

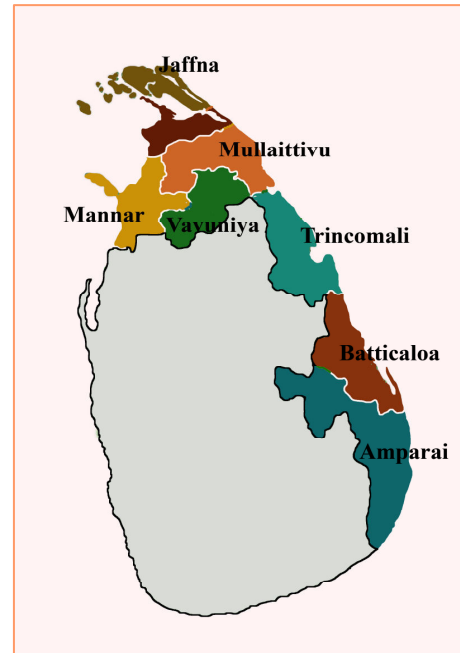


# Human rights and humanitarian situation report in Tamil homeland for **November 2007**

## Press release of LTTE Peace Secretariat

Civilian casualty during Cease fire  
– 2002 till present

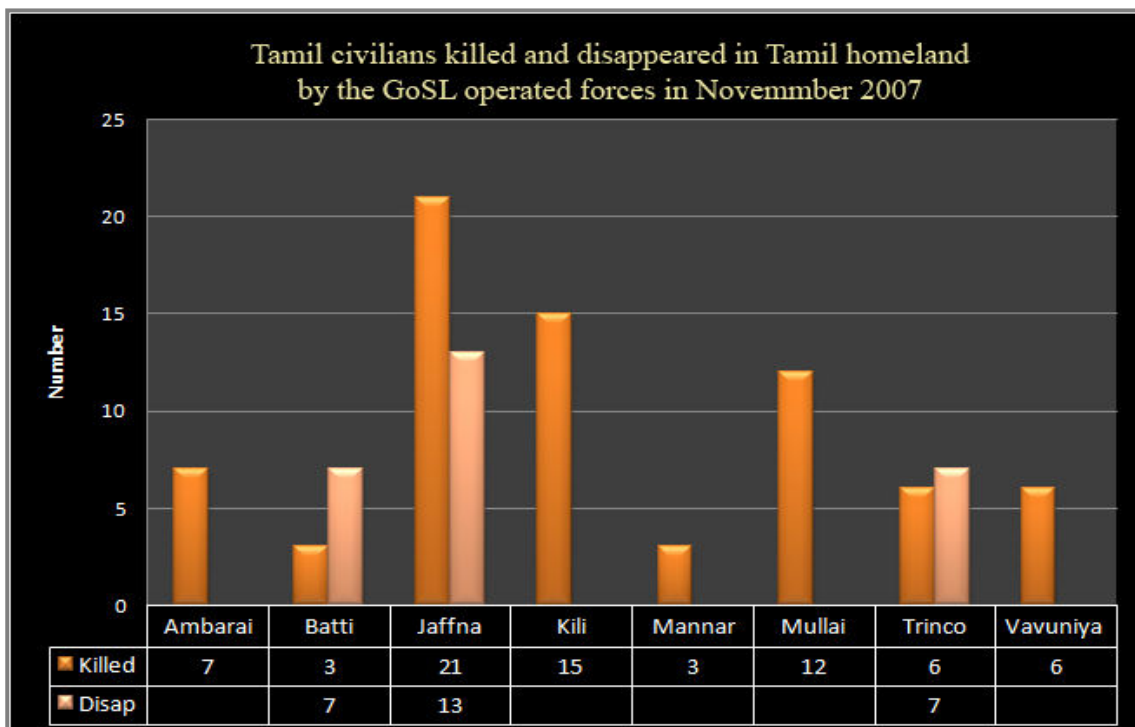
Type	Number
Killed	2104
Disappeared	988
Displaced	340,000
Militarized	300,000



## Civilian toll for the month of November

*Seventy three civilians were killed and 27 were disappeared by the Sri Lanka Government operated forces during the month of November.*

27 people were killed by claymore and aerial attacks by the Sri Lanka Air Force in the Vanni region alone during this month. A further 21 people were shot and killed by Sri Lanka operated forces in Jaffna.





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The aerial bombings and claymore attacks in the Vanni region killed scores of children. Two hospitals, one library, one school, VoT building, one UN building, one INGO building, and scores of homes were completely destroyed by aerial bombings during November.

- **Children killed**

Sri Lanka launched a massive campaign of carnage in Vanni as the people and the LTTE began their three days of Maveerar commemoration on 25 November. On 25 November there was an aerial bombardment and a claymore attack both taking many lives. On 26 November there were two aerial bombings damaging many public buildings. On 27 November the final day of Maveerar commemoration there were another claymore attack and an aerial bombing.



The attacks over the three days resulted in the deaths of thirteen children of whom ten are under the age of 15. Many children sustained injuries. The six children in the photographs above were killed in a single claymore attack on 27 November. The psychological trauma suffered by those children who experienced the attacks but were neither killed nor injured physically is difficult to measure. One family's ten year old epileptic son was so badly traumatized and had many epileptic attacks following the bombing.

- **Public buildings destroyed**

Enormous amount of damages were done to public and private civilian buildings due to the aerial bombings. Government officers in charge of the areas have published the damages and its cost. Some are listed:

- *Ayurvedic (Native medicine) hospital sustained severe damages. Roof and windows are destroyed. Walls have cracked in many places.*



- *It cracked the walls of an inpatient hospital for mentally ill women severely affecting their condition.*



- *The building of the Voice of Tigers radio station was flattened.*

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- *The public library sustained severe damages.*



- *The adjacent UN building of the WFP was destroyed.*



- *The building of FORUT international organizations was also damaged.*



- Many private houses and shops were damaged and destroyed. The cost is estimated to be more than Rupees 100 million.

### **Destruction of the Mannar economy**

Mannar is the Northwest district of the Tamil homeland. The entire population is Tamil speaking. The majority of the people follow the Catholic religion and substantial proportions are Muslims and Hindus.

According to figures published by the Government Agent office of Mannar, more than 22,000 civilians in LTTE parts of Mannar are displaced due to the continuous shelling of the Sri Lanka military. In fact 22,332 civilians from 5938 families have been displaced. More than 90% of the people displaced so far depend on farming for livelihood. When the people displace they are forced to leave the farms behind. This is not only a loss of livelihood for the displaced people but also a major destructive attack on the economy of Mannar.

Over and above this the Kaddukkarai water tank in the Mannar district, the second largest tank in the island, is occupied by the Sinhala forces that is totally inimical to the local people. As such the 7000 acres of farmland that is irrigated by this water from this water tank are uncultivated, further



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aggravating the farming situation in Mannar. The destruction of the people's economy that is mainly agricultural by the occupation of the water tank thus denying it to the people is huge.

### **Sri Lankan Government carries out mass arrests of Tamils**

Towards the end of the month of November Sri Lankan Government arrested nearly 3000 Tamils living in Colombo and Upcountry Tamils living in the Central Province. People were dragged out of their offices, on the roads, from their homes, and even people in bed were dragged out. They were left in space overnight where they did not even have room to lie down. There were inadequate toilet facilities and those arrested were left without food.

The action was condemned by the Tamil parliamentarians and Amnesty International issued a report condemning this mass arrests. The full AI report:

<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGASA370212007>

- **Sri Lanka: Amnesty International condemns mass arrests**

Amnesty International condemns the mass arrests of more than 1000 Tamils by the Sri Lankan police, allegedly in response to the suicide bombings carried out in Colombo on 28 November 2007, for which the government has blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Amnesty International is deeply concerned that the arrests have been made on arbitrary and discriminatory grounds using sweeping powers granted by the emergency regulations. Those arrested may be detained in inhumane conditions; denied access to lawyers, courts and family members; and face the risk of torture, other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and prolonged arbitrary detention.

According to reports, "Tamils were bundled in bus loads and taken for interrogation". More than 400 of those arrested, including 50 women, have been taken to the Boosa Camp near Galle in the south, a facility that is reportedly overcrowded, lacking proper sanitation facilities and adequate drinking water.

While the government has the right to carry out security measures it must never do this in violation of basic rights. Detainees are reportedly being held 'on suspicion' under the Emergency Regulations, and no formal charges have been pressed against any of them. Lawyers have told Amnesty about the lack of clarity surrounding the types of detention orders people are held under. This contradicts a July 2006 Presidential Directive under which the Sri Lankan Human Rights Commission (SLHRC) must be informed of any arrest and of the place of detention within 48 hours, and families must be allowed to communicate with detainees.

Amnesty International reminds the Sri Lankan authorities that any arrest and/or detention must be in strict compliance with its obligations under international human rights law, and in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Sri Lanka is a state party.

*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*