



வடகிழக்கு மனித உரிமைகள் செயலகம்

North East Secretariat on Human Rights - NESOHR

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More bombing & shelling havoc in Kilinochchi – released 30 October

Aerial bombing and artillery fire by the Sri Lankan military continued create havoc in the areas surrounding the Kilinochchi town where civilians and other institutions remain without displacing. On 24th October, Uruthirapuum, an area 4 kilometers north of Kilinochchi town, came under artillery fire. On the following day on 25th the Kilinochchi District hospital part of which continue to function in its A9 road building came under artillery fire. On 28th October, a settlement in Paranthan-Kumarapuram seven kilometers north of the town came under aerial bombardment just two weeks after a similar bombardment on the same area. On 30th October, Caritas housing scheme 30 kilometers southeast of the town came under aerial attack. Details of these four attacks on civilian area are included in this report.

1. Attack on the Kilinochchi district hospital on 25 October 2008



Damaged wall of the hospital

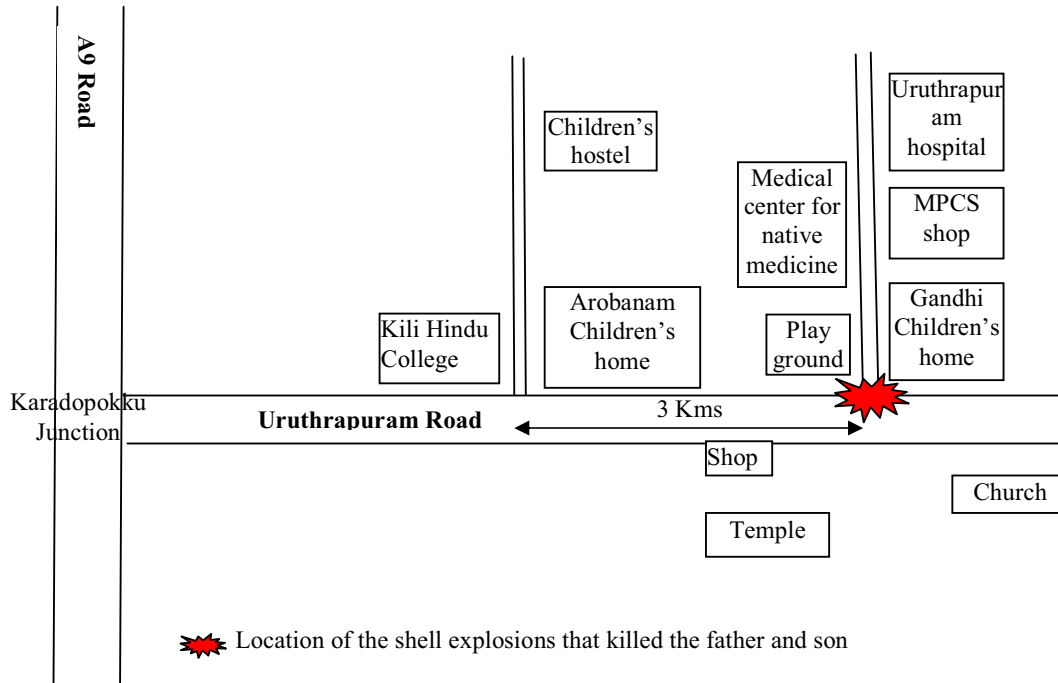


Dr Sathya moorth Director of the hospital viewing the damages

Part of the Kilinochchi District hospital continues to function in its building on A9 road while others were shifted further north. The District hospital is a new two story building completed in 2006. The first floor of the hospital had to be vacated earlier in September because artillery fire was falling around the hospital and patients were too fearful. The ground floor continued to be used because of shortage of space available elsewhere and also because the concrete roof of the ground floor gave some protection from artillery fire. The local bus service also continued to operate up to the hospital for the benefit of the patients. Several hundred inpatients were receiving treatment on the 25th. Perhaps to force the remaining hospital to also displace the Sri Lanka military has been aiming its artillery fire close to the hospital. The artillery fire on 25th damaged the front wall of the hospital and it is not difficult to imagine the panic that would have been created among the patients.

2. Attack on Uruthrapuram settlement on 24th October 2008

Uruthrapuram is about 4 Kilometers north of Kilinochchi town. Because of this most of the people in this area did not displace. The Urithrapuram Sivanagar GTM School with an enrollment of 350 students continues to function in its original building. Even the people who had displaced from this area return frequently to take back their possessions that they have left behind. On 24th October this settlement came under artillery fire (see map).



A father and his adult son taking their possessions in a tractor-trailer were hit by shell and both died on the spot. They are,



Father's Name: Chinnaih Ramalingam;
Address: 67/2 Sivanagar, Uruthrapuram
Age: 68 years

Son's Name: Ramalingam Vijayanathan
Address: 67/2 Sivanagar, Uruthrapuram
(Teacher at Kili/Iyanarpuram GTM School)
Age: 32 years

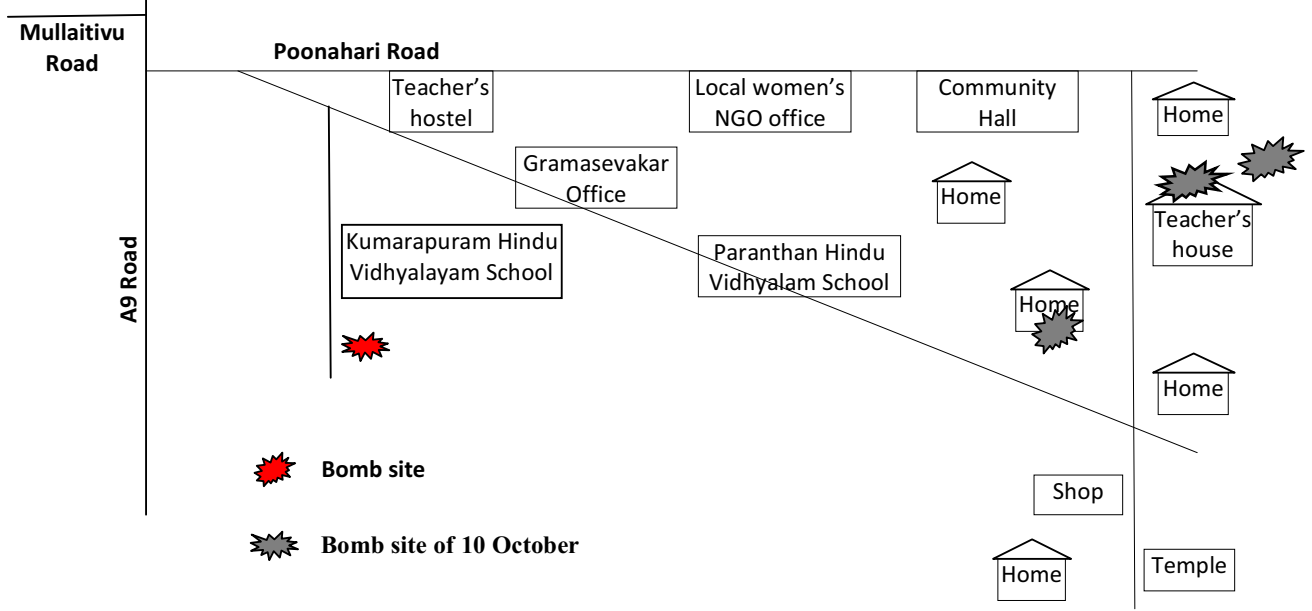
Sathanathan son of the deceased father carrying the son of his deceased brother said,



"We displaced from our home in Kilinochchi two weeks ago due to the constant shelling. However, we go back to our home sometimes to bring our remaining possessions. Our father is also the president of administrative committee of the temple near our home. On that day all three of us with other members of the committee went and we had loaded a tractor-trailer with some of our things and some of the temple property. My father and brother were following the tractor trailer on a motorbike. We were staying back at our home. My father before leaving warned us to be careful because the shelling was heavy. Tragically it was they who were killed by the shelling. After the incident we were taken to Tharmapuram where the two bodies were kept. My father's face was completely crushed. My brother had injuries all over his body. My brother's child is just two years old."

3. Aerial bombing near Kumarapuram Hindu Vidhyalam school on 28 October

Six civilians including three students at the Kumarapuram Hindu Vidhyalayam School were injured in the aerial bombing carried out by the Sri Lanka Air Force on 28 October 2008 at 10.45am. The location of the bomb site is just 500 meters from a bombing raid that took place on 10 October that killed a school teacher, her daughter and another woman (see map below).



Names of the injured

Students of Kumarapuram Hindu Vhdyalam School injured while at school

1. Christy, female student aged 16
2. Kanistan male student aged 15
3. Thanushan, male student aged 12

Others injured

4. Sukumar Rathy female aged 41
5. V Kandeepan, male aged 29
6. A Pathmaseelan male aged 37

Sukumar Rathy one of the injured said,

“My children were at home because they were fasting and we all have just returned from the temple. When I heard the noise of the bombers I sent my children to the bunker and I was standing outside. The bomb fell next door and suddenly it was full of smoke all around and I could not see anything. Somehow I managed to get into the bunker and my children were hold onto me and were screaming. It was then that I realized that my leg was injured. They somehow managed to take me to the hospital. When we came out of the bunker my heart broke. There was nothing left of our home. We do not have even a change of clothes now.”

4. Aerial bombing in Vallipunamon 30 October kills a fourteen year old boy

A fourteen year boy was killed and six more civilians were injured when, on 30 October 2008, around 9.30am, Sri Lankan Air Force carried out aerial bombing in the Caritas housing scheme in the Vallipunam area in the Mullaithivu district. This location is 30 kilometers from Kilinochchi town. Eight homes in the housing scheme were damaged.

The Caritas housing was created by a Catholic priest with aid from Caritas-Sri Lanka in 2000 to house IDPs who had displaced from Vavuiya. All of the victims of the bombing were from this housing scheme.

The bombing took place very close to the Vallipunam Kanista Vidhyalam School while the school was in session. The school was immediately closed and the children were sent home. This school located in the Mullaithivu-Paranthan main road, is presently functioning with a sudden increase in enrollment from 1200 to 1900 due to the massive displacement from Kilinochchi. Due to the large increase in the enrollment, the school is presently operating in two sessions with the younger children attending the morning session and the older children the afternoon session that lasts till 5.00pm. Displaced students from seven other schools, some from Mullaithivu district and some from Kilinochchi district have recently enrolled in this school.

Just 200 meters down the road from this school is the Senthalar Children's Home that cares for 190 children aged from 0 to 18. They also attend this same school. Three shrapnel from the bombs were located inside this Children's Home. One just behind the children's hostel, one in front of their dining room, and one and near the well used by them. It was sheer luck that no one was injured by these pieces.

Killed:



Selvarasa Satheeswaran, male student aged 14, his crushed body and his distraught mother

Satheeswaran was studying at the above mentioned school. He was at home because older children's school session starts at 12.30pm.

Injured

1. Srinivasan Thimilarasan baby aged three months
2. Arumugam Maheswary, female aged 45
3. Paramanathan Thivethini, female aged 18
4. Nagaratnam Navarubi, female aged 32
5. Pushpakaran Shanthini, female aged 34
6. Rasenthiran Jesuthasan, male aged 29