

REF : TIC/UN/85/10.1/63

DATE : 14 OCTOBER 1985

TAMIL INFORMATION CENTRE

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND TAMILS OF SRI LANKAINFORMATION RECEIVED SINCE LAST REPORT1.0 JAFFNA

- 1.1 24.9.85 : A Hartal was observed in Jaffna condemning the atrocities of the security forces in the Eastern Province.
- 1.2 04.10.85 : A Hartal was observed in Jaffna in protest of the kidnappings taking place in the district.
- 1.3 06.10.85 : People crossing the Pannai causeway were body-searched by the forces. This was a consequence of intensifying the patrolling of Jaffna and other Tamil areas at the instance of Major General Nalin Seneviratne.
- 1.4 07.10.85 : At least 3 security personnel were killed and a few others injured in a bizarre incident involving the Valvettithurai and Thondamanaru army camps. When troops from one camp were approaching the other in a minibus they had hijacked, the latter opened fire on the minibus mistaking it for a vehicle of Tamil militants.

2.0 KILINOCHCHI

- 2.1 24.9.85 : The Kilinochchi police station was attacked by Tamil militants causing considerable damage. Although 13 security personnel are reported to have been killed, the actual death toll is believed to be far higher. Thambapillai Maheswaran has claimed responsibility for the attack.

In retaliation at least 5 civilians were arrested in the Kilinochchi market.

- 2.2 02.10.85 : Security personnel took 18 civilians to Odduchuddan, tied them to trees and shot them dead. Two of the victims had just returned home from Saudi Arabia for a holiday.
- 2.3 06.10.85 : 1 Tamil civilian was killed by the security forces in Kilinochchi.
- 2.4 A large number of Tamil civilians were arrested from the Kilinochchi area and taken to Booza and other army camps.

3.0 MANNAR

- 3.1 19.9.85 : At Pampaimadu, the Pillayar temple and four shops were destroyed by the security forces.

CONTD/2

- 3.2 23.9.85 : At Poovarasankulam, the security forces arrested 42 Tamils attempting to flee to India and took them to the Thiruketheeswaram camp.
- 3.3 06.10.85 : At Vidathaltivu, 2 Tamil civilians were shot dead by the army.
- 3.4 08.10.85 : At Uyilankulam in Mannar, 4 security personnel were killed in a landmine explosion.
- 3.5 08.10.85 : In Mannar a bus-load of Tamil passengers were goaded by the army into the camp at Thallady. Nothing has been heard of their fate since then.
- 3.6 In Mannar district there are over 3,000 refugees in camps at Pesalai, Madhu and Thiruketheeswaram.

4.0 MULLAITIVU

- 4.1 05.10.85 : In Mullaitivu, 7 Tamil civilians were killed by the security forces.

5.0 VAVUNIYA

- 5.1 23.9.85 : In Vavuniya, buses and other vehicles carrying Tamil passengers were attacked by armed Sinhalese people.
- 5.2 13.9.85 : The Vavuniya police station was attacked by Tamil militants.

In retaliation, 26 shops were burnt and 8 others looted by the security forces.

- 5.3 01.10.85 : In Vavuniya, Sinhalese civilians attacked 7 Tamil passengers with knives and robbed them of their valuables.

6.0 TRINCOMALEE

- 6.1 23.9.85 : In Trinco the sanctuary of the Murugan temple was desecrated by the forces/homeguards and the golden platter on which the Lingam (phallic symbol of Lord Siva) was placed was among the valuables looted.
- 6.2 26.9.85 : In Trincomalee, 2 army officers were injured when Tamil militants opened fire on their truck.
- 6.3 28.9.85 : In Trincomalee, over 600 others were arrested by the security forces in a large scale combing out operation and 50 were detained.
- 6.4 01.10.85 : At Sambaltivu 4 Tamil civilians were killed by the security forces and over 60 Tamil civilians including 2 Hindu priests were arrested at Sampaltivu and Salli.
- 6.5 04.10.85 : In Trincomalee 3 people were taken into custody including Mr Pakiyathurai, a brother of ex-MP Thangathurai.

CONTD/3

6.6 07.10.85 : In the Seruwila electorate a police station and the quarters were attacked by Tamil militants, and more than 5 policemen were killed.

6.7 Due to atrocities by security forces/home guards, there is a continuous exodus of Tamils from Nilaveli; they have been going on foot to Batticaloa and to the North. Many have fled by boats to India and to Jaffna. Several Tamil children from Nilaveli were loaded into trucks by the security forces and taken away; their whereabouts are not known.

About 20 children have died of diarrhoea at the refugee camp. Some of the refugees who attempted to return to their homes were prevented by the security forces/home guards. Some of those arrested were taken to army camps including Booza.

6.8 At Upuveli in Trincomalee, the security forces who were searching for a Catholic priest engaged in refugee work fired at the seminary. They took into custody another priest and 2 students, and released them after a lengthy interrogation.

7.0 BATTICALOA

7.1 20.9.85 : At Sinnawathai 10 Tamil civilians were killed and 13 others were injured by police commandos, including women and children, while they were watching Television.

7.2 23.9.85 : At Palankuda 2 Tamil youths were shot dead by police commandos.

7.3 24.9.85 : At Kalladi, 1 Tamil civilian was killed and 2 houses were set on fire by police commandos.

7.4 26.9.85 : At Poonachimunai 2 sub-inspectors of police and another person were killed in a landmine explosion. In retaliation, police commandos killed 7 Tamil civilians at Aarapathai and at Navatkudah they burnt 49 houses, the market and 6 shops.

7.5 02.10.85 : In Batticaloa 1 Tamil youth named Sinnathamby Mahendran was shot dead by security forces.

7.6 05.10.85 : At Murakkottanchenai one police cammando was killed and 7 others were injured when grenades were thrown on their truck by Tamil militants.

In retaliation 12 Tamil civilians were shot dead and several houses and shops were burnt by police commandos.

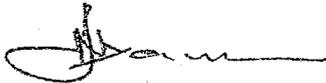
7.7 06.10.85 : At Mankerni, 2 young pregnant women were taken away by the security forces during a midnight house to house search operation and were raped before being released in the morning.

CONTD/4

- 7.8 08.10.85 : At Kalladi, 1 Tamil youth was killed by the security forces.
- 7.9 Ex-MP Majeeth, a Muslim, has warned the Tamils and Muslims to beware of forces trying to drive a wedge between the two communities.
- 7.10 More than 2000 arrests were made in Batticaloa during the last three weeks, of whom over 800 are still in detention. Many have been taken to the army camps in Minneria and Booza. Those arrested have been subjected to torture. Nearly all those arrested from border areas have not been released. It is believed that there is an attempt to drive away the Tamils from their (Tamil) villages in the border areas.
- 7.11 Many army camps have been opened in Batticaloa district and a large number of troops and arms have been transported there. MOSSAD personnel are also present in the district. British mercenaries are believed to be directly involved in helicopter attacks on Tamil villages. In Batticaloa there is a growing fear that the forces are preparing for a major massacre of Tamil civilians.
- 8.0 AMPARAI
- 8.1 21.09.85 : Vehicles of Tamils entering Amparai have been turned back by the police, they are warning the Tamils not to enter Amparai.
- 8.2 01.10.85 : At Pothuvil, the police station was attacked and at least 5 policemen were killed.
- 8.3 During the first week of October, Muslim farmers in a village close to the Ingurana sugar factory were chased away from their place by police commandos/armed home-guards and their fields were destroyed with bulldozers.
- 9.0 GENERAL
- 9.1 A state-wide Hartal was observed in Tamil Nadu on 24.9.85, in protest of the ceasefire violations by the Sri Lankan government. Thousands of people including many ministers participated in it, fasting from 6 am till 6 pm.

9.2 Ceasefire : From the beginning of this month discussions have been taking place at various levels on the question of ceasefire, first in Madras and then in Delhi. Mr Anton Balasingam who had earlier been deported from India was allowed back into the country to join in the discussions.

It is likely that a ceasefire monitoring committee will be appointed with the view to bringing about an interim ceasefire agreement between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil militants until a permanent solution is reached. The committee will consist of members nominated by the Sri Lankan government and by the ENLF, and they will be from the Tamil, Sinhala and Muslim communities. It will be endowed with the powers to investigate any ceasefire violation, to determine its own procedures, to visit prisons and detention camps, and to assist the authorities in restoring those displaced back to their homes. It will also be assured of the freedom to function impartially and to report its findings directly to the President.



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Correction : We regret the error in the date of our last Urgent Note (TIC/UN/85/9.2/62). It should read 22 September 1985.

FILE ON TORTURE

No. 10 October 1985

amnesty international

Sri Lanka

Allegations of torture of young Tamil detainees both men and women, and of Sinhalese prisoners belonging to opposition parties have been received for over five years and the AI concludes that the practice of torture is widespread and persistent. Some of the details appear on the File on Torture published in the AI News Letter, October 1985.

(Copies of the File on Torture are available at TIC, London)

The following types of torture have been reported to AI:

prolonged hanging upside down while being beaten all over the body, sometimes for the duration of one night and sometimes with the head tied in a bag in which chillies were burning, making the victim feel close to suffocating.

prolonged beatings, especially on the soles of the feet while lying stretched out on a bench or while hanging by the knees

from a pole; beatings on the genitals and other parts of the body with sticks, batons and sand-filled plastic pipes.

insertion of chilli powder in the nostrils, mouth and eyes and on the genitals.

electric shocks.

insertion of pins under fingernails and toenails and in the heels.

insertion of iron rods in the anus.

burning with cigarettes.

mock or threatened executions.

DEMOCRACY IN PERIL



SRI LANKA : A COUNTRY IN CRISIS

Report to the LAWASIA Human Rights Standing Committee

By

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