

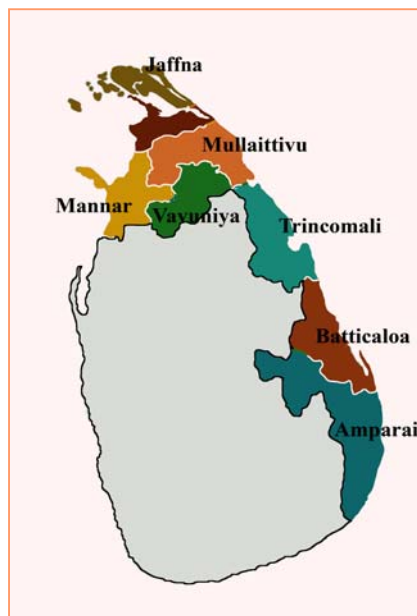


Human rights and humanitarian situation report in Tamil Eelam for April 2007

Press release of LTTE Peace Secretariat

Civilian casualty during Cease fire – 2002 till present

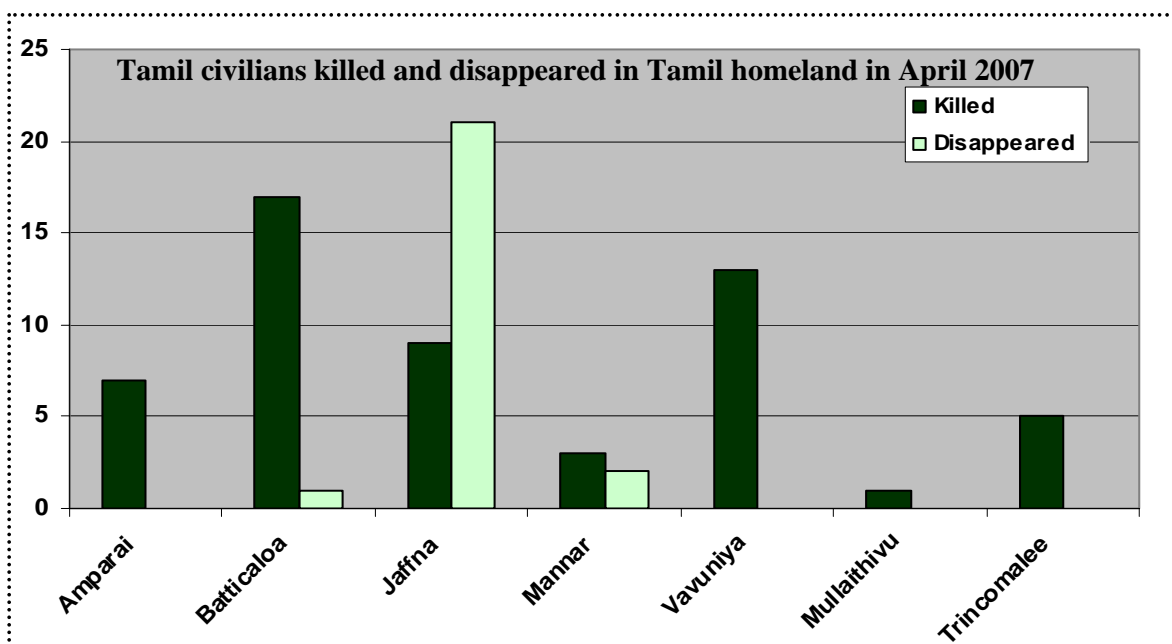
Type	Number
Killed	1756
Disappeared	778
Displaced	252,000
Militarized	300,000



Summary :

53 civilians were killed and 24 were disappeared in the month of April 2007 by GoSL operated forces.

17 civilians in Batticaloa, six civilians in Trincomalee, three civilians in Mannar, thirteen civilians in Vavuniya, seven civilians in Amparai and 9 civilians in Jaffna were killed. A further 24 civilians were disappeared by the Sri Lankan operated forces in Tamil homeland.





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The plight of 150,000 refugees in Batticaloa



In an interview he gave to the Colombo based Tamil daily Sudaroli of 8 April 2007, Fr (Dr) S Jebanesan, of Church of South India in Batticaloa said, "*Batticaloa has become a district of IDPs. The Government of Sri Lankan (GoSL) is blacking out the misery of the people in a well planned manner*".

He added that in Batticaloa district, unprecedented levels of aerial attacks, mortar and multi-barrel attacks are continuing creating unprecedented levels of displacement. He said 166,000 people have been made into IDPs and are staying in 144 IDP camps, in temples,

He also said that the pathetic situation of people going hungry certainly appears as if the GoSL using food as a weapon of war. He further said that GoSL is blacking out news about the miseries of the displaced and the GoSL is using many tactics to achieve this. He cited, abduction of journalists, threatening anonymous telephone calls to journalists, blocking the newspapers from reaching the people, applying pressure on selected media institutions, and demanding protection money as examples of GoSL tactics.

Livestock of the people killed in large numbers

Batticaloa district is one of the most agriculturally rich areas in the island. More than 100,000 livestock is reared in this district at any given time. Almost 98% of this livestock is reared in what was until March this year the LTTE part of the Batticaloa district.

The forced eviction of almost 150,000 people from this part of Batticaloa by Sri Lankan army by deliberately shelling into their homes resulted in people leaving their livestock and moving into GoSL part as refugees. These people who owned the 100,000 live stock and thousands of acres of farming land are now living in IDP camps.

The land left behind by the people is rich enough to feed the 100,000 livestock also left behind by them.

However, continuous blind shelling by the military is killing these livestock in large number everyday. To date more than 20,000 of the livestock have been killed by the blind shelling of the Sri Lankan military.

Tamil homes systematically pilfered

Over this month Sri Lankan military that has setup camp near Kokkadichchola in Batticaloa, a town that was emptied of people by Sri Lankan military indiscriminate shelling, regularly infiltrated into the Kokkadichchola town and pilfered the homes of Tamil residents in this township.

Having evicted the owners the military is unhindered in its pilfering operations. Tamil homes are systematically being emptied of their Television sets, Fridges, furniture and anything else the military fancies. Lorry loads of the pilfered items were seen being transported to the military camp.



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This township of Kokkadichcholai is a very ancient Tamil town which was affluent and well developed when the very first Europeans set foot in it more than 500 years ago.



Refugee

Left my village when
It fell to evil ghosts
I roam streets like a dog
The long nights must end
I need a path to return
I need an entrance to go
I need a state to stand up
Please give it to me God.

A Tamileelam poet

Daily Kfir attacks over Vanni terrorizes children

For several days in row the Vanni area was subjected to daily aerial bombardments by the Sri Lankan Air Force. All of the attacks have been in the middle of civilian settlements terrorizing people, especially the young.

On 24 April, bombs were dropped in late afternoon in Kaiveli not far from the Puthukkudiyoruppu hospital in Mullaithivu district. According to the doctors a three day old infant in the hospital died for the severe shock waves caused by the bomb explosions. A sixty year old man, walking along the road near the bombed site was also killed.

On 25 April, Sri Lankan Air Force dropped bombs in Kilinochchi district around 11.00am. Being the middle of the school day panicked children in all the schools ran in all directions. Most of the children in pre-school, in particular, start to cry uncontrollably. Parents rushed from their work places to collect their children causing havoc to the regular working day. All the schools in Kilinochchi were forced to close as the panicky parents took their children home.

Today, 26 April, at 7.30 pm there was further bombing in Kilinochchi just 500 metres from the Thiruvaiyaru Mahavidhyalayam school. Luckily the school day has not started at that time. Shunmuganathan Sivaskathi, aged 26, suffered head injuries and he is receiving treatment at Kilinochchi hospital. An eight year old boy received minor injuries to his hand and was dismissed from the hospital after treatment. Vaddan Sinnathamby, aged 68, suffered broken bones as he tried to jump into the air raid shelter in a hurry.

Murder of Rajivarman – the tragic loss of another talented journalist

The murder of Rajivarman, a staff reporter of the Jaffna daily Uthayan, by the GoSL operated paramilitary force in Jaffna on 29 April is yet another evidence of planned elimination of journalists who dare to write against the Sri Lankan military atrocities.



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Twenty five years old Rajivarman, a staff reporter under training with the Jaffna daily Uthayan newspaper has worked as journalists with other Jaffna dailies in the past. He was shot and killed while out on duty collecting news stories.



Uthayan daily has been the target of the paramilitary group for sometime and it has come under repeated attack by them. On 2 May 2006, Uthayan Press Office came under attack by the paramilitary group as the Sri Lankan military stood guard outside. Two Uthayan employees were killed and the office equipments were smashed by the armed intruders with no one apprehending them. On 18 August 2006, Uthayan warehouse was burnt down by the paramilitary after the security guard was blindfolded and tied up.

The list of journalists and media institutions attacked by the Sri Lankan military and its paramilitary forces is depressingly long indeed.

Journalists murdered

- On June 2004 a leading Tamil media journalist Nadeson was shot dead on his way to work.
- On April 2005, internationally renowned journalist and a TamilNet editor, Sivaram Dharmeratnam, was abducted and killed in Colombo.
- On January 2006, Sukirtharajan, Trincomalee correspondent for a Tamil daily, “Sudaroli”, published in Colombo was shot dead near his home.
- On 2 July freelance journalist Sampath Lakmal de Silva was shot and killed in Colombo.
- On 20 August, manager, Sivamaharasa, of a Tamil daily, Namathu Eelanadu in Jaffna, was shot and killed at his home inside a Sri Lankan military zone by gunmen.

News paper distributors murdered

- In June 2005, A Kannamuthu, “Eelanatham” daily distributor was shot and killed in Batticaloa.
- In September 2005, K Jokakumar, another “Eelanatham” daily distributor was killed.
- On August 15 2006 Uthayan daily distributor, Sathasivam Baskaran was shot and killed in Jaffna.

Press offices attacked.

- In December 2004, “Thinakkural” Daily press office in Batticaloa was attacked.
- On 29 August 2005, Sudaroli weekly press office in Colombo was attacked with two grenades lobbed into the building. Its security guard, David Selvaratnam, died of injuries sustained in the attack. Three more employees were injured.
- On 2 May 2006, Uthayan press office was attacked. Two employees were killed and equipment were damaged.
- On 26 August warehouse belonging to the Uthayan daily was set on fire.

Good journalists and media institutions are indeed a threatened species in this island at the hands of the Sri Lankan military.

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