

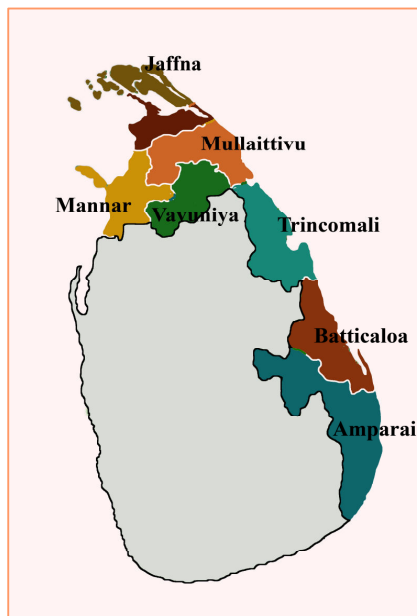


## Human rights and humanitarian situation report in Tamil Eelam for October 2007

*Press release of LTTE Peace Secretariat*

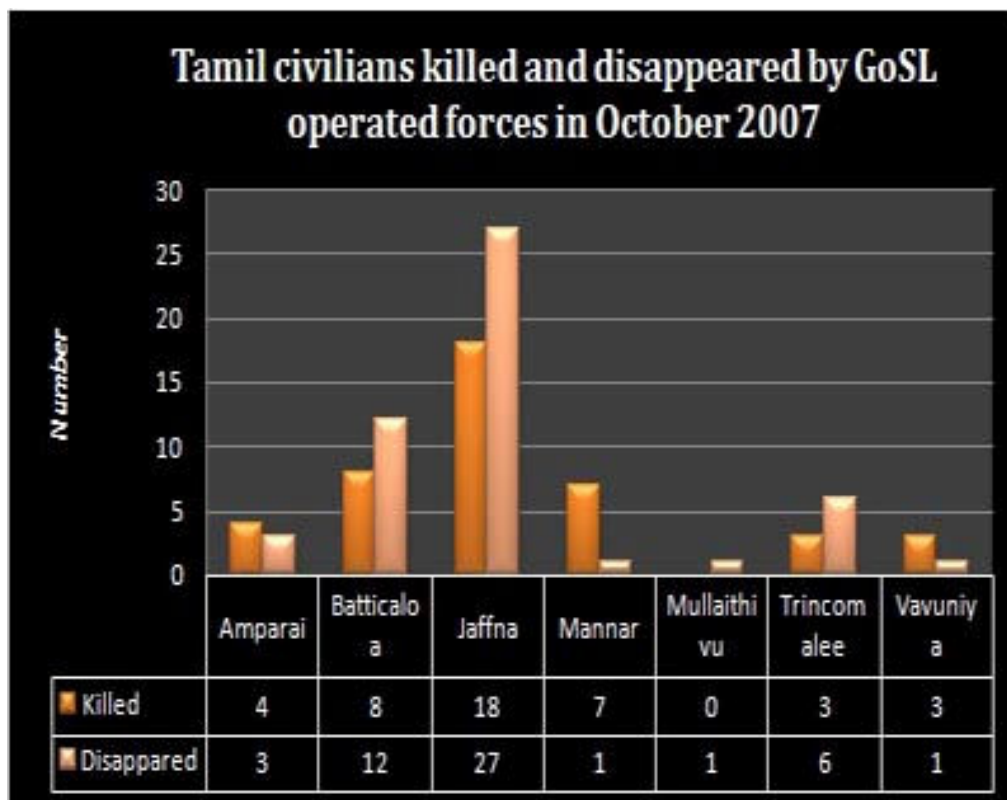
**Civilian casualty during Cease fire  
– 2002 till present**

<i>Type</i>	<i>Number</i>
<b>Killed</b>	<b>2031</b>
<b>Disappeared</b>	<b>961</b>
<b>Displaced</b>	<b>340,000</b>
<b>Militarized</b>	<b>300,000</b>



**Civilian toll:**

*43 Tamil civilians were killed and 51 were disappeared by the Sri Lanka government operated forces within Tamil homeland in the month of October, 2007.*



*LTTE Peace Secretariat*



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Jaffna continues to be the worst city for both killing and disappearances. Batticaloa saw a sharp increase in the number of disappearances in the month of October.

Four civilians died in Mannar in a single artillery firing as the shells fell on two houses. SLA was targeting a memorial function for the 21 Black Tigers who died in the Anuradhapuram Air Force Base attack. However, the shells fell on a nearby settlement killing four. One of those killed was a pregnant woman and her near full term baby.

Five civilians including three children aged 3, 6 and 8 were wounded in Sri Lankan Air Force bombing on a civilian settlement in Puthukudiyiruppu in the Mullaitivu district around 2 pm today, 16th October 2007.

A woman was abducted from Jaffna after her husband sought protection with the Jaffna human rights commission.

Overall most of the killing and disappearance occurred as single cases.



In the month of October the UN High Commissioner for human rights, Ms Louise Arbour, visited Sri Lanka to study first hand the serious human rights situation faced by the people, in particular the Tamil people. Yet she was prevented by the Sri Lankan Government from visiting and meeting the affected people. When she visited Jaffna, one of the worst places for human rights in the world today, women cried for her attention through closed gates.



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While Ms Arbour was aware of the statistics of killing and disappearance even before she visited Jaffna she saw first hand the silencing of the victims through threats under a brutal military suppression.

One eyewitness to the killing of her own husband managed to escape and recount her story. A video record of her statement can be viewed at: <http://www.ltteps.org/?view=2043&folder=2>

### **Eastern colonisation**

Tamil parliamentarians of the eastern constituencies once again accused Sri Lankan State of creating Sinhala settlements in Tamil people land in the Eastern province under the guise of resettlement. The Tamil parliamentarians said that the GoSL is seeking international aid under the guise of resettlement but has militarized the province and brought it under the administration of the military.

Ignoring the time honoured practice of giving employment to people of the area, Sinhala prisoners were brought in and given employment in the State cashew plantation at Maangkerni. Local people, who have worked there in the past, are now without livelihood and are languishing in refugee camps. These Sinhala prisoners could eventually be settled in the Tamil dominated areas as has been done many times in the past in areas from Vavuniya to Amparai.

Noting this trend the International Crisis Group (ICG) in its November 2007 report on Sri Lanka included as one of its recommendation the following:

*“ensure that reconstruction and economic development work in the Eastern Province is directed by the civil administration, not the military, is carried out with the active participation of local political leaders and civil society groups from all ethnic communities and makes no changes in the ethnic balance or administrative organisation of the province.”*

Already such colonisation efforts are well underway in the Trincomalee district. A Hindu temple in Ilankaithuraimykam was destroyed by the Sri Lankan armed forces and a Buddhist temple had been built up in the same place. Sinhalese families of war affected soldiers have been settled in the ancient Tamil village of Muthalikulam. Likewise, the Government and its armed forces are trying to settle Sinhalese population in many other Tamil villages including Thennaimaravadi near Pulmoddai, Vaharai areas, and Sundayaru in Kantalai all in the Trincomalee district.

Muthur east and Sampur areas in Trincomalee comprising 28 villages of 12 Grama Sevaka Divisions which belong to Tamils and Muslims are designated as “High Security Zones (HSZ)” and access to these areas were denied to the owners of the land, the people, by the GoSL. Civilians of these areas are unable to return to their homes and are languishing in crowded welfare centers without basic facilities.

***The Sinhalasation of Tamil villages began in 1948 when Sinhalese were settled in predominantly Tamil villages under the Mahaweli development scheme by the former Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake and it is continuing to this date.***



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### **SLA forcefully enters Jaffna University campus, attacks the students**

Students in Jaffna peninsula especially university students are under threat by the Sri Lankan military operated forces. Many students were also killed and disappeared at the hand of this military.

On the morning of 30 September, nearly one thousand Arts faculty students were gathered in the Kailasapathi Cultural Hall in the Jaffna University for a meeting. When the meeting was about to start, large number of Sri Lankan military in armored vehicles forcefully entered the university premises and randomly opened fire and attacked the students.

One student was injured in the random shooting by the Sri Lankan military. This is not the first time for the university students faced Sri Lankan military violence in the university complex. A year ago, the university was kept closed following similar threats from the Sri Lankan military.

### **UN special rapporteur on torture, Nowak, reports on Sri Lanka**

Manfred Nowak, UN special rapporteur on torture filed his report to the UN after visiting Sri Lanka in October. In his report he said that he has received numerous credible allegations from detainees that they were tortured by the police and the army. Some excerpts:

*“Intimidation of victims by police officers to refrain from making complaints against them was commonly reported, as were allegations of threats of further violence, or threatening to fabricate criminal cases of possession of narcotics or dangerous weapons. Detainees regularly reported that habeas corpus hearings before a magistrate either involved no real opportunity to complain about police torture given that they were often escorted to courts by the very same perpetrators, or that the magistrate did not inquire into whether the suspect was mistreated in custody. Medical examinations were frequently alleged to take place in the presence of the perpetrators, or directed to junior doctors with little experience in documentation of injuries.”*

Nowak also said that he has overwhelming evidence that torture is routine. Mr Nowak said the despite large number of cases of torture was filed in the courts in 1994 only three people have so far been convicted.

Nowak's full press release can be read at:

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/EGUA-78GPSC?OpenDocument>

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