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TAMIL INFORMATION CENTRE
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND TAMILS OF SRI LANKA
INFORMATION RECEIVED SINCE LAST REPORT

1.0 JAFFNA

- 1.1 On 17.7.85. guns were removed from the Pannai police station by unknown persons.
- 1.2 On 20.7.85. at Polikandy there was a confrontation between some Tamil militants and security forces. One soldier and a civilian were killed.
- 1.3 On 22.7.85. at Karainagar navy personnel opened fire on people waiting for a bus. killing Subramaniam Sothinathan (26). A Thambiah (61) father of four children and Tharmalingam (45). an apothecary at Nedunkerni Hospital.
- 1.4 Return to normalcy since the ceasefire was broken on 28th July when army patrolling the streets started checking vehicles. Helicopter patrol too started on 29th July. Intensive search operations were also started.

2.0 KILINCHCHI

- 2.1 On 28.7.85. at Kilinochchi the body of Rathakirishnan. a father of 5 children. who had been arrested by security forces three weeks prior to that was found in front of his home.
- 2.2 On 30.7.85. 8 fuel tanks taken for the exclusive use of the army was damaged by unknown persons at Paranthan railway station. In reprisal the security forces opened fire from a helicopter killing one person.

3.0 MANNAR

- 3.1 On 18.7.85. there was a demonstration in Mannar protesting against the ceasefire and the peace talks with the Sri Lankan Government.

4.0 MULLAITTIVU

- 4.1 On 17.7.85. at Kokkilai there was a confrontation between some militants and the security forces. Particulars of casualties are not yet known.
- 4.2 Some villages in Mullaittivu remain a 'no go' zone even now.

5.0 VAVUNIYA

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- 5.1 During the third week in July Sinhalese thugs attacked the Tamil section of the village of Pavatkulam. Subsequently unknown persons believed to be Tamil militants attacked the Sinhalese section of the village and Sinhalese villagers took refuge in a Buddhist temple.
- 5.2 On 29.7.85. at Pandarikulam army opened fire at three persons cycling on the road and killed Lalithkumar (age 22). The other two had escaped.
- 5.3 On 1.8.85. on Padaviya road a jeep ran over a land mine killing 2 Sinhalese persons and injuring four others.
- 6.0 TRINCOMALEE
- 6.1 On 22.7.85. constable Rajapakse and a clerk were killed at Upuveli police station. The details of the incident are not known.
- 6.2 On 2.8.85. at Thirukunamadu (on the Trincomalee - Polonaruwa Road) a Buddhist monk was shot dead by unknown persons. Four more bodies were found in the same village on 4.8.85. two of which were believed to be those of Buddhist nuns.
- 7.0 BATTICALOA
- 7.1 On 18.7.85. at Vaharai a Tamil girl was raped in a government office next to the army camp. believed to be by army personnel.
- 7.2 On 19.7.85. at Paduvankarai police commandos shot and killed a person riding a motorcycle.
- 7.3 Between 26th and 28th July 85. 27 Tamils detained in Batticaloa were transferred to the Booza army camp in Galle.
- 7.4 On 30.7.85. at Mandoor the police arrested two persons in their houses.
- 7.5 The Eastern Sri Lanka Muslim Front in a resolution stated that the North and the East should be considered together in any solution to the ethnic problem and that the recent Muslim - Tamil riot was a plot to divide the two communities.
- 7.6 On 6.8.85. at Welikanda there was an attack on the army unit by unknown persons. The contractors in the Mahaweli Project are reported to be leaving the area.
- 7.7 It is expected that a security zone around Batticaloa airport may be declared. Over 100 houses. two schools and three temples will have to be evacuated.
- 8.0 OTHER DISTRICTS
- 8.1 On 30.7.85. five passenger buses carrying plantation Tamil pilgrims to Kathirgamam (Kataragama). an ancient

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Hindu shrine were robbed by unknown gangs (believed to be Sinhalese). Similar robberies were carried out also on the following day.

9.0 GENERAL

- 9.1 Though the ceasefire has been lifted and the night fishing is allowed within three miles, patrolling by the forces is continuing. Fishing is not allowed within two miles of any army or Navy camp situated near the sea-shore.
- 9.2 25 Tamil detainees from Booza, 3 from Vavuniya and 22 from Jaffna were released.
- 9.3 A successful hartal was observed on 25th and 26th July to commemorate the massacre of Tamil leaders in the Welikade jail on 25th and 27th July 1983.
- 9.4 Several demonstrations were held in the Tamil areas protesting against the ceasefire and peace talks with the Sri Lankan Government.
- 9.5 Palipananda Chandananda Mahanayake Thero has stated in a public meeting that the Government will not be allowed to implement the proposals to resolve the ethnic problems without consultation with the public. He further said that any Government which does not seek the advice of the opposition could no more be a democratic Government.
- 9.6 Mr Devanayagam, a Tamil cabinet Minister, has opposed the proposal of District and Provincial councils since it will erode into the strength of the Tamils in the East (see page 4).
- 9.7 President Jayewardene, speaking at the parliamentary group meeting, has said that district and provincial councils will be the structure by which the ethnic problem will be resolved (see page 4) and that Sinhala will remain the only Official Language. President has also stated at the cabinet meeting on 7th August that an auxiliary force will be set up to fight 'terrorism' in the North and East and for that purpose 10,000 soldiers and 100 officers will be recruited and if necessary all development programmes will be suspended.
- 9.8 The peace talks at Bhutan commences on 12 August 1985.



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TAMIL HOMELANDS AND EASTERN PROVINCE

From about the 13th. Century. a major demographic movement took place in Sri Lanka. The Sinhalese drifted towards the Southern, Western and Central regions and the Tamils to the Northern and Eastern coastal belts. The situation has been virtually frozen in this fashion for 700 years. The Portuguese who ruled most of Sri Lanka since 1606 treated the North and the East as a territory different from the rest of the island. Similarly the Dutch from 1658 to 1796 identified the North and the East as a separate territory. The British too administered from 1796 to 1833 the North and the East separately. Even though the British joined the two sections of the Island for administrative purposes in 1833, the two provinces in North and East were considered as Tamil provinces.

The earliest available census (1827) shows that there were only 0.35% of Sinhalese in the North and 0.51% of Sinhalese in the East. Even in 1921 the position had not changed substantially. During the war time there was a movement of the population for employment in the Trincomalee district and the percentage of Sinhalese rose to 4.4%. However due to deliberate state aided colonization (opposed by the Tamils) since independence aimed at disturbing the ethnic composition the Sinhalese population has in 1981 (last census) increased to 24.9% in the Eastern province. (See table).

Despite these changes both the Governments of the ruling party (in 1965) and the opposition (1957) recognised the Tamil dominance in the North and East in the pacts entered into to resolve the ethnic conflict. There is now an effort made by the Sri Lanka Government to deny the right of the Tamil people to their homelands in particular in the Eastern province. A study of the tables gives you a different story. Can a Government carry out deliberate colonization and then deny the people their right to homelands ?

The conditions placed by the Tamils at the present talks in Thimpu are :

Recognition of Tamils as a Nation. recognition that the Tamils have a territory of their own, recognition that the Tamils have a right of self-determination and recognition of all persons at the time of Independence and their descendents as citizens of Sri Lanka.

It is expected that the question of Government sponsored colonisation will be taken up and the Tamils are expected to insist on dismantling the Government sponsored colonization as a condition of settlement. It should be noted that most of the violence is perpetrated by the Government sponsored colonists. The Sri Lankan Government is now arming them under the pretext of appointing home guards.

NORTHERN PROVINCE - POPULATION BY ETHNIC GROUPS

YEAR	ALL RACES	SINHALESE	%	TAMILS	%	MOORS	%
1921	374829	3795	1.0	356801	95.2	13095	3.4
1946	479572	9602	2.0	449958	93.8	18183	3.8
1953	570650	14222	2.4	531399	93.1	23233	4.0
1963	741910	20270	2.7	689470	92.9	30760	4.1
1971	874629	25847	2.9	809100	92.5	38565	4.4
1981	1111468	33149	3.0	1023226	92.1	52638	4.7

EASTERN PROVINCE - POPULATION BY ETHNIC GROUPS

YEAR	ALL RACES	SINHALESE	%	TAMILS	%	MOORS	%
1921	192821	8744	4.5	103251	53.5	75992	39.4
1946	279112	23456	8.4	146059	52.3	109024	39.1
1953	354410	46470	13.1	167898	47.3	135322	38.1
1963	546130	109690	20.1	246120	45.1	185750	34.0
1971	717571	148572	20.7	315560	43.9	248567	34.6
1981	976475	243358	24.9	409451	41.9	315201	32.2

NORTHERN AND EASTERN PROVINCES- POPULATION BY ETHNIC GROUPS

YEAR	ALL RACES	SINHALESE	%	TAMILS	%	MOORS	%
1921	567650	12539	2.2	460052	81.0	89087	15.7
1946	758684	33058	4.4	596017	78.6	127207	16.8
1953	925060	60692	6.6	699297	75.6	158555	17.1
1963	1288040	129960	10.1	935590	72.6	216510	16.8
1971	1592200	174419	11.0	1124660	70.6	287132	18.0
1981	2087943	276507	13.2	1432679	68.6	367839	17.6

THE MOTHER TONGUE OF ALL MOORS IS TAMIL

SOURCE : DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS, SRI LANKA