



## UNHCR PROMOTES REPATRIATION WHILE TAMIL PERSECUTION INTENSIFIES IN SRI LANKA

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL** says in a report released on 21 June, that it is concerned over the arbitrary arrests of hundreds of Tamils in and around Colombo. According to the human rights agency based in London, it is common for Tamil people in Colombo to be stopped by police and detained for questioning if they are not carrying identity documents, if they are visitors or newly arrived in the city, or if they are only temporarily resident there. Amnesty has also referred to complaints about police officers requiring payments from relatives to secure release of the prisoners and arrests of people regardless of whether they could demonstrate long-standing residence and employment in Colombo and regardless of whether they were in possession of identity documents.

Reports say over 8,000 Tamils were arrested in Colombo and the suburbs in June and around 2,500 have been detained. Arrests have taken place on streets, homes, hostels and work-places. Tamil Members of Parliament say Tamil women have been taken from their homes by male policemen at night without an escort. Despite the assurance of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe to remedy the situation round ups and arbitrary arrests continue. SLFP MP Lakshman Jayakody said in parliament on 17 June that Tamil doctors, bankers and engineers had also been arrested, stripped to the waist and locked up in police stations. Even a Tamil priest who came to Colombo from Jaffna was arrested. According to Ceylon Workers Congress (CWC) General

Secretary, S Sellasamy around 2,000 plantation Tamil youths have been taken into custody, including those who arrived in Colombo for business purposes. Mr Sellasamy says more than half the plantation workers have no identity cards and many are awaiting issue of the cards for several years after making applications.

There is no doubt that the Colombo Tamil community has been singled out for persecution. Although Emergency regulations require every householder to register with the police stations giving details of residents, no interest has been shown by police to register Sinhalese house holders. When Tamils go to police stations, sufficient number of forms are not provided. It has not been explained whether only permanent residents require to register or the Emergency regulation applied only to those arriving from the North-East. The police themselves are unable to provide clarification. Each police station implements the regulation differently leading to confusion. In the case of Tamils living in Sinhalese houses police always arrest the Tamils, but leave the Sinhalese house holders, who are expected under the regulation to register with the police. A Colombo Tamil newspaper says: " Inhuman search operations and indiscriminate arrests are leading to a situation where Tamil youths cannot live in any part of this country. Tamil youths are arrested all over the country under the pretext of security on false allegations. Even those who are in possession of identity cards are treated like animals in a degrading manner which will lead to further

polarisation. The government should not allow the police to become "terrorists" in the name of prevention of terrorism. Inquiries conducted in an unruly manner degradingly is aimed at the whole Tamil community and we regard this as genocide ".

While such treatment was meted out to the Tamil community, the UN High Commissioner for refugees (UNHCR) issued a statement on 16 June reiterating its position taken a year earlier that rejected Tamil asylum-seekers could be returned to Colombo from other countries. UNHCR continues to admit that there is no realistic expectation of any settlement to the civil war and that it lacks monitoring capacity in Sri Lanka. UNHCR says that governments should assess the possible consequences of return taking into account the relative risk of a changing mosaic of safe and unsafe areas. The treatment of Tamils in the south has proved that there are no safe areas for Tamils in Sri Lanka.

UNHCR continues to speak of those " who need no international protection". The basis on which such a statement is made is not explained, despite Tamil Information Centre (TIC) pointing out to the UNHCR that a large number of refugees in many countries have been granted some kind of status which denotes that they need protection. In Britain, as pointed out by TIC at the NGO-UNHCR conference in Geneva on 11 February, over 10,700 Tamils have been granted Exceptional Leave to Remain (ELR) who will fall under the category of rejected asylum-seekers. UNHCR

has still not answered our questions raised in this regard.

**UNHCR** has also reiterated that it will not be responsible for those who are returned to Sri Lanka, but will be involved in "passive monitoring" which UNHCR explains as inquiries from Sri Lankan authorities in case a returnee faces personal security problems. UNHCR emphasises that the return of persons 'not in need of international protection' remain the sole responsibility of the governments concerned and believes that return schemes should be subject to bilateral agreements. The statement is worded in such a manner that UNHCR will have no responsibility in the country of asylum or in Sri Lanka. In other words UNHCR has handed over the Tamil to the executioner and has washed its hands off the asylum-seekers. This is called "International Protection".

Despite large number of arrests and degrading treatment of Tamils currently taking place in Sri Lanka, UNHCR has made the statement at this point in time to facilitate the return of Tamil asylum-seekers from Switzerland, which the other western countries are awaiting to follow. Denmark and Norway have already indicated that they will return Tamils once Switzerland begins involuntary returns. For UNHCR in the circumstance, it is necessary that involuntary returns continue from Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu government by an order on 27 May has completely stopped assistance programmes run by local voluntary agencies for Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in camps, in order to force them to leave. Refugees are allowed outside camps only between 8 am. and 6 pm. which in effect prevents refugees from seeking daily-paid casual employment in the area. UNHCR is still not allowed into camps. However, it will contribute to the involuntary return of Tamil refugees from India by providing two ships for the repatriation of refugees.

In the annual report to the UN Economic and social council (26 April 1993), the UN High

Commissioner for refugees states as follows:

" While exploring and developing the complementary protection strategies relating to prevention and solutions discussed above. UNHCR continues to pursue protection activities that are central to its mandate on behalf of refugees in countries of asylum. The right to seek and to enjoy asylum, and the corresponding principle of non-refoulement, are the cornerstone of the office's efforts to ensure that persons in need of international protection receive it. Despite adverse domestic conditions and increasing numbers of persons seeking protection, the overwhelming majority of states continued to adhere to generous asylum policies during 1992. The office remains seriously concerned, however, by situations in various regions where persons seeking protection have been denied admission to safety in violation of the principle of non-refoulement as well as considerations of basic humanity. These violations include active measures by States to prevent such persons from reaching their frontiers, rejection at borders and forcible repatriation of asylum-seekers without prior examination of their requests for asylum.

In such situations, the Office intervened with the authorities concerned not only to secure admission but also to determine the reasons for refusing it, with a view to defining an appropriate response which could assist the country to meet its international obligations towards refugees, including where required, invoking the mechanisms of international co-operation and burden-sharing. In this connection, comprehensive regional approaches were undertaken to ensure protection for persons in need, at least on a temporary basis, while concerted efforts were made to establish conditions conducive to the safe return and durable reintegration of the persons concerned.

But by its actions UNHCR seems to say that these policies are not applicable to the Tamil refugees.

## **Economic Blockade Raised in European Parliament**

IN a letter to the Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation, European Member of Parliament Anita Pollack says the following question was tabled to the European Council of Ministers on 26 May:

**Recognizing the severe nourishment and medical problems of the civilian population including refugees in the North of Sri Lanka due to the separatist war being waged in that area, will the Council agree to send urgent medical aid through the Red Cross which is able to get through to Jaffna?**

Replying the question President of the Council Orstrom Moller said:

**. Regarding humanitarian aid by the commission according to article 936 in the budget, the Council has been informed by the Commission that it has decided to pay one of UNHCR's Care and Maintenance projects. The object is to support Sri Lankan refugees, especially refugees returning from India. As far as I know, that amount is 1.2 million ecu. The Commission is carrying out research on another project which should be put together with the Red Cross. The aim of this one is to help fulfil the need for medical care of Sri Lankan refugees. The answer to the question must be that the Commission understands the question being tabled and already is at work on projects aiming to resolve the problems.'**

**MEP** Christine Oddy stressed that there is very real suffering and deprivation in the Jaffna peninsula and urged the Council of Ministers to take on board the very real and deep suffering of the people.

## Release of Detainees

The Galle District human rights group in a memorandum to President Wijetunge has appealed for the release of those held in detention without trial at the various prisons and rehabilitation centres throughout the country. This memorandum highlights the psychological trauma endured by the youth in custody and the instances of killing on the grounds of escape attempts. The group has expressed complete dissatisfaction with the special commission headed by Jayalath and called for normal judicial inquiries in respect of the detainees.

## GENERATOR ON ITS LAST LEGS

The 85 KVA generator at the Jaffna Teaching hospital is reported to be on the verge of failing. Consuming over 4 litRES of oil per day and polluting through its belching this generator is expected to pack up within days. With no chances of any replacements arriving the electrical needs of the Teaching Hospital will be crippled when this generator fails.

## KEROSENE STREET LAMPS

Street lamps using kerosene oil have made their appearance in the municipal area of Jaffna. The lamps similar to the ones in use during the 1930s shed light upto 10.30 pm. on nights without moon light.

## Orphanage

An orphanage for children left destitute by the civil war was opened at Vantharumoolai adjacent to the university in the Batticaloa District. The Nadarajananda Society has established this orphanage.

## TIC ACCESSION LIST

A selection of documents received by TIC in June 1993

SHR 3192

Senathirajah, Anuzsiya  
Indo-Sri Lanka relationship (1948-1964) with special reference to Tamil Nadu  
Madras: Pachaiyappa's College; December 1991

134p.

**DESCRIPTORS: History / UP-Country Tamils / Foreign Relations / India / Agreement / Refugees / Tamil Nadu / Repatriation**

SHR 3199

Asian Regional meeting on the world Conference on Human Rights March 29-April 1 1993

Sri Lanka: Civil Rights Movement; 12 April 1993

3p.

**DESCRIPTORS: Human Rights / Asia**

OHR 241

Jacobsen, Lone

Torture survivors: a new group of patients by Lone Jacobsen and Peter Vesti

Denmark: IRCT; 1992

80p.

**DESCRIPTORS: Torture**

SHR 3200

Krishana Iyer, V.R.

Healing the Broken Palmyrah: Towards a just peace in Sri Lanka

Madras: Indo-Sri Lanka Friendship Society; 1993

231p.

**DESCRIPTORS: Statement / Peace initiative / IPKF / Foreign Interest / Indo- Sri Lanka Accord / Ethnic problem / Appeal / Recommendations**

SHR 3194

An assessment of the parliamentary select committee (PSC) its scope and limitations

Sri Lanka: EPRLF, 20 march 1993

28p.

**DESCRIPTORS: Select Committee / Peace Initiative / Tamils / Ethnic problem**

SHR 3195

Sri Lanka: An assessment of the human rights situation: report of a fact finding mission visiting Sri Lanka from 9th to 24th January 1993

Danida: Ministry of Foreign Affairs; 1993

76p.

**DESCRIPTORS: JW / Human Rights Violation / History / Ethnic problem / Tamils / Constitution / Emergency Regulations / PTA / Foreign Mission / Visit Report / Peace initiatives / LTTE / Politics / Muslims**

OHR 236

Ashford Mark

Detained without trial: a survey of Immigration Act detention

London: JCWI; 1993

104p.

**DESCRIPTORS: Detention / United Kingdom / Immigration Laws**

OHR 237

Harmonization of national policies on family reunification

Copenhagen: Ad hoc Group Immigration; 1 June 1993

33p.

**DESCRIPTORS: Asylum / Immigration / Family Reunion / Europe**

# JUNE DIARY

June 1

**SHELLING:** Shelling by the security forces in the Nochchimoddai area in Vavuniya District prevented resumption of passenger traffic at Thandikulam disrupted by the carnage on 31 May when 24 persons including 15 civilians were killed.

June 2

**SPECIAL PERMITS TO VEHICLES:** Motor vehicles, Motor Cycles and bicycles operating in Batticaloa town need to carry a special permit issued by security forces. This measure has been introduced as a part of the tightening up of security measures.

June 3

**NGO MEETING:** NGOs concerned in the humanitarian needs of the Tamil Refugees in Tamil Nadu camps met in Madras, to discuss their difficulties in providing assistance to refugees and resolved to urge the government authorities to allow them to continue their work without any disruption.

June 4

**TAMIL TRADE UNIONIST DETAINED:** CWC trade unionist and vice-chairman of Talawakelle town council K.Kovindaraj was detained in Colombo for being not in possession of identity papers.

June 5

**WOMEN ARRESTED:** Forty one Tamils including 9 women were arrested by the Dehiwela Police in Colombo on suspicion.

June 6

**PEACE INITIATIVE:** The International Peace mission led by Professor Rev. Senthai Kusulasitha of Thailand reached Palaly in Jaffna District. They are bound for a meeting with the LTTE.

June 7

**SEDEC PEACE MISSION:** Social and Economic Development

Centre in collaboration with the Asia Partnership for Human Development had launched this peace mission. A delegation as a part of this mission arrived in Palai, Jaffna District to meet LTTE leaders.

June 8

**TAMIL MPs MEET PRIME MINISTER:** Tamil MPs met Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe to express their concern at the arbitrary arrest of Tamils including women.

June 9

**INTERNECINE WAR:** In a confrontation with the LTTE at Valaichenai in Batticaloa District two members of TELO fighting along with government security forces were killed and two others injured.

June 10

**CURFEW CLAMPED:** The security forces began operation Sea breeze in the Batticaloa District after imposing a 48 hour curfew. Several arrests were made in this operation.

## ARRESTS IN HILL

**COUNTRY:** Arrest of Tamil youths in the Hill country plantations has led to unrest among the estate Tamil population. Vellaichamy (52yrs) and son Saravanakumar(25 yrs) were admitted to hospital after being taken into custody on suspicion at Badulla.

June 11

**PEACE MISSION:** The international peace mission touring the war torn areas in the north visited the Killinochchi, Vavuniya and Mannar districts to study local conditions. The delegation met the Bishop of Mannar.

June 12

**KILALI CLASH:** Reports indicated that a naval patrol craft engaged in the shelling of the Jaffna lagoon had been destroyed by the LTTE. Passenger boats which were crossing the lagoon at the time had

also been hit by naval fire.

June 13

**ENCROACHMENT:** At a conference held at the Vavuniya secretariat opposition MPs voiced serious concern over the large scale encroachments taking place in the District. Communal harmony was being jeopardized as a result of Sinhalese colonisation according to these MPs.

June 14

## DIED IN CUSTODY:

Kanapathipillai Sri Mohan from Thayiddu, Jaffna District died while in custody at the Chilaw police station in the Puttalam District. He was one among hundreds of Tamils arrested throughout the country following the death of President Premadasa.

## BREAD BECOMES DEARER:

The government announced a sharp increase in the price of wheat flour and bread. Flour is up by Rs.1.35 a kg from Rs. 11.75 and bread is up by Rs. 1.00 from Rs. 5.50 a loaf.

June 15

**FAST BY DETAINEES:** Sixty six Tamil and Sinhalese detainees held in custody for over two years at the new Magazine prison in Colombo began a fast unto death demanding release, trial or political prisoner status.

## TAILORS DETAINED:

Hill country Tamil K.Suppiah, G.Suresh Kumar and S.Asokan all tailors from Alawathugoda in District were detained on special orders. They had earlier been freed after arrest for being in possession of clothing material similar to the khaki worn by security forces. The three of them had purchased the material at Ratmalana industrial estate where they were first arrested at a road block.

June 16

**FORCIBLE REMOVAL:** Tamil refugees from Batticaloa District housed at the Vivekananda Society hall in Colombo demonstrated

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against forcible removals from this camp.

**ARREST OF TAMILS:** K N Jeyakumar, a shopkeeper at Wattala, Colombo was arrested on suspicion. Though hailing from Ratnapura this person was arrested for being a Tamil.

June 17

**CURFEW IMPOSED:** An indefinite curfew was imposed in the areas outside security forces control in the districts of Vavuniya, Mannar and Killinochchi. Troop movements were reports in the Nanattan area in Mannar District.

June 18

**WANTED MAN:** Former Deputy Inspector General of Police P Udugampola, a wanted man in the country, walked out through the Katunayake airport without being arrested after surfacing in Madras in India the day before.

June 19

**AID TO SRI LANKA:** It was announced that US \$ 847 million (Rs. 40.3 billion) had been granted to Sri Lanka as aid for the current year by the Paris Aid Consortium of foreign nations. This years aid is an increase of US \$ 15 million more than last year's pledge. The aid was agreed despite reports of continuing human rights violations and economic aid being used for military purposes.

June 20

**JANASAVIYA IN NORTH-EAST:** Janasaviya Trust Fund Managing Director J Charitha Ratwatte said that development schemes will be extended to areas in the North-East where government civil administration has not been restored. Schemes that will be implemented in the North-East are food production, loans for subsidiary crops, training and nutritional schemes.

June 21

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE:** In

a letter to the Defence Ministry Secretary, the Up Country People's Front requested the release of three of its leaders currently held in custody, including the Front's President P Chandrasekaran who has been elected to the Central Provincial Council.

June 22

**LTTE RELEASE POLICEMEN:** Five policemen held captive by the LTTE were released after Commissioner General of Rehabilitation Brigadier Ananda Weerasekera handed over a letter from JOC chief General Hamilton Wanasinghe conveying the government's decision to partially lift the economic blockade on the North.

June 23

**ECONOMIC BLOCKADE:** A high level conference chaired by the JOC Chief General Hamilton Wanasinghe was held to give effect to the partial lifting of the economic blockde conveyed to the LTT'E over the release of the five policemen. Secretary to the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Christy Silva, the Government Agent for Jaffna and Defence Ministry officials attended this conference.

June 24

**NEW POLICE STATIONS IN BATTICALOA:** Three police stations have been established within the three miles between Valaichenai and Kalkudah in the Batticaloa District to provide security to Sinhalese families in Kalkudah.

June 25

**LTTE MEN KILLED:** A military spokesman reported the killing of three LTTE men and the capture of another when troops ambushed them in the Vellayadumadu area in the Polonnaruwa District.

June 26

**ARREST OF VILLAGERS:** Vaakaneri village in Batticaloa

District was surrounded by troops who escorted all males to a public place where they were paraded before a masked informant. 42 of the males were detained at the army camp near the 6th mile post after the parade.

June 27

**SKIRMISHES IN EAST:** In a confrontation between soldiers and LTTE cadres at Maavilkandakadu in Polonnatwa District 2 soldiers were killed and 3 were injured. LTTE losses were reported as five and an unspecified number were injured according to a JOC statement.

June 28

**PRIEST ARRESTED:** A priest from the Chunnakam church in Jaffna District was arrested in Wellawatte in Colombo District even though he had been registered as a visitor at the police station. At the time of arrest the priest was in his cassocks.

June 29

**BICYCLES BANNED:** The military authorities reimposed the ban on transport of bicycle to the North at the Thandikulam checkpoint in Vavuniya District.

**ARRESTS CONTINUE:** Minister Thondaman met President Wijetunge at the Presidential Secretariat in connection with the continuing arrests of Tamils in and around Colombo.

June 30

**JOC REFUSED TRANSPORT OF ESSENTIAL ITEMS:** JOC spokesman Brigadier Angamana disclosed that Gazett notification lifting the ban on petrol, crude oil and urea had not reached them and therefore items cannot be transported to the North.

**CAPTIVE RELEASED:** The LTT'E released another policeman held captive by them for nearly three years. The release was on medical grounds according to the LTTE who handed him over to ICRC officials.

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## **Policemen decide to Fast**

Thirty nine policemen held by the LTTE for nearly three years in Jaffna began a fast unto death protest on 13 June after conveying their decision to their families who had come to Jaffna to visit them and the police department. This action by the police beleived to have brought pressure on the government to take action to secure their release by negotiating with the LTTE. LTTE has linked the lifting of the ban on essential items to the North to the release of the policemen.

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## **Tamils Arrested**

Mass arrest of Tamils at Udappu and Kalpitiya in the Puttalam District was brought to the notice of the local MP and minister of Muslim affairs A H M Anvar by Udappu Hindu Trust president Ramiah. He has sought their early release in his appeal to the minister.

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## **No X-RAY films in Jaffna Hospital**

The Jaffna teaching hospital has almost run out of films for X-rays . Only the small film size was received and no large prints are possible. These are now being used only for urgent cases of illness.

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## **Order to Arrest ASP**

Police obtained detention orders for the custody of an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) and a sergent attached to the former President's security division. The arrests were said to be part of the investigation into the President's killing.

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## **Call for Resignation**

Former Broadcasting Corporation Chairman Hudson Samarasinghe MP speaking in Parliament on 17 June demanded the resignation of the inspector General of Police in view of the serious security lapses in the country.

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## **Attack in Mannar**

A police jeep and an ambulance came under fire while crossing Karuchchati bridge connecting Mannar Island and mainland. It was alleged that this convoy was returning after taking an injured officer across. A Police Inspector and constable were killed and 4 policemen were injured in this attack which took place at 9.30 pm on 27 June. Reports suggest that the attack took place on information given to LTTE.

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## **Widows face hardship**

Over 6,000 Tamil women widowed in the Batticalloa District alone due to the ongoing war. Reports suggest that these women are subjected to severe hardship and there is lack of support to rebuild their lives. Harrassement by Security forces and armed groups working with the forces continue to be the biggest problem faced by these refugees. NGOs providing assistance to them are unable to address their needs fully. Lack of information, security and funds were reported as the main reasons for the NGOs not being able to help them adequately. International pressure to stop the war is the only way open to help these defenceless victims of war says a relief worker.

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## **Demand for the Arrest of LTTE Leader**

Reports from India suggest that loyalists of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi held a demonstration outside Sri Lankan High Commission Office in New Delhi demading the immediate arrest of LTTE leader Prabaharan and Pottu Amman to stand trial in India. The demonstrators submitted a memorandum to the Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr Ranil Wickramasinghe raising concern over the delay in arresting them and handing over to India.

The memorandum also contains a warning to the Sri Lankan Prime Minister saying that if Prabaharan and Pottu Amman are not arrested and handed over to India within a month, they would be forced to take drastic action. No mention was made to what action they proposed to take.

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## **“Disappearance” in the Increase**

Over 200 persons reported “Disappeared” in the eastern region during the last three months. Reports suggest that Security forces and homeguards were involved in the arrests and “disappearances” of people in the region. Eye witness reports say that these arrests were made by security forces in civil. Arrests were made from peoples homes, while walking in the streets and in the shops while shopping.

Police and military in the region are not willing to comment on the reports of such arrests. They have denied their involvement. This has caused more worry and concern to those who have lost their beloved ones.

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# Tamil Nadu NGOs Meet to Discuss Refugee Assistance

Following the prohibition of NGOs into refugee camps by the Tamil Nadu government a meeting of NGOs concerned in the humanitarian needs of the Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees was held in Madras.

At this meeting, representatives of the refugee community set out in detail the sufferings and the difficulties they face and appealed for assistance.

The following resolution was adopted by the meeting:

## **i) NGO Assistance:**

" That in view of the multifarious services and assistance that was necessary in the rehabilitation effort and as the government alone could not provide all such services and assistance, NGOs should be encouraged and assisted by the government to share in providing services to the refugees in Tamil Nadu and that any impediments placed in the way of NGOs providing such humanitarian services and assistance to the refugees should be removed " .

## **ii) Education:**

" That since education is a fundamental right and the denial of the same to the refugees would tantamount to the denial of a fundamental right and as many refugee students have been denied admissions to schools, colleges, professional and technical institutions the educational facilities provided to the refugee students from 1984 to 1990/91 should be restored to them and continued " .

## **iii) Shelter:**

" As the temporary shelters provided for the refugees in the camps were put up since January 1990 and as the same are in a bad state of disrepair after being buffeted during the last two to three years by strong winds and monsoonal rains and as the refugees living in such shelters are undergoing great hardships and their children are frequently falling ill, it is urgent that the temporary shelters in disrepair should be repaired, restored or built anew without further delay " .

## **iv) Human Rights:**

" Whereas basic human rights of the refugees have been both intentionally and unintentionally violated due to actions taken and orders made by the government and whereas the restrictions placed on the movement of the refugees has resulted in refugees being interned in their camps and not allowed to go out even for very valid reasons and whereas the refugees are being subjected to great hardships and pain of mind as a result of the holding of frequent identification parades, finger printing, rude and uncivil behaviour of some of the officers etc. it is essential that the human rights of the refugees should be respected, and that all forms of violations be stopped " .

## **v) Dole and Ration:**

" Whereas the quantum of the dole given to the refugees has been fixed three years ago, and as there had been a steep rise in the cost of living in the country thereafter and the doles paid to the refugees are inadequate to enable the refugees to

procure their basic necessities with the same, and whereas most refugees do not have other sources of income, it is most necessary that an upward revision of the dole should be effected and the fortnightly dole and rations provided to the refugees should be given at appropriate times without default " .

## **vi) Health Services:**

" Whereas basic health care services are an urgent necessity due to the vulnerability of the refugee community, suitable action plans should be formulated and implemented by the government to reach medical help to the refugees irrespective of the remoteness of their camps " .

## **vii) Nutrition:**

" Whereas due to long periods of deprivation of food and nutrition in the Island the vulnerable sections of the refugee community have become susceptible to ill-health, it is necessary that suitable remedial steps be taken to improve the nutrition levels of the vulnerable sections of the refugee community such as the pregnant women, lactating mothers, infants, children, old and feeble " .

## **viii) Toilets and Latrines:**

" the lack of appropriate toilets and latrines in the refugee camps has caused serious health problems including spread of disease etc., and as women are badly handicapped due to lack of privacy in answering calls of nature and as the latrine pits in camps where latrines have been provided have not been properly

constructed and are getting filled up and frequently causing health hazards, it has become necessary that suitable latrines and toilets should be put up in the refugee camps where such facilities are urgently needed.

#### **ix) Drinking Water:**

" Whereas many of the bore-wells constructed to supply drinking and bathing water to the refugees in the

camps have become non-functional and the refugees are undergoing great hardship by the non-availability or the lack of water it is necessary that the existing bore-wells that are non functional are repaired and wherever necessary, fresh bore-wells are constructed to provide adequate drinking water for the refugees " .

A Committee has been appointed to implement the resolution.

## **State Aided Colonisation of Tamil Lands**

Reports from Vavuniya District indicate that Tamil and Muslim refugees from the areas of Vavuniya and Chettikulam have been asked to move into refugee camps. Separate Camps have been established to house these two communities. Having got these people into refugee camps, security forces are now involved in bringing Sinhalese settlers into these areas. Reports say that these settlers were asked to occupy the lands of the people who were made refugees. Security also being provided to the settlers by the military. It was also reported that government with the assistance of the security forces has set in motion another plan to settle Sinhalese in Pavatkulam on the other side of Vavuniya. These areas are traditional Tamil areas which are now under intensive colonisation.

Such colonisation of the East with the view to change the demographic pattern is continuing despite several complaints by the Tamil MPs. In the year 1827 the Tamil living in the Eastern region accounted for 74.52% of the population and the Muslims accounted for 24.72% whilst the Sinhalese was only .53%. The 1981 census figure revealed that the percentage of Tamils living in the East had dropped to 43.13% ,Muslims accounted for 32.27% and Sinhalese to 25%. The percentage of Sinhalese would further increase with a significant drop in the Tamil figure says the report.

## **Food Shortage in Batticalloa**

The three day curfew imposed from 10 June in the area North-West of Valaichenai in the Batticalloa District has led to a food shortage among the Tamil residents there.

Reports say that with the curfew in force troops expanded their control in the -Batticalloa District up to Vakarai, Mankerni and Kayamkerni Junction.

Due to the severe restriction of food items permitted in the past into the area under curfew, food stocks were already at a precarious level. With no chance for venturing out to obtain food, reports indicate that the population in this area is undergoing a severe food shortage.

## **Foreign Aid diverted to War**

The World Bank has queried the diversion of foreign aid to the war efforts. It was revealed that the World Bank Officials who visited Sri Lanka to review the utilisation of their funds have found that the government had utilised foreign aid for defence purposes..

## **Economic Blockade: Malnutrition and infant mortality**

The debilitating effect of the government's economic blockade of the north is borne out by statistics released by a senior lecturer at the faculty of medicine in the University of Jaffna. According to Dr N Sivarajah most of the new born babies weigh less than 2.5 kg. and are malnourished from the time they are conceived. Five percent of the babies lose their lives within 12 months as a result of this malnourished state.

Another survey conducted in Jaffna District by the Medical Director of Northern Province reveals further supporting evidence on malnutrition and they are:-

- a) around 2,000 under the age of five are so malnourished that it is life threatening.
- b) 2,074 children are totally malnourished.
- c) 6,658 children are 50% malnourished
- d) 12,178 children are somewhat malnourished

This survey covered 42,090 children in refugee camps, care centres and primary schools.

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