanent psychological effect on the children. The picture painted by school principals and Directors of Children's Homes (homes for children who have lost their parents) shows the huge problems they face when the bomber fly over the sky. The long term effect of the deep rooted fear is repeatedly cited by those who have large number children in their care. These children frequently scream and in fear for noises of tractors and other vehicles.

*Both school principals and Directors of Children's Homes say that windows shatter and light bulbs fall off for the tremors caused by the explosions that are only a couple of Kilometres away. Both have said that they cried during such attacks for their inability to calm the large number of frightened children.*

One Children's Home caretaker, her voice breaking said,





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*“If this is the fate the God had written for us what can we do? We are facing this as adults; poor children, they are facing it at such a young age”.*

On 29 March 2007, Vallipunam High School children were just getting ready to sit their very first test of the end of term examinations. Teachers have just completed distributing the test questions when the Kfirs arrived, filling the school surrounding with deafening noise, shaking school buildings with explosions, and filling the air with smoke. Screaming children, in their pure white uniforms, scrambled out of their examination rooms to the rudimentary bunkers, basically drenches. The pictures speak for themselves.

The fear of Kfirs, the most often used Israel built bombers, is so pervasive that many games and songs have evolved among children to deal with it. The very young in the Children's Homes are playing imagined Kfir game rather than the usual mum and dad games. The toddlers pick up the dolls just like how adults pick us the children when they hear the Kfir noise and they go to a corner and stay very silent just like how the adults do.

The older 6-10 year olds play a different type of Kfir game. One child is the surveillance plane and two children will be Kfirs. First the surveillance plane will be flying and that is when they all scream and rush to the bunker. When the Kfir come they all curl up on the ground covering their faces as the Kfirs come and drop bombs.

In one pre-school the number song they sing goes. *“One and one is two, the Kfir dropped two”.*

### **Prison conditions for Tamil political prisoners**

Six Tamil members of parliament who visited several Tamil political prisoners held in the Colombo prison were appalled by the conditions in which the prisoners were kept. The Mps went to the Welikade where large number of Tamil political prisoners are detailed without trial for long periods under Sri Lanka's notorious emergency regulation.

One lot of 42 Tamil political prisoners they met were in detention for more one year without being told of the charges under which they are detained. These prisoners made several complaints to the MPS. They have said that they are not given any opportunity for leisure activity except one newspaper. They have not been given no clothing, any soap, toothbrush or toothpaste. They have not been even given any mat or pillow or bed sheet to sleep. They have very limited amount of water. They have access limited access to toilets and if any of the 42 prisoners needed to go to the toilet outside this time they use a plastic bag to defecated which they later empty in the toilets when the toilets are opened. They have no access to medical facility. Living in crowded cells under very poor hygiene they all suffer from impetigo but were given no medicine to treat it.

The MPs also met two brothers held in two separate locations. The younger brother was detailed first. He is from Vavuniya in the north. The older brother visited the younger brother in the prison a few times. As a punishment for this, the Sri Lankan military placed a grenade in the bag of the older brother when he was returning from the market in Vavuniya and arrested him and have placed him also in prison.

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

***LTTE Peace Secretariat***