

TAMIL INFORMATION CENTRE

INCIDENTS FROM 21st TO 29th July, 1983

1. NEWS BLACK OUT

- 1.1 Emergency was declared on 18th May, 1983 and it continues even now.
- 1.2 SATURDAY REVIEW an English weekly and SUTHANTHIRAN a bi-weekly were closed down under the Emergency. There is press censorship from 21st July.
- 1.3 A strict censorship has been imposed by Sri Lanka Government on all news relating to the Tamil problem.
- 1.4 It has become very difficult even to contact by telephone after 25th morning.

2. EVENTS IN JAFFNA

- 2.1 On 21st or 22nd army personnel had kidnapped three Tamil girls. The whereabouts of the girls are not known. An unconfirmed report alleges rape and that one of them committed suicide.
- 2.2 On 23rd bombs were thrown into an army truck and 13 soldiers were killed.
- 2.3 On 23rd/24th the Army went on a rampage and shot people at random.
 - (a) At Chankanai 2 persons killed
 - (b) At Pandatherippu 2 persons killed
 - (c) At Manipay 9 persons killed (including 6 school children)
 - (d) At Kondavil 2 persons killed
 - (e) At Tirunelvely 2 persons killed (including a man of 83 years)
 - (f) Particulars of several others not known yet

In all there were at least 100 deaths according to Daily Telegraph of 26th July, 1983.

- 2.4 On 24th evening Army was barracked.
- 2.5 We have received a report (unconfirmed) that a village in Jaffna was wiped out. Communications to Jaffna was cut off from the 26th July, 1983.
- 2.6 In another unconfirmed report it is alleged that the Army had opened fire in or near the University and killed several students.

3. EVENTS IN COLOMBO

- 3.1 On 24th Tamils, Tamil ^a homes and Tamil establishments were

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attacked in few places in the City.

- 3.2 On 25th almost in every part of the City the attack was extended and the burning and looting were in progress right throughout the day on 25th despite the declaration of curfew at 2 p.m. And it was further reported that in Colombo houses were burnt in the presence of security forces during the curfew hours.
- 3.3 Every part of Colombo was affected. Shops were looted or burnt on almost all main roads. In particular along the Galle Road and Borella Maradana Road, Tamil establishments in Pettah and Fort the business centre of the city of Colombo, were attacked and it is expected the attacks will continue. Houses are burnt in Wellawatte which seems to have been selected for intensive attack. Houses have also been attacked in Bambalapitiya, Thimbri-gasaya, Kotahena, Cinamen Gardens and several other places.
- 3.4 The office of Ceylon Workers Congress, the Trade Union representing the plantation workers. Whose president is Mr.Thondaman, a Minister in the Cabinet, was also attacked.
- 3.5 It is expected that the present attack would result in near total evacuation of Tamils from the City of Colombo. The number of Tamils in the city is estimated at 300,000.
- 3.6 In Colombo a Tamil cyclist riding near Colombo Eye Hospital a few hundred yards from the house of Junius Jayawardene the President of Sri Lanka was hauled from his bike, drenched with petrol and set alright. And as he ran he was hacked with jungle knife.
- 3.7 The house of the President of Tamil United Liberation front was burnt in Colombo.
- 3.8 The shops on all the main roads in Colombo are looted and burnt.
- 3.9 Indian high Commission and the house of the Indian high Commissioner were attacked and the house of the Indian High Commissioner had been ransacked and the state bank of India Building was set on fire.
- 3.10 Leading Tamil businessmen's house and their establishments were burnt in Colombo.
- 3.11 The death toll is estimated to be over 140
- 3.12 There are now 10 Refugee Camps and there are over 100,000 refugees
- 3.13 The government has failed to take adequate steps to provide food and clothes and medicine to the refugees. It is feared that the government is even obstructing the voluntary organisations from helping the refugees.
- 3.14 On 29th 4 Tamils were burnt alive in Colombo.

4. MASSACRE IN THE PRISONS

4.1 On 25th July, 1983, 37 prisoners were massacred in Welikade prisons. The government claims that fellow sinhalese prisoners killed the Tamil prisoners. It included Kuttimani, Jegan and Thangathurai.

4.2 On 27th July, 1983 there was a second massacre of 19 Tamil prisoners, which included Dr. S.Rajasunderam, Secretary, of Gandhyam Society (List produced).

5. TRINCOMALEE

5.1 There is information that there was extensive violence by navy personnel. The details are not known. In Trincomalee too communication was cut off from 26th July, 1983.



INFORMATION OFFICER

LIST OF TAMIL PRISONERS KILLED IN WELIKADA PRISON, COLOMBO, ON 27.7.83

1. Muthukumar SRIKUMAR
2. Amirthanayagam PHILIP
3. Kulasingam KUMAR
4. Selachami KUMAR
5. Kandasamy SARVESWARAN
6. A. MARIANPILLAI
7. Sivapathan NEETHIRAJAH
8. Devanayagam PASKARAN
9. Ponnaiya THURAIRAJAH alias THANKATHURAI
10. Gnanamuthu NAVERATNASINGHAM
11. Kandiah RAJENDRAN alias ROBERT
12. Dr Somasunderam RAJASUNDERAM
13. Somasunderan MANORANJAN
14. Arumugam SEYAN alias APPU
15. Thamotharampillai JAGEMOGANANDAN
16. Sinnathambi SIVASUBRAMANIAM
17. Sella Rajeratnam
18. Kumarasamy GANESHALINGAM
19. Ponnampalam DEVAKUMAR - died in hospital morning of 29.7.83