



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

Press release of LTTE Peace Secretariat

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

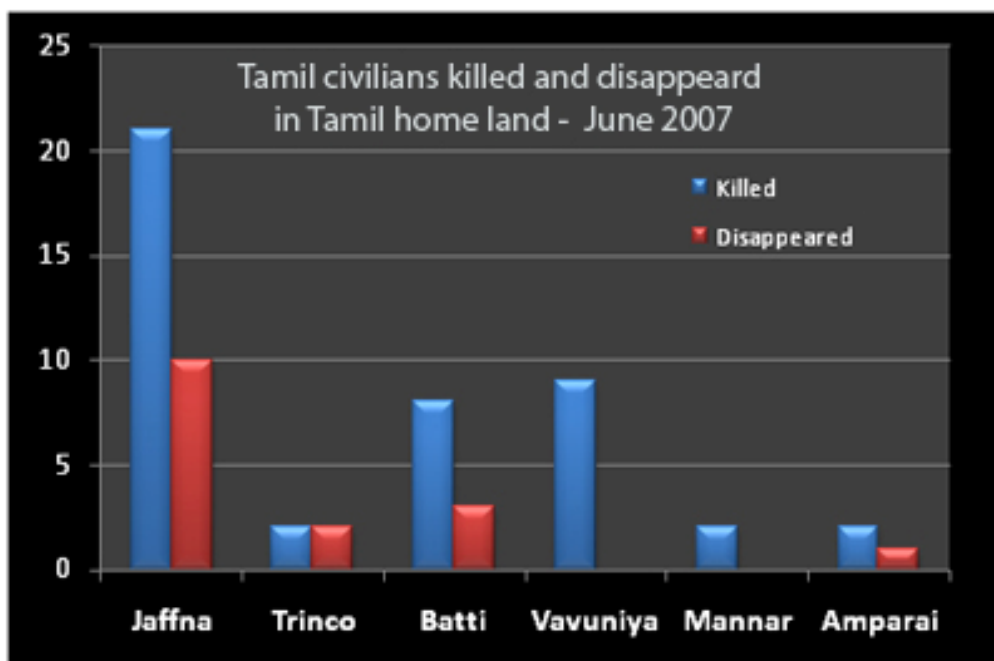
<i>Type</i>	<i>Number</i>
Killed	1849
Disappeared	830
Displaced	340,000
Militarized	300,000



Summary :

June monthly civilian toll

At the completion of half the year of 2007 at the end of June, the civilian toll for the half year stands at a total of 374 civilians killed and another 277 civilians disappeared in the hands of the GoSL operated forces.



LTTE Peace Secretariat



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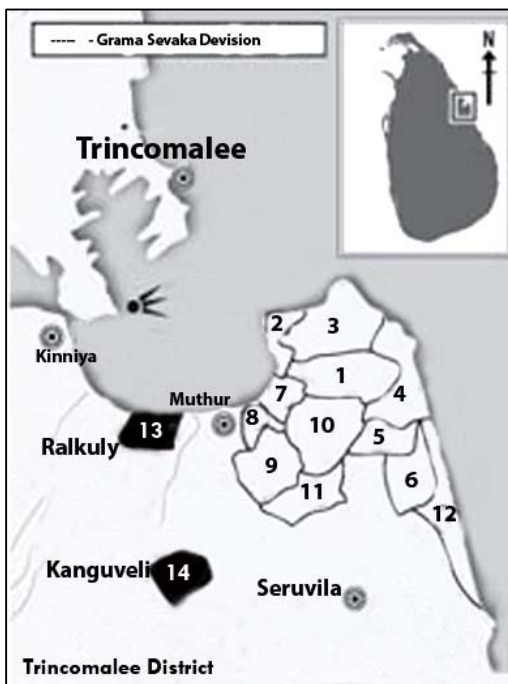
June monthly statistics on civilians killed and disappeared by the GoSL operated death squads in the Tamil homeland shows no letting down. Forty four civilians were killed and disappeared during this month. As usual topping the list in largest number killed, twenty-one, is Jaffna. Nine were killed in Vavuniya and eight were killed in Batticaloa.

Comparing this statistics with the June 11-17 weekly report of the SLMM reveals an important point. In this weekly report SLMM said that 34 civilians were abducted in this one week alone in the three eastern districts. This clearly shows that the statistics on the number of disappeared is much bigger than what could be collected by us. Unlike the number reported as killed, cases of disappearances are much harder to report because it takes sometime before a disappearance can be confirmed and the fact of a disappearance evolves gradually as the families continue to search for a relative. It therefore does not capture the data collectors' and news reporters' attention, like that of a killing.

Other serious violations that the above statistics do not capture are the persistent, cordon and search and arrest operations in Jaffna and the attacks on fishermen at sea by the Sri Lankan Navy. These are continuing everyday on several locations the Tamil homeland.

The daily cordon and search operations in Jaffna are terrorizing the people. Many of those arrested during these searches have been released after torture and death threats. Reports of fishermen who were forced to abandon their fishing and jump off their boats and swim to safety to escape Sri Lankan Navy attack also come out regularly. Many lose their valuable boats, engines and fishing nets that they are forced to abandon in fear of the Sri Lankan Navy gunfire.

The latest Militarized Zone of the GoSL in Muthur-East



On 30 May 2007, Government of Sri Lanka gazetted Regulation No. 2 of 2007 in Government Gazette Extraordinary No: 1499/25 which declared Muthur-East / Sampoor as a High Security Zone (HSZ) (see map).

What exactly is this HSZ? These are vast areas of land in the Tamil homeland that are confiscated by the Sri Lankan military over the last three decades after evicting the Tamils who been living there for many generations. These are used by the Sri Lankan military and the GoSL refers to them as HSZs. These are more accurately called military zones (MZ) that have been the cause of great insecurity for the Tamil people but are referred to by GoSL by the very oxymoronic phrase "HSZ".

The latest declaration of MZ in Muthur-East in the Trincomalee district, mentioned above, will confiscate private land from the Tamils who were displaced from their homes by indiscriminate shelling and bombing in



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late 2006. This confiscation of land is taking place while their owners are languishing in refugee camps in appalling conditions. Thousands of Tamil families, who have been historical inhabitants of several ancient Tamil villages in this area, will be affected by this latest declaration. It is very revealing to note the census statistics taken in 1881 for this newly declared MZ. This MZ area was then known as Kottiarpattu AGA Division. According to the 1881 statistics, there were 3027 Tamils, 1673 Muslims, 38 Veddass, 13 of European descent and 11 Sinhalese in this MZ. There can be no doubt that this area is a Tamil/Muslim area. Despite this historic inhabitation by Tamils, even the Members of parliament for this area were not consulted before making the MZ declaration.

The declared of MZ in Mutur-East covers half of the present Mutur Divisional Secretariat which is 179.4 square kilometers in territory. Thus the confiscated area covers 90 square kilometers which is a very large area. There are 12 Grama Sevakar divisions within the declared MZ consisting of 28 villages with a total population of 15648 who have now been made homeless. This area includes 19 schools including the leading school for this area, the Chenaiyoor Central College. There are 18 Hindu temples and one Methodist church in this area. The area has 88 water tanks that are used for irrigating farmlands and grazing land for livestock. About 2000 hectares of such land are owned by the people. There are many fishing villages in which people depend on fishing as their main livelihood. Two hospitals, Sampur Hospital and Paddalipuram Hospital are situated in these newly declared MZ.

Such MZ declarations over the last three decades are a much ignored phenomenon. Its sociological flow on effects in the Tamil homeland has not received adequate attention. The land confiscations through MZ declarations have created more than 300,000 long term refugees. People loose their homes and its possessions, agricultural and grazing land, coconut tree estates, fruit trees, and other trees that sustain the nutritional needs of the people, and coastlines used for fishing which for many is their livelihood. The violation of children's rights caused by the MZ displacement is yet another dimension. Many schools that fall inside the MZs are permanently lost to the children.

Ethnic cleansing Colombo of Tamils

On Thursday June 7, armed forces of the Sri Lankan Government with heavy weapons stormed into the low budget hotels in Colombo that are frequented by Tamils and ordered the Tamils to evacuate within one hour. Tamils thus forced out of their hotels at gunpoint were then put into busses and taken to various parts of the Tamil homeland. Tamils thus transported were not even taken to their own home town. Many ended up in towns where they knew on one. They were simply bussed out of Colombo.

Among those bussed out were people over the age of 70 who have come to Colombo for medical treatment and those who have come to send off their children who were flying overseas. There were young men and women who have come to get married to partners living off shore. There were very young children who have accompanied their parents to Colombo to complete one or two of the hundreds of errands that forces people from the rest of the island to come to Colombo. These errands





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include official chores like getting a passport and getting one's retirement papers in order.

Even the normally soft spoken (when it comes to being critical of Sri Lankan Government's human rights record) international bodies lashed out that this was tantamount to ethnic cleansing.

A court stay order brought an end to an operation that would have ended up as a huge operation gradually affecting more and more of the Tamil people in Colombo.

Stunned by the strong international reaction the government apologized, even as the chief of police claimed that there was nothing wrong in what they did.



One of the Tamils who was evicted, bussed to out of Colombo and then bussed back following the court order said, "We were herded into buses like cattle and even when we were told we could go back to Colombo, we were warned to finish our work there and go back to our home towns immediately".

UN irked by Sri Lanka's humanitarian record

U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs John Holmes told the Security Council, which held an open debate 22 June on the "Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict", that in Sri Lanka, over 600,000 inhabitants of the Jaffna peninsula have faced shortages of basic necessities since August of last year when the government restricted access to the peninsula by road.

U.N. Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Frederick Lyons accused the Sri Lankan government of starving its humanitarian agencies of much-needed fuel to operate vehicles and also generators which power freezers storing life-saving vaccines and other medicines. He said in a letter dated March 15 that the continued power shortages, caused by lack of fuel, will soon affect the preservation of vaccines and essential medicines in Vanni. In the letter he also warned that U.N. offices will soon be deprived of basic power supply and communications which in turn would seriously affect staff security.

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