

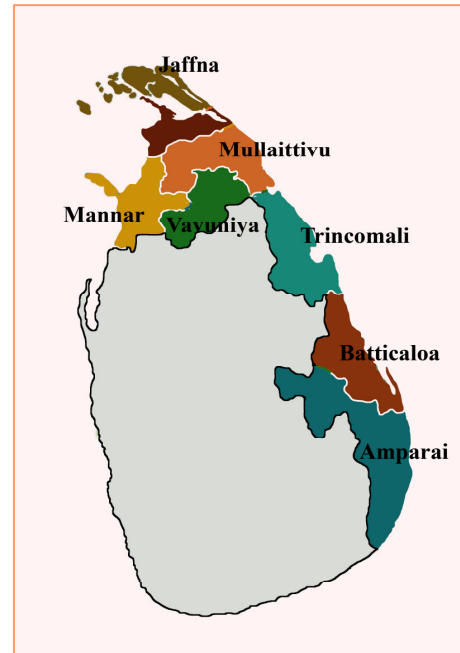


# Human rights and humanitarian situation report in Tamil homeland for **December 2007**

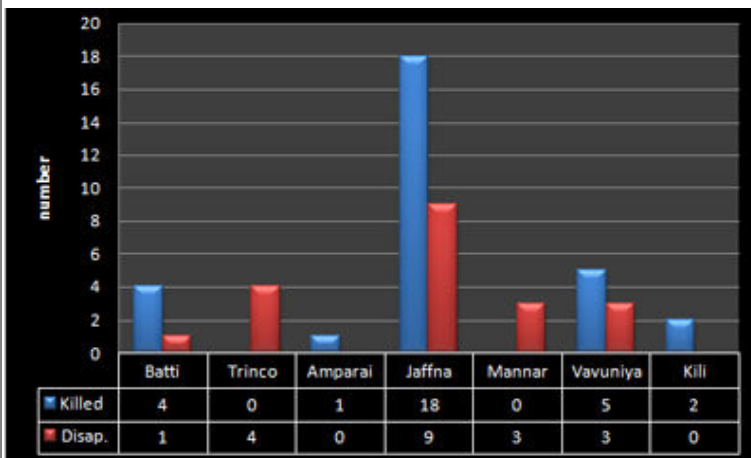
## Press release of LTTE Peace Secretariat

### Civilian casualty during Cease fire – 2002 till present

Type	Number
Killed	2134
Disappeared	1008
Displaced	340,000
Militarized	300,000

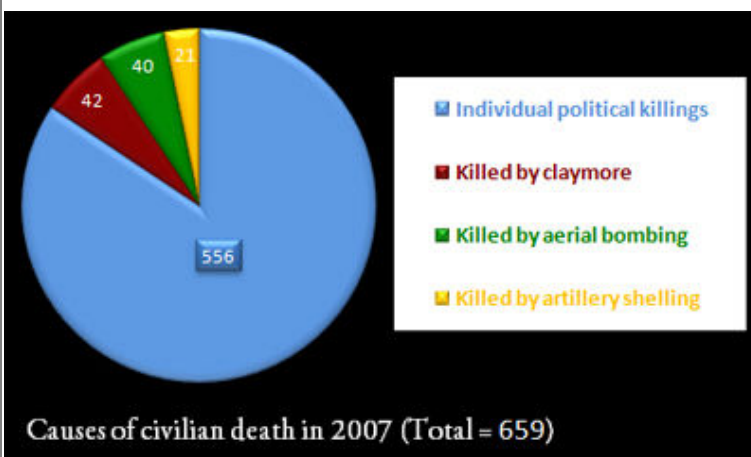


### Summary: December civilian toll



Thirty Tamil civilians were killed and another twenty were disappeared by the Sri Lanka government operated forces in Tamil homeland during the month of December 2007. 18 civilians were killed and nine civilians were disappeared in Jaffna district alone.

In this month five bodies of Tamil civilians were recovered from various locations, among those, three bodies were washed ashore. This report also includes the killing of another aid worker, the SLRC-Point Pedro branch head, Subramaniyam Kousikan, killing of Sinkarasa Subanayaki after she was raped by the GoSL forces and the disappearance of three civilians when they were on their way to Vavuniya from Kattunayaka air port.



Also included below is the breakdown of the causes of 659 Tamil civilian deaths during 2007. The breakdown demonstrates that 85% of the killings occur as individual deaths. However it



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is only the remaining 15% of the deaths caused by bombing, claymore, and shelling that receive major attention. This effectively masks the scale of the killings.

### **Children abducted to force parents participate in paramilitary march**

More than 300 young men and women including children were rounded up and abducted by paramilitary group in Batticaloa town and its suburbs on a Sunday this month.

Having abducted the young people the paramilitary group ordered their parents to attend a march against the LTTE organized by the paramilitary group. The parents were warned to be present at the Batticaloa Weber Stadium or else their children will be shot dead.

The abductions and the following warning to the parents follows when the Tamil people of Batticaloa town and suburbs paid no attention to a call by the same paramilitary group for a march against the LTTE.

### **Sinhalese settled in areas emptied of Tamils**

Kadatkarachenai in Trincomalee was a thriving Tamil village less than a year ago. The Sri Lanka military onslaught on 2006 forcefully displaced the Tamil from this and the surrounding areas.

Hundreds of Tamils were killed and injured by deliberate military artillery shelling in 2006 as the international community looked on.

Once the area was emptied of Tamils by such ethnic cleansing, the Sri Lanka Government declared the area as High Security Zone and prevented the original Tamil residents of the area from returning to their homes in their villages.

In the month of December, 25 Sinhalese villagers were settled in Kadatkarachenai, the so called High Security Zone.



This development has all the hallmark of earlier Sinhala settlements in the east where by a Tamil village is emptied of Tamils through violence and then small number of Sinhala settlements is first created with minimal facilities. This settlement then gradually expands unnoticed.

In the earlier times Tamil people were chased out by large scale massacres carried out by the military. The massacre of Tamils in the Thiriyai a village in Trincomalee in 1985 and the subsequent conversion of the area in Sinhala settlement exemplifies this tactic of Sri Lanka Government.



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On 8 June 1985, Sri Lanka military came in vehicles to Thiriyai and told the people to leave the area before they begin shooting. After the people left, 1100 houses were burnt down. Following this incident, displaced people stayed in schools. Again on 8 August 1985, the Sri Lankan military attacked the displaced in the schools killing ten civilians. Again on the 14 August six civilians were pulled out of a bus in Thiriyai and hacked to death. Tamils gradually moved out of the area by the constant threat of violence by the military. The area thus emptied of Tamils was then gradually settled with Sinhalese.

No longer able to carry of such blatant ethnic cleansing, Sri Lanka Government is carrying out the ethnic cleansing under the pretext of fighting terrorism.

### **Jaffna civilians and the transport of Sri Lanka military to and from Jaffna**



*Frustrated Tamil civilians waiting for days to obtain a ship ticket in Jaffna. –(file photo)*

The Geneva II talks in October 2006, between the LTTE and the Government of Sri Lanka, broke down because the Government of Sri Lanka refused to open the A9 route to allow Jaffna civilians land access to the rest of the island and the world.

Prior to the permanent closure of this A9 route, it served as a life line to the people of Jaffna as well as Vanni. Seriously ill medical cases from Vanni were taken in ambulances to the Jaffna hospital. Every day ambulances plied seven to eight times a day, carrying around six patients in each trip. This is necessitated by the poor medical resources in Vanni. Even the Jaffna hospital resources are very poor in comparison

to what is available in the south of island. Many very seriously ill patients were taken to Colombo for treatment through the A9 route.

Presently the Jaffna civilians have no land route even to seek emergency medical treatment. The only option available to them is the “passenger” operated by the Sri Lanka Navy. It is a well known truth that each time this “civilian passenger” ship plies to and from Jaffna and Trincomalee, invariably the Sri Lankan military personal traveling in the ship is many times more than the number of civilians in the ship.

It is also well known to the Jaffna population the difficulties one must go through to first obtain a pass from the military to travel and then obtain a seat in the ship. Reports of the Sri Lanka military demanding every civilian wishing to get a seat in the ship to give the military a name of an LTTE supporter in Jaffna have surfaced many times.

Indeed, innumerable violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention is taking place as a result of the closure of A9 route and the cutting off of the 500,000 civilians in Jaffna from the rest of the world. Denial of humanitarian access to the children is also a violation that comes under the monitoring of Resolution 1612 of the Security Council. Transporting military personnel using civilians, especially the ill, is also a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.



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### The status of schools in Tamil homeland after recent SLA onslaughts

	Number of schools	Number of children
HSZ	18	4110
Damaged	73	18959
Closed	126	20785
<b>Total</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>43854</b>

Education was and still is a most revered aspect of the Tamil value system. This has earned the Tamil Diaspora the well deserved recognition it has received in all the countries where they reside today. The Sinhala dominated Sri Lanka Government has for decades set about to destroy this foundation of the Tamil society that has been its source of strength.

During the three decades of attacks on Tamil civilian institutions, schools have borne the brunt. The number of schools destroyed and displaced by such attacks over the three decades would be close to 1000.

The Sinhala Government's efforts to destroy the educational foundation of the Tamil people go far beyond the destruction of school buildings. A severe teacher shortage was maintained in the Tamil schools for almost a decade during the 1990's. The method of production and the quality of Tamil textbooks produced by the Sinhala dominated government for use in Tamil schools has been and is even today a thorny issue.

The militarization with which students attend school in Sri Lanka Government occupied parts Tamil homeland does not auger well for learning. Neither is the situation in the LTTE administered parts, where students attend school in constant fear of aerial bombardment by the Sri Lanka Government.



A damaged school in Moothur, Trincomalee

The Table shows the number of schools that were damaged, displaced and confiscated under the guise of High Security Zone. These statistics cover only the period of approximately the last 18 months. The PDF provides the full details of the affected schools. It is not hard to gauge the damage done to the education of children by such attacks on schools that has gone on for three decades.

*Note: For extensive information on the above and other human rights topic in the Tamil homeland please visit : <http://www.ltteps.org>*

*LTTE Peace Secretariat*