



வடகிழக்கு மனித உரிமைகள் செயலகம்

North East Secretariat on Human Rights - NESOHR

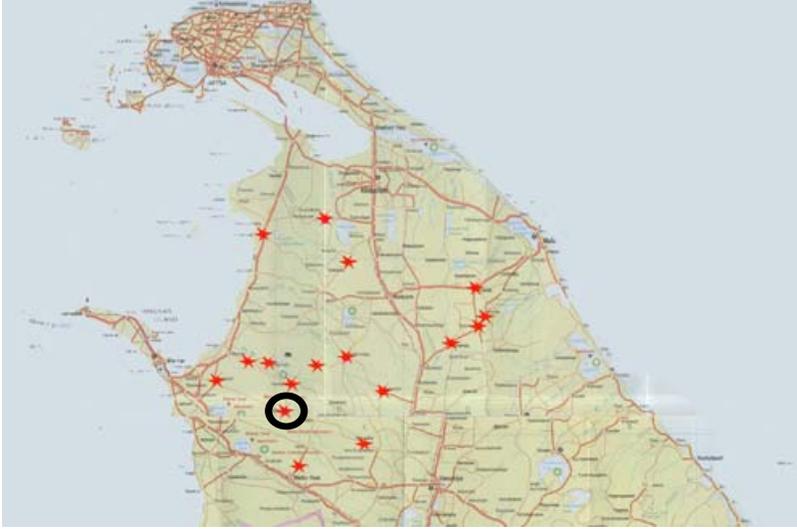
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## NESOHR Report on the claymore attack on a school bus in Thadchanamadhu

Report date: May 2008

On 29 January 2008, a bus carrying mainly school children and teachers came under a claymore attack near the Madhu church complex in the Mannar district. Twenty people in the bus were killed and a further twenty one, seventeen of them seriously, were injured. **Among those killed are thirteen school children and a school principal.** All the 13 students who died were aged between 10 and 16. This report records the details of the people killed and injured. It also presents some comments made by those close to the victims.



Also important is the identification of the culprits behind the claymore attack. Mannar has seen a large number of claymore attacks from 2006 onwards. It is also common knowledge among the people of Mannar that all of these claymore attacks are carried out by the Deep Penetration Unit of the Sri Lanka military. People have many stories of sighting small teams from this unit in the vicinity of many of these attacks

a day or so earlier. Items left behind by the culprits also give clues to the identity of the culprits. Often the attackers will have to wait in hiding for long hours for their target to arrive. They therefore leave many basic items behind as they run away after the attack that sometimes give clues to the identity of the culprits.

There have been twenty two claymore attacks on civilian targets up until the attack on the school bus. The map shows the location of these 22 claymore attacks all of them lying near the border dividing the areas under the control of the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE. A total of 62 civilians, including a catholic priest, an assistant director of education, a medical doctor, two school principals, a teacher, twenty two school students, and five nurses were killed in these 21 claymore attacks.

On that fatal day of 29 January 2008, the children and others from the displaced community that has taken refuge in the Madhu church complex were returning home, most of them from the Mannar Sinapandivirichchan Government Tamil Mixed School (GTMS), which is 5 Kms away. Both the children and the public take the same bus that plies between Madhu and their school as there is no school bus service. Around 2.30pm as the bus was nearing the Madhu church the claymore exploded.

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Fr.Emiliyaspillai of Madhu church: *“All the people in that bus had sought refuge at the church from the constant military offensives and shells falling in their homes. Many had displaced to elsewhere. These are the few who were still seeking refuge at the church. We buried all the dead in one grave just like the way it was done eight years ago when twenty seven were killed in the church premises.”*

Mrs.S.Sebastian, Director of Eductaion Madhu Division: *“Within one year since February 2007 we have lost two principals, two teachers, an Assistant Director of Education, 25 of our other employees and fifteen students in my Education Division.”*

Anton Constantain Mary Consitra, a student with both legs injured: *“We are displaced from Eluvaitivu. Three of us from my family were in the bus. I was injured and was unable to move. I saw one of my brother’s injured face. Later I leant that both my brothers have died.”*

Mother of two claymore victims: *“We came to the refugee camp in Thadsanamaruthamadu from Periyapandivirichchan. My daughter Rahini and I were injured by the shells that fell nearby. My son Jeneestan and daughter Shobana came to see us at the hospital. While they were returning to Madhu the bus came under claymore attack. When I heard this I went to see them. Shobana was injured but my son’s sight was unbearable. My son died later.”*

#### **Names of the seriously injured civilians**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Aged</b>	<b>Occupation</b>
1. Kirusanth	08	Student
2. R.Piyulin	09	Student
3. Jenosadiska	12	Student
4. Tharsana	13	Student
5. Diyulas	15	Student
6. Firansis Seviyar Mathusalini	16	Student
7. Anton Konstanrayin Mery Konseetta	16	Student
8. Aniththa	16	Student
9. R.Thanusika	16	Student
10. Resitta	38	Teacher
11. Thusitha	35	Teacher
12. Nirmala Ranjini	36	Teacher
13. Kunaseeli	45	Teacher
14. Gnanasooriyar	35	Post Master
15. Gnanasooriyar Jasintha	34	Home maker
16. Anthony Peris Shobana Peris	22	Home maker
17. Pakkiyanathan	60	.....

**Details of the people killed**

<b>01</b>	Full Name	Anton Konstanrayin Piritto Konstanrayin	
	Permanent Address	Word No.04, Eluvaitivu, Jaffna	
	Occupation	Student	
	Date of Birth	17 Nov 1993 (15 years)	
<b>02</b>	Full Name	Anton Konstanrayin Puruno Konstanrayin	
	Permanent Address	Word No.04, Eluvaitivu, Jaffna	
	Occupation	Student	
	Date of Birth	26 Aug 1995 (13 years)	
<b>03</b>	Full Name	Selvasingam Jode Kostan	
	Permanent Address	Word No.05 Mandaitivu Jaffna	
	Occupation	Student	
	Date of Birth	11 Aug 1992 (15 years)	
<b>04</b>	Full Name	Selvasingam Jode Kolindan	
	Permanent Address	Word No.05 Mandaitivu Jaffna	
	Occupation	Student	
	Date of Birth	08 July 1995 (12 years)	
<b>05</b>	Full Name	Ranjan Rayasooriyar Tharsikka Samini	
	Permanent Address	Sinnapandivirichchan Mannar	
	Occupation	Student	
	Date of Birth	30 Dec 1992 (16 years)	
<b>06</b>	Full Name	Ranjan Rajasooriyar Piransiska Mankaleswary	
	Permanent Address	Sinnapandivirichchan Mannar	
	Occupation	School Employee	
	Date of Birth	10 Oct 1971 (37 years)	
<b>07</b>	Full Name	Soosaiyappu Samsan Choisha	
	Permanent Address	No.33 Periyapandivirichchan Mannar	
	Occupation	Student	
	Date of Birth	08 Jan1995 (13 years)	
<b>08</b>	Full Name	Santhan Penad Roch	
	Permanent Address	Periyaneelasenai Uyilankulam Mannar	
	Occupation	Student	
	Date of Birth	26 Aug 1991 (16 years)	
<b>09</b>	Full Name	Anthony Peris Jenistan Peris	
	Permanent Address	Periyapandivirichchan Mannar	
	Occupation	Student	
	Date of Birth	29 Aug 1996 (12 years)	
<b>10</b>	Full Name	Firansis Seviyar Anns Pasiliyo	
	Permanent Address	Periyapandivirichchan Mannar	
	Occupation	Student	
	Date of Birth	20 April 1997 (11 years)	

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<b>11</b>	Full Name Permanent Address Occupation Date of Birth	Antony Satheesan Sinnapandivirichchan Mannar Student 23 Aug 1997 (11 years)	
<b>12</b>	Full Name Permanent Address Occupation Date of Birth	Pathmarasa Penad Jenarththanan Sinnakakadai Mannar Student 20 June 1996 (12 years)	
<b>13</b>	Full Name Permanent Address Occupation Date of Birth	Immanuel Kunasingam Anton Desman 107, Periyapandivirichchan Mannar Student 27 May 1992 (15 years)	
<b>14</b>	Full Name Permanent Address Occupation Date of Birth	Bnanapirakasam John Mildan Thadsanamaruthamadu Mannar Student 10 Dec 1991 (16 years)	
<b>15</b>	Full Name Permanent Address Occupation Date of Birth	Sebamalai Mery Josappin Periyanilassenai Uiyilankulam Mannar Teacher 26 Aug 1977 (31 years)	
<b>16</b>	Full Name Permanent Address Occupation Date of Birth	Kirupairasa Jerad Gnanasekaram Nanaddan Mannar Bus Driver 28 June 1979 (29 years)	
<b>17</b>	Full Name Permanent Address Occupation Date of Birth	Soosaiyappu Lembert Stanly Suresh Lembert Periyapandivirichchan East Mannar Bus Conductor 18 Feb 1984 (24 years)	
<b>18</b>	Full Name Permanent Address Occupation Aged	Ms.Lambert Mannar School Principal 51 years	
<b>19</b>	Full Name Address Occupation Aged	Vimalanathan Reettamma Mannar Nurse 33 years	
<b>20</b>	Full Name Address Occupation Aged	Shanmugasuntharam Mannar Driver 61 years	

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