

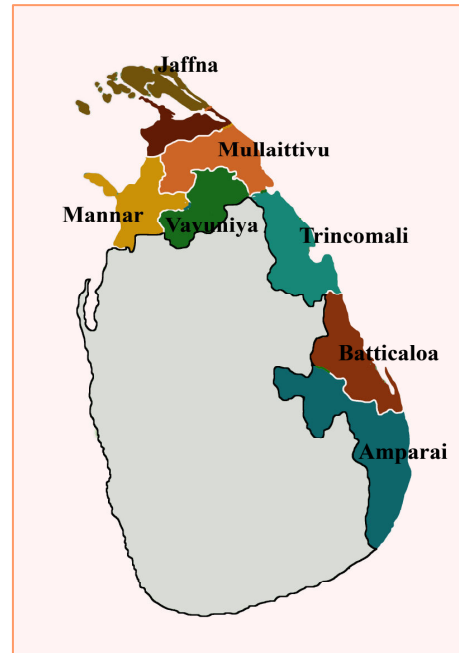


Human rights and humanitarian situation report in Tamil homeland for **February 2008**

Press release of LTTE Peace Secretariat

Civilian casualty since the 2002-Ceasefire till present

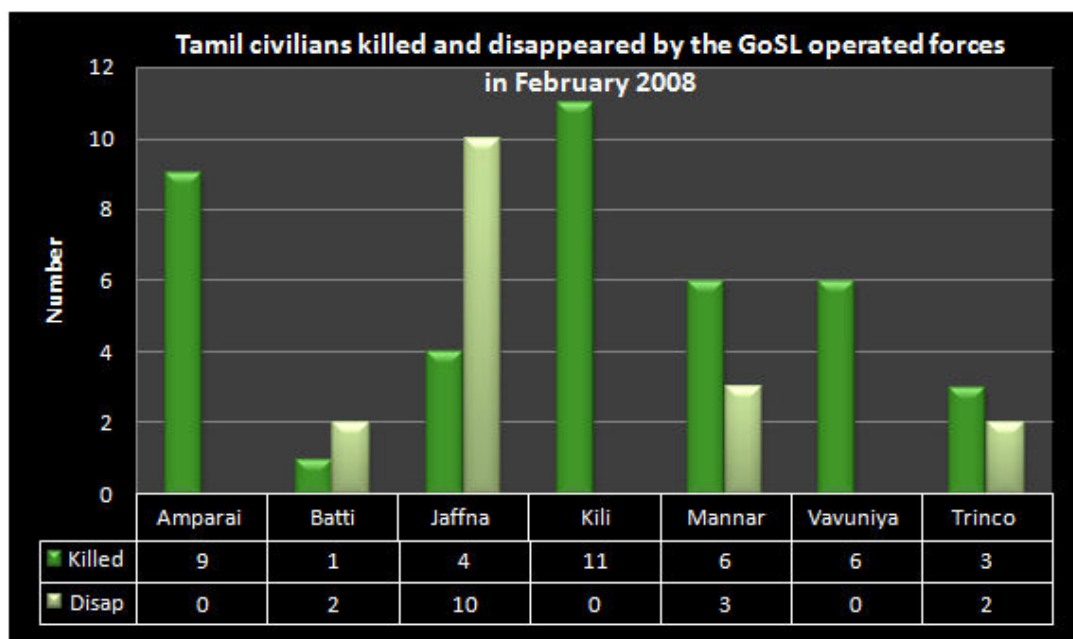
Type	Number
Killed	2223
Disappeared	1043
Displaced	340,000
Militarized	300,000



Summary: Civilian toll

Forty Tamil civilians were killed and another seventeen civilians were disappeared by the Sri Lanka government operated forces in the Tamil homeland in the month of February 2008.

Eleven civilians in Kilinochchi, 9 civilians in Amparai, 6 civilians in Mannar, 6 civilians in Vavuniya, 4 civilians in Jaffna, 3 civilians in Trincomalee, and one civilian from Batticaloa were killed by the GoSL operated forces during this month. Among the 17 disappeared, 10 civilians are from Jaffna district alone.





Human rights and humanitarian situation report in Tamil homeland for **February 2008**

Civilians continue to die in aerial bombing

Sri Lanka Government continues its bombing raids over civilian Tamil areas claiming that they bombed military targets. Civilians, including children continue die in scores. Because international media is blocked from these Tamil areas the news and pictures of civilian deaths do not reach the outside world as quickly as it should due to the blockades placed by the Sri Lanka Government.

Nine, including three children, killed in bombing in Kiranchi

Nine civilians, including three pre-school children, were killed and ten more were injured, four of them critically, when Sri Lanka bombed a coastal civilian settlement in the Kiranchi area in Poonahari in the Kilinochchi district at 9.00am today, 22 February.

An infant and a pre-school child from the same family were killed together with their mother. A nine year old boy from the same family was injured. The father of the family, Sasikaran, escaped because he was away at sea fishing.

Another very young girl was killed and her mother was critically injured. Her two year old son was also injured. The father of this family also escaped because he was out at sea fishing.

'Bomber returned' - Video record of Kiranchi bombing can be downloading here:

<http://www.ltteps.org/?view=2114&folder=2>

Two killed, nine injured in three days of bombing

Two days bombing over Vanni in three separate sorties on 5th and 6th February left two civilians dead and ten injured including a 11 year old school girl.

On 5 February Sri Lanka bombed areas of Kaiveli in Puthukudiyiruppu in the morning. In this morning raid four civilians were injured and houses and trees were damaged. The same afternoon the thickly populated Kilinochchi town was bombed. Two civilians were killed and four were injured. More casualties were avoided because people took protection in the bunkers. Four homes were destroyed in this raid.

The next day morning on 6th February further bombing raids over Thiruvaiyaru near Kilinochchi injured two civilians including 11 year old school girl, Keerthana. According to the principal of the school in Thiruvaiyaru, K Mathuranayagam, more than 50 bomb shrapnel fell inside the school classrooms. Since the full strength of students were not at school at the time due to the day being the school's sports day more casualties were avoided.

Two pedestrians injured in aerial bombing

Two pedestrians in the Mannakandal area near Oddusuddan in the Mullaitivu district were injured when Kfir bombers dropped bombs in this area on Saturday early morning at 6.45am and again at 6.55am.



Human rights and humanitarian situation report in Tamil homeland for February 2008

The injured are receiving treatment at the Puthukkudiyiruppu hospital in the Mullaithivu district. A 56 year old father of three children was on his way to hospital to look up his son when he was injured.

Bombing injures five civilian pedestrians

Sri Lanka aerial bombing over Redbanna-Visuvamadu area of the Mullaithivu district on Thursday 14 January injured five civilians who were walking on the road. The injured were taken to the Tharmapuram hospital and the critically injured were transferred to the Kilinochchi hospital. One of the injured, Arumugam Subramaniam has lost one of his arms in the bombing. A massive hole was dug on this main road making the main road unusable.

Sri Lankan military artillery fire disturbs schools and injures civilians

Sri Lanka military artillery fire is continuing disturb civilian life. Shrapnel fall inside school grounds disturbing schools. Civilians continue to be injured and their homes are being destroyed.

A mother of three children, Ravikumar Rajeswari of Chemmalai, was injured by Sri Lanka artillery fire, from its Manalaru camp, when the shells fell inside a Chemmalai civilian settlement. The woman had to be admitted to the hospital. People of the area are living in fear of further shells falling inside their settlements.

In another incident, a school girl was injured in the artillery fire from the same camp towards The girl was injured by as she, with all the students from her Alampil school, ran in all directions as artillery began to fall and explode inside their school.

In both of these incidents and during scores of other firing houses, vehicles, and trees were damaged.

In Vadamardch East in Jaffna pre-schools remain closed due to artillery fire falling in the preschool grounds. Thirteen of the 22 preschools operating in the Vadamardchi-east education zone are closed because of this said the Education Director for the zone. He also said that even the remaining nine pre-schools are facing many obstacles for its operation because of this and added that they are not functioning regularly.

Fate of the churches and temples inside the militarized zone

Recently there have been several news reports on the LTTE artillery hitting the St Anthony's church in Thalladi in the Mannar district. The reports were based on the press statements made by Sri Lanka defense.

St Anthony's church in Thalladi is located inside the large Thalladi military complex of the Sri Lanka military. Civilians do not live inside this military complex. People are allowed to pray at the church only once a week for a brief period.



Human rights and humanitarian situation report in Tamil homeland for **February 2008**

A church official of this church commented that the military has barred people from worshipping in this church for the last two months and that the church was used by the Thalladi Sri Lankan military complex as a storage facility in recent times.

The pattern of civilian use of St Anthony's church can be extrapolated to the nearly 100 places of worship that fall inside the huge military complexes that Sri Lanka has built all over the Tamil homeland over a period of three decades. These places of worship,

- is located inside a military complex.
- people do not live inside this military complex.
- people are allowed none or very restricted access to their places of worship.
- Often military desecrate these holy places buy using it for their military needs.

The table below is a summary of some of the Tamil public places that have been confiscated by the Sri Lanka military for its own military use without giving any compensation.

- *All area measurements are given in acres and distance measurements in Km.*
- *These statistics are based on the data available at the time pf producing this report. In all likely hoods the actual statistics will indicate that the MZs a lot more extensive than what these data indicate.*

	Amparai	Batticaloa	Trinco	Vavuniya	Mullaitivu	Mannar	Jaffna
Total area of MZ in acres	260	700	200	1000	16800	1360	3800
Number of homes in the MZs from which owners were evicted	72	399	305	1505	1004	50	28830
Total area of farmland (acres) made inaccessible to civilians	40	86	50	106	16711	42	12929
Total length of sea and lake fishing coastline made inaccessible (Km)	01	01	20	21	19	24	80
Number of families whose livelihoods were directly affected.	32	193	286	1103	1004	65	20969
Number of schools prevented from functioning	00	01	00	21	04	07	35
Number of places of worship inaccessible to civilians	00	00	00	22	00	02	80
Number of public places inaccessible to civilians	04	31	00	49	14	04	32

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