



PRAISE TO GEN. KOBBEKADUA: A Shameful Strategy for Survival

A landmine killed six senior Sri Lankan military commanders, including northern Army Commander General Denzil Kobbekaduwa at Araliturai on Kayts Island west of Jaffna peninsula on 8th August. Jaffna Army Commander Brigadier Wijaya Wimalaratne and northern naval Commander Commodore Mohan Jayamaha were among the dead.

The LTTE claimed responsibility and the Sri Lankan government insisted that the deaths were caused by a pressure mine buried eighteen months ago when the LTTE held the Islands. Some sources dismissing the government view say that the mine was triggered by a remote control device. Reports say that the (joint) opposition had intended to nominate General Kobbekaduwa as the candidate for the next presidential election and that he would have been a strong contender against President Premadasa.

General Kobbekaduwa has been praised by the media for his achievements in the North-East. Newspaper reports say that he always had the safety of civilians in his mind and that Tamils looked upon him as a saviour.

Glowing tributes to General Kobbekaduwa, have surprisingly come from Tamil militant leaders and political parties. A TELO leader said that General Kobbekaduwa's personality and courage coupled with an abiding concern for civilian life cast an indelible

impression. He added that Kobbekaduwa had many friends and admirers in the Tamil community and his loss means a lot to the plight of the Tamil people of the North. The TELO leader also urged the Tamil people in Colombo to attend the funeral of the General.

The PLOTE leader emphasised that General Kobbekaduwa had stood above race, religion and political difference and worked towards bringing the Tamil community back to the political mainstream. The leader of the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) which operates with the army on Kayts Island where the explosion occurred, described General Kobbekaduwa as a fine soldier. He said his death is an irreparable loss and has created a void which cannot be filled in the foreseeable future. Leader of an EROS faction said that death of Kobbekaduwa was a great loss. The leader of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress (ACTC) predicted that the "Tamils will only realise as the days go by that our lot would have been better with General Kobbekaduwa alive"

The Tamil population which is now living under military rule is shocked by the statements made by the Tamil leaders who are living in the capital Colombo. Report say many are angry and astonished, though they condemn all killings and sympathise with the families of the dead.

All these statements appear to have been made to pacify the

Sinhalese majority and for the purpose of survival of the leaders Tamils say that praise of General Kobbekaduwa's military capabilities by Tamil leaders is understandable. But, tributes while ignoring the General's human rights violations against the Tamil people are meaningless and should stand totally condemned. The Tamil people, particularly those living in the Tamil Homeland have different opinion about General Kobbekaduwa. The truth about the actions of General Kobbekaduwa and Brigadier Wimalaratne in the North-East have been completely overshadowed by these statements.

The Tamil Information Centre is informed that there are at least eleven Tamils currently living in Britain as refugees who had been tortured under the direct supervision of General Kobbekaduwa. In some cases the General himself had participated in the torture.

"Ravi" was arrested by General Kobbekaduwa in his home at Kanakarayankulam in Vavuniya District in 1985. At that time General Kobbekaduwa was commanding officer for Kilinochchi District and coordinated operations in Vavuniya. Twenty others arrested along with Ravi were taken to Joseph headquarters and tortured. Ravi was held for two weeks. He was assaulted with batons, belts and plastic pipes filled with concrete. General Kobbekaduwa himself assaulted him on several occasions with plastic pipes. Ravi was hung upside down and a chillie fire was

placed under him. Ravi did not even know why he had been subjected to such treatment. He asks if it was not a punishment, could it be a deterrent or a means of intimidating a whole community?

Ravi's elder brother Shan was arrested on 17th February 1984 in Vavuniya. He was also taken to the Joseph camp and interrogated and tortured. General Kobbekaduwa was present during interrogation and torture although he did not participate.

'Operation Liberation' launched by the Sri Lankan armed forces in mid 1987 in the Jaffna peninsula was led by General Kobbekaduwa. During this operation over 800 civilians were killed. Military vehicles were used to demolish hundreds of houses in Vadamaratchy. If India had not intervened at this stage many more civilians would have been massacred. As Northern Commander General Kobbekaduwa was involved in all major military operations in the North since June 1990. In an appeal to foreign ambassadors in Colombo, the Jaffna Citizens Committee says that over 30,000 innocent unarmed men, women and children have been killed and over 10,000 have disappeared in

the Tamil Homeland during this period There are over 6,000 widows and over 10,000 orphans in the Jaffna District alone. Houses, schools and temples have been destroyed by shelling and bombing.

Statements in order to placate Sinhala leaders has also been made by the LTTE in 1989 and 1990, when talks were taking place between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan government. LTTE said that it could trust President Premadasa to resolve the conflict. Other LTTE leaders and spokesmen extolled the virtues of President Premadasa at meetings in Sri Lanka and abroad. As soon as fighting between LTTE and the Sri Lankan forces resumed in June 1990, the LTTE began denouncing President Premadasa.

Earlier, LTTE said it was having discussions with the Muslims regarding their problems and issues concerning them, but later gave an ultimatum to the Muslims to leave the North.

Though there are confirmed reports that Muslims are increasingly taking a radical stand and are engaged in largescale human rights violations against the Tamils, LTTE leader Yogi denouncing the Muslims as traitors

has shocked the people and has caused anger among Muslims. Many have said that it was an irresponsible statement by the leader.

The hapless Tamils look upon the Tamil groups and their leaders to bring them salvation. Irresponsible statements by the groups would affect the trust placed in them by the people. Most of the Tamil people are hurt over the statements made by Tamil leaders on General Kobbekaduwa and these statements have been made without any consideration for the feeling and suffering of the people.

Sources say the Sri Lankan government is often pressurising the leaders of militant groups in Colombo to make statements on such occasions, and the government is even offering money to them. It may be recalled that between 1987 and 1990 the IPKF offered money to militant groups to release statements. Militant groups often seem to be concerned only of their survival. If it is the survival of an individual or groups of individuals their actions could be understood. What is at stake is the survival of the whole Tamil community and Tamils say that such statements cannot be the way forward to achieve their goals+

Situation Report

JOURNALIST GRILLED

John Colmey an American journalist working for the magazine "Asia Week" was interrogated by the CID in connection with a sketch found in his possession which is believed to have contained the sketch of a Tiger and the face of President Premadasa. At the weekly news conference at the Parliamentary complex, Bradman Weerakoon, Presidential Advisor on International Affairs declared that John Colmey had not been deported but had left the country on his own accord and the CID had recorded a statement from him about his involvement in the "illustrated material" which, according to him, could have

brought the government into disrepute and caused disaffaction, if published. He also had denied the allegation that the sketch was about President Premadasa riding on the back of a Tiger+

PRESIDENT CALL FOR POLITICAL SOLUTION

President Premadasa speaking at a meeting in Kegalle District admitting that some of the most efficient officers in the Lankan security forces had been killed in the mine explosion in the North said that he wanted to find a political solution to the ethnic crisis at national level and end the war which he said was costing \$455 million per year. However, Tamils who attended the meeting say that

the President is not honest in what he is saying. His actions do not agree with his statements+

CALL FOR POLITICAL SOLUTION BY MILITARY COMMANDER

Lieutenant-General Cecil Waidyaratne told reporters in Jaffna that security forces lacked equipment and troops to crush the LTTE and that a political solution needed to resolve the Tamil crisis, virtually ruling out a military victory. According Waidyaratne 200,000 troops would be needed to crush the LTTE. The strength of Sri Lankan security forces at present is about 100,000+

Fifty-one Sri Lankan Tamil refugees held at the Kerepestarcsa detention **camp** in Hungary were released following intervention by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). A letter written by the Tamils to the Tamil Information Centre and other organisations had been smuggled out of the **camp**.

The camp which is near Budapest is notorious for the treatment of detainees and lack of facilities. According to Amnesty International, beatings of inmates often occur in the camp and tear-gas has been used in confined **spaces**. A Chinese man who had lost consciousness after being hit about the face and head was taken to the hospital. Amnesty says that there is no information about his subsequent condition or whereabouts.

The Tamils had been held for three months often in total darkness. They say that they did not have sufficient water and the accommodation lacked proper ventilation. The guards at the **camp** were unruly and often assaulted the Tamils. Some Tamil women also complained of sexual harassment.

The Tamils decided to launch a hunger strike from 7th September demanding decisions on asylum applications, provision of medical and other facilities and the intervention of the UNHCR and ICRC. The TIC contacted the UNHCR who assured that following representations to the Hungarian government visits by UNHCR officials had been allowed. The TIC also launched a **campaign** for the release of the Tamils. The UNHCR provided financial assistance to the Hungarian Red Cross to attend to the needs of the refugees.

Following negotiations the Tamils were released. UNHCR will interview all the Tamil refugees and make recommendations to the Hungarian government on the asylum **applications**. The Hungarian government will grant asylum to those recommended by UNHCR+

TIC ACCESSION LIST

A Selection of documents received by TIC in August 1992

GFL 233

Wilson, A.Jeyaratnam

The Tamil Federal Party in Ceylon Politics

London: Journal of Commonwealth Political Studies; July 1966.

177p.-137p.

DESCRIPTORS: Tamils / Politics / Political Parties / History / Propaganda

SHR 994

Fernando, Tyronne

Hundred days in Sri Lanka'87

Sri Lanka: Chromographic (Pty) Ltd.: 1988

147p.

DESCRIPTORS: History of conflict / Human Rights Violations / J-VP /India

SHR 990

Neelavannan

Mindum Yalppanam Erikiratu (Text in Tamil)

Yalppanam: Vatathar Veliyidu; 1981

78p.

DESCRIPTORS: Northern Region / Destruction of cultural centres / Attack on MPs / Destruction of Business / Establishments / Destruction of Publishing Places

GFL 231

Simon Casie Chitty

The Ceylon Gazetteer

Colombo: PLW & Company: 1989

286p.

DESCRIPTORS: Moors of Ceylon / Tamils / Caste Classifications / Tamil Ceremonies

SHR 999

Appeal by Free Media Movement-Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: Free Media Movement; 1992

2p.

DESCRIPTORS: Attack on Journalists / Petition / Sinhalese / Southern Region

SHR 998

Sri Lanka: Freedom of Expression cases in the North: Victims of LTTE Repression

London: Article 19; August 17 1992

No.14; 6p.

DESCRIPTORS: Freedom of opinion and Expression / LTTE / Northern Region

SHR997

Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka: statement by Ambassador Bernard A.B.Goonetilleke Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka

Geneva: 13 August 1992

DESCRIPTORS: Human Rights Violations / Tamil Homeland / Politics / Relief / Negotiations

SHR 996

Sri Lanka: Human Rights and the issues of War and Peace: Briefing No.1

Jaffna University Teachers for Human Rights; August 1992

24p.

DESCRIPTORS: Human Rights Violations / war / Politics / Muslims / Prisoners

SHR 995

Press Release by University of Denver

Colorado: University of Denver; 20 August 1992

40p-

DESCRIPTORS: Petition / UN / Tamils / Human Rights

AUGUST DIARY

AUGUST 1

REPORTS DENIED BY CO-E PRESIDENT: Chairman of the Parliamentary Select Committee on the national conflict Mangala Moonesinghe denied reports that he had discussions with the Jaffna Government Agent K Manickavasagar and editor of Udayan newspaper to make contact with the LTTE leadership.

AUGUST 2

SECURITY ALERT IN JAIL: Reports said that following information that LTTE was planning to forcibly enter the Chenkalpet prison in Tamil Nadu where the 26 accused in the Rajiv Gandhi murder case are held, security was tightened in the area.

AUGUST 3

SOLDIERS KILLED IN ATTACK: Fourteen soldiers on a search and destroy mission were killed in the Karadiyanaru jungles in the Batticaloa District. Two soldiers were injured. Security sources said nine Tigers were shot dead in Trincomalee.

AUGUST 4

ARMY PATROL ATTACKED: LTTE surprised soldiers who were on patrol at Pirrapanmadu village near Vavuniya killing 15 of them and seriously wounding the rest. The ambush is reported to have taken place within LTTE held territory.

AUGUST 5

LTTE KILL SOLDIERS: Four soldiers involved in a road clearing operation at Nanattan in Mannar District were ambushed and killed by the LTTE.

AUGUST 6

TAMILS ARRESTED IN COLOMBO: Over 300 Tamils were arrested in Colombo after allegations that LTTE cadres had infiltrated into Colombo and Puttalam Districts. A number of Tamil women were also taken into custody.

AUGUST 7

JOURNALIST ATTACKED: Thugs attacked foreign and local journalists who were present at the launching of a campaign by Lalith Athulathmudali's Democratic United National Front (DUNF) to collect a million signatures demanding the resignation of President Premadasa.

AUGUST 6

KOKKADDICHOLAI KILLERS: Reports said that 18 soldiers would appear before a military tribunal for the massacre of 67 Tamils at Kokkaddicholai in Batticaloa District on 12 June. Over 150 died in the massacre.

AUGUST 9

TAMILS MASSACRED: Thirty-five Tamils including women and eleven children, most of them Tamils of Indian origin from the plantations who had settled in Mylanthanai village on the Batticaloa-Polarmaruwa border were massacred by an armed gang alleged to be soldiers following the land mine blast in Araliturai in which 10 senior military officers were killed. It was further revealed that the gang also had abducted 9 villagers including two women.

AUGUST 10

WITNESS KILLED: Ilayathambi Nesadurai of Karaitivu in Batticaloa District was shot dead by Home Guards. He had been summoned by courts to give evidence relating to atrocities by Muslim Home Guards.

SHELL ATTACK ON

JAFFNA: Kavitha Rajaratnam, a young woman was killed and six others including a three year old child named Pathinather Gavaskar were seriously wounded when security forces indiscriminately fired shells into Navanthurai and Oddumadam area at about 8.45 pm. Some houses were also damaged.

BOMB KILL PREGNANT MOTHER: Sinnathurai. Eeswary, a young pregnant mother was killed

and her husband and three children seriously injured when two airforce planes bombed Navatkuli around 6.30 am. Eight bombs were dropped. Many houses destroyed and trees have been broken and uprooted.

AUGUST 11

LTTE ATTACKS: The LTTE attacked army positions at Mulliyan in Jaffna District. An army spokesman said attacks had been repulsed.

AUGUST 12

STUDENT KILLED BY SHELL: A ten year old student returning home after tuition classes in Erlalai in the Jaffna peninsula was killed by a shell from Palali. Four others were injured.

AUGUST 13

COMMONWEALTH MEDIATION: Senator Garath Evans, the Australian Foreign Affairs Minister addressing a meeting organised by the Federation of Tamils in Melbourne said that the Australian government was concerned over the continuing war between the LTTE and the government forces which has cost thousands of lives. He had added that his government has once again stressed to the Sri Lankan government of its readiness to mediate with the involvement of "Commonwealth".

AUGUST 14

DEATHS IN TIGER ATTACK: Seven policemen were killed and five injured in a LTTE ambush at Bakkiella on the Batticaloa-Amparai border.

AUGUST 15

APPOINTMENT OF NEW MILITARY OFFICERS: Defence Ministry announced the appointment of Maj. Gen. Gerry de Silva, eastern commander of the Sri Lankan Security forces for the North to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Maj. Gen. Denzil Kobbekaduwa. The government communique added that Brig. Rohan Daluwatte would succeed Brig. Vijeya Wimalaratne and Brig. Lucky Algama, a graduate of the

AUGUST DIARY

Pakistan Defence Academy and known for his role in the fight against JVP would succeed Maj. Gen. De Silva as the eastern commander.

AUGUST 16

VOW TO DEFEAT LTTE: General Hamilton Wanasinghe, Sri Lanka's top army general pledged in a statement that the security forces would step up their campaign against LTTE who killed the entire northern military top brass, with "renewed dedication".

AUGUST 17

ATTACK ON CIVILIANS: Following the killing of two soldiers at Thetrativu in Batticaloa District by a landmine, soldiers attacked civilians on the streets. The Kalmunai-Batticaloa bus service was disrupted Five Tamils were arrested by the army.

AUGUST 16

BUS DAMAGED IN SNIPER FIRE: Sniper fire from the army camp in Mandaitivu damaged a bus at the Jaffna bus stand. ICRC official inspected the damage.

AUGUST 19

TAMILS ARRESTED: Two hundred and eighty four Tamils were arrested in Colombo in a three day operation by the police. The arrests were made on allegations of LTTE infiltration.

AUGUST 20

CIVILIANS DIE IN SHELLING: Ten civilians were killed and over 50 injured in shelling and bombing of Sillalai, Pandaterrippu, Marisankoodal, Mathagal, Alaveddy and Ilavalai. There was continuous shelling from army camps and five planes were engaged in bombing. Houses, temples and other buildings were damaged. Around 4,000 persons fled the area.

AUGUST 21

OPERATION EARTH-QUAKE: Following the launching of Operation Earthquake the army

renounced that a 12 km area had been captured around Mathagal in the Jaffna peninsula.

AUGUST 22

RICE FIELDS SCOURED FOR MINES: Over 200 soldiers and police began a search of about 300 to 400 acres of paddy field in Amparai for landmines. The search for mines followed the killing of three farmers by a small mine in a field.

AUGUST 23

LANDMINE ATTACK IN TRINCOMALEE: Five soldiers including an officer were killed in a LTTE landmine attack between Kallaru and Mavilaru in Trincomalee District.

AUGUST 24

LTTE LEADERS KILLED: LTTE announced that some of their best men namely Somasuntharam Satkunam alias Rajan, commander of the "Charles Anthony Brigade", Captain Ganeshan alias Puniyamorthy of Trincomalee and Captain Vanni alias Kanapathippillai Kananathan of Thunukai had been killed in a counter offensive to recapture the territory lost to government troops in Mathagal.

AUGUST 25

SPECIAL FUND FOR REFUGEES: According to government sources, five countries, Australia, Canada, France, USA and UK have contributed approximately SLRs 70 million (US \$1.6 million) to UNHCR to provide emergency relief to Tamils returning from India.

AUGUST 26

ARMY OPERATION IN BATTICALOA: JOC reports said that two Tigers were killed in an attack at Thikkodai in Batticaloa District Thirty six Tamils were arrested by the security forces.

AUGUST 27

STAY ORDER LIFTED: The

Madras High Court lifted the "stay Order" on repatriation of Tamil refugees issued earlier following petitions by P Nedumaran, President of the Tamil National Movement and Dr Ramdas, President of the Proletarian,, People's Party accusing the Tamil Nadu government of forcibly returning the Tamil refugees to Sri Lanka. The court said that there was no concrete evidence to show that the Tamil Nadu government had adopted intimidatory steps. However, most of the refugees claim that they were given an ultimatum by the authorities and they have no choice in the matter.

AUGUST 26

BUNKERS DESTROYED: Three military bunkers at Periyapachchaipallai near the Elephant Pass camp were overrun by LTTE in a predawn attack Five soldiers were reported killed and several others seriously injured in the attack

AUGUST 26

NAVAL BOAT CAPTURED: The LTTE claimed that it had captured a British-made patrol craft fitted with naval communication equipment and a 20 millimetre machine gun from the Naval base in the government-controlled Mandaitivu islet.

AUGUST 30

BOMB KILL PAS-SANGERS: Over ten people including a soldier were killed and 23 more wounded when a hidden bomb blew up a bus parked with passengers at the main bus station in Trincomalee. Military sources have accused the LTTE for the blast, but LTTE sources deny involvement.

AUGUST 31

REFUGEES FLOWN TO TRINCOMALEE: One hundred and thirty two Tamil refugees were returned to Trincomalee in an Indian Airlines plane. On arrival they were sent to the refugee camp at Uppuveli.

PLANTATION TAMILS, PRIVATISATION AND EDUCATION

TEA has dominated Sri Lanka's economy for over a century. In the early 19th century the British colonial administration opened up vast areas of land for cash crop cultivation. The local Sinhalese population was unwilling to work on the newly opened plantations and the planters began recruiting Tamil labour from South India.

By the 1930s the immigrant plantation population had reached 690,000. Their poor living and working conditions were ignored until the Ceylon Indian Congress (CIC), the first organisation to represent the plantation workers, was formed in 1939. The CIC became the Ceylon Workers Congress (CWC) in 1950 and remains the most influential trade union on the plantations.

The backing given in Parliament to opposition left-wing parties by the seven CIC members elected in 1947 incensed the ruling United National Party (UNP). Removal of Tamil and left-wing domination in the plantations became a priority and discriminatory legislation deprived a million plantation Tamils of their right to citizenship and the vote.

Negotiations between India and Sri Lanka on the future of the plantation Tamils culminated in the Indo-Ceylon Agreements of 1964 and 1974. Under the agreements 450,000 Tamils were to be granted Sri Lankan citizenship and 675,000 accepted by India. Despite the agreements, there remained over 400,000 stateless persons in 1984. Many of the 500,000 repatriated to South India were further impoverished and marginalised by corrupt or inept development schemes set up to resettle them in the Nilgiris Hills.

In Sri Lanka, four decades of struggle ended when the government relented following threat of strike action by the unions, and enacted legislation in 1986 and 1988 to grant citizenship to all stateless Tamils. Despite progress in the grant of citizenship workers live and work in appalling conditions. Plantation districts have the highest maternal and

infant mortality rates. Literacy rate in the plantation sector is 61.8% as against the national rate of 85%. My 4.2% of the people own houses compared to 90% in the rural and 66.4% in the urban sectors. Plantation wages are the lowest in the island and health and sanitary facilities remain marginal without any improvement. They we also endured three major outbreaks of racial violence in the stormy years since independence in 1948 at a cost of thousands of lives.

Over 500,000 acres of plantation and was acquired by the state in 1972 and were vested in two state corporations. Initial optimism over and reform dissipated when plantation workers were subject to violent attacks and many were dismissed. Mismanagement and political interference blighted the lay-today running of the tea estates and the two corporations began incurring losses.

In recent years the government has come under World Bank pressure to privatise the plantation sector to make it economically viable. Nearly 450 estates 468,000 acres in extent were allocated to 22 private companies in May 1992. According to the government private companies will only handle management, and ownership will remain with the state.

Tea production fell by 10% last year and the average annual rubber production has declined by 242 million pounds in the last three years. Sri Lanka is set to lose at least five billion rupees (\$113.6 million) in tea earnings this year and will fall to third place in the country's export ratings, economist say.

Supporters of privatisation say new management will increase wages and provide better housing. If the plantation industry is to become viable and withstand competition from other tea-producing countries. State involvement has to be reduced to a minimum. They point out that before nationalisation, 70% of Sri Lanka's foreign exchange earnings came from export of tea, rubber and coconut products while today

they accounted for under 25%.

Around two million people depend on the 400,000 persons employed by the state corporations. Trade unions say nearly 200,000 workmen will be made redundant by privatisation and the companies may lower wages to current levels paid by privately-owned estates and curtail even the meagre welfare, health and housing facilities gained after decades of struggle. Some unions fear that privatisation will jeopardise the recently negotiated collective agreement. They contend that the problem on plantations is not management but the economic policy of the government which has led to rise in the cost of production.

Trade unions are apprehensive that two tiers of supervision by the government and by private companies will create confusion and further affect production. Collective bargaining and the settlement of industrial disputes will become more difficult, say local union leaders who fear many workers will lose their jobs.

Education as the vehicle for advancement of the plantation community, has not been encouraged by trade unions for fear of being overwhelmed by a new class of educated youth. Trade unions which control the lives of plantation workers confine themselves to adult education courses and seminars. In many estates classes are conducted in dilapidated buildings and other educational facilities such as equipment and furniture are not provided. There is a total lack of facilities for teaching science in Tamil schools in the plantation areas and little enthusiasm is shown in filling teaching vacancies. Libraries are found only in a very few estate areas.

Requests have been made to the Tamil Information Centre for books and periodicals for libraries in plantations. TIC calls upon those interested in providing books and magazines, to contact the TIC for further details. TIC hopes to collect books for libraries in other areas of the Hill Country as well+

Situation Report

DISAPPEARANCE OF TAMIL YOUTHS IN THE EAST

Reports say that over 5,000 Tamil youths arrested by the security forces in the East have disappeared. These arrests had taken place from 1990 and parents say that they have no information whatsoever about their fate. Most of the arrests have been carried out in Batticaloa, Amparai and Akkaraipattu. Many arrests took place in refugee camps. Although in many cases army officers informed parents that their children would be released after inquiry no-one has been released+

TAMIL ARRESTED AT AIRPORT

A young Tamil woman deported from Denmark was handed over to the police at the Katunayake Airport. She was held by the police for fourteen days. When she was produced before the Negambo Magistrate the police said that their investigations had not been completed and objected strongly to her being released. They said that LTTE links were being investigated. However the Magistrate ordered her to be released as the police had not produced any evidence+

PLOICE OCCUPY VILLAGE SCHOOL

Education of children in the Veeramunai village in the Batticaloa District has been badly affected as the police is occupying the village school. The children of the 150 refugee families resettled in the village are unable to continue their education. Another 372 families of the Veeramunai village are living in camps at Thimkivil, Karaitivu and Kalmunai for the past two years+

RETURNED REFUGEE IN PRISON

A Tamil refugee who returned from Tamil Nadu is being held in the Colombo Magazine prison for the last three months. In a habeas corpus application Rosari Joy Anand says that her husband, Gnanapragasam Joy Anand, who had returned from India on 6th March was arrested at Pesalai refugee camp on Mannar Island on 13 April by soldiers from the Thallady army camp. Currently he is held at the Magazine Prison under emergency regulations. Reports say that around 600 Tamils are held in the Magazine and Kalutara prisons under detention orders or emergency regulations without being brought before a court or being informed of the reasons for their arrest+

TAMILS ABDUCTED IN VALAICHENAI

Six Tamils travelling in the Colombo/Batticaloa train were abducted by unknown gunmen at the Valaichenai railway station on 10th August 1992. Reports say the abduction was carried out by Muslim Home Guards. Meanwhile, Tamils in the villages of Eravur, Arumugathankudiruppu and Iyankerni in the Batticaloa District say they live in fear of Home Guards. As Home Guards threaten the villagers most of them spend the nights in jungles+

FORCIBLE RESETTLEMENT OF TAMILS IN UNSAFE PLACES

Four hundred and twenty Tamil families have been forcibly resettled in Manjamthoduvai in Batticaloa District by the Army near the army camp. Tamils displaced earlier had refused to return to the village because of the army camp and activity of Muslim Home Guards+

NO BIRTH CERTIFICATE IN JAFFNA HOSPITAL

Birth registration certificates are not issued at the Jaffna general hospital in respect of births in the hospital. Four months ago the certificates were exhausted but the issue was resumed in early July. Reports say that once again issue of certificates has been stopped and many parents daily visit the hospital to obtain the certificates+

WIDOWS NEED ASSISTANCE

Batticaloa MP Prins Casinadar, in a letter to Rehabilitation Minister P. Dayaratne says that 412 widows in refugee camps in Batticaloa District are suffering without proper assistance to enable them to take care of their children. These widows are at refugee camps in Valaichenai, Kalliyankadu, Senkalady, Kallady and Eravur. The MP has requested compensation for death of husbands and assistance to launch self-help projects+

TAMIL TORTURED IN CUSTODY

A Tamil youth who made preparations to travel to Australia is being held at the notorious "Sixth Floor" of the Colombo police headquarters for the past one year. Chelliah Sundaramurthy of Udupiddy in Jaffna, was arrested in August 1991 in the Colombo suburb of Wellawatte by the army and was handed over to the police a week later. He had been severely assaulted and tortured while in army custody. Torture continued on the Sixth Floor and on 26th November 1991 he was forced to sign a statement. In a habeas corpus application to the Court of Appeal Sundaramurthy's mother has sought his release and medical examination+

Petition to the United Nation

In June 1992 the Tamil Information Centre submitted a petition on the plight of the Sri Lankan Tamils, signed by nearly 10,000 members and friends of the Tamil Community, to the Secretary General of the United Nations Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghal.

The petition was submitted in June 1992 in the light of UN General Assembly debates on mechanisms to allow intervention to protect human rights and assist internally displaced persons. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees Mrs Sadako Ogata had also said that human rights violations were a major cause of refugee flows and emphasised the need for preventive protection that might obviate the need for flight.

The petition called on the United Nations to debate the Sri Lankan Tamil issue as a matter of urgency and urge the Sri Lankan government to abandon the military solution, use the good offices offered by the Commonwealth and countries like Australia, Canada, India, Norway and Switzerland to facilitate negotiations and to seek a lasting solution. The petition also urged the UN to ensure recognition of the right of self-determination of Tamils and end all human rights violations.

The TIC wrote to the Secretary General in August 1992 once again pointing out the deteriorating situation in Sri Lanka and the government's clear intention to pursue a military solution. The TIC referred to the Secretary General's report to the 47th session of the UN General Assembly on "preventive diplomacy, peace-making and peacekeeping" wherein it had been emphasised that democracy within nations requires respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as set forth in the UN Charter and requires as well a deeper understanding and respect for the rights of minorities. TIC also

pointed to the report where it states that the aim of the UN must, enter alia, be, where conflict erupts, to engage in peace-making aimed at resolving the issues that have led to the conflict.

As a body composed of nations, no acknowledgement is sent to petitions submitted by NGOs or group of individuals to the UN. However TIC hopes that the UN will consider the petition and take positive action to intervene in Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, TIC understands that a group of intellectuals in Sri Lanka have also submitted a petition to the UN calling for intervention.

In August 1992 yet another petition was submitted to the UN on behalf of the Sri Lankan Tamils by the Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin, Friends of India Society International and the National Federation of Indian American Associations. The petition has been signed by Luis Kutner, Chairman of the Commission for International Due Process of Law and Ved. P. Nanda, Professor of Law at the University of Denver College of Law.

The petition requests the formation of an ad hoc Commission to function as an ad hoc Tribunal, pursuant to Article 22 of the UN Charter, by a resolution of the Human Rights Commission, the UN General Assembly, the Security Council and the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to investigate allegations of torture, arbitrary arrest, disappearance, killings and attempted genocide.

The petition also calls for the ad hoc Tribunal to be authorised to function as an International Criminal Tribunal to try officers and agents of the Sri Lankan government under international

criminal law and impose sanctions for any refusal to comply with decisions of the Tribunal or any other organ of the UN+

COLONISATION IN TAMIL HOMELAND

Security forces have prohibited displaced Tamils from Thekankadu in Vavuniya in 1990 to return to their village. Meanwhile, reports say Sinhalese colonisation is taking place in the village. AU attempts by Vavuniya Kachcheri officials to prevent the colonisation have failed. Lands in Thekankadu would be used for building factories and government quarters, President Premadasa has announced.

Meanwhile, calls have been made through government controlled "Daily News" newspaper to NGOs to provide assistance to clear jungles in Kanniya, Alankemy, Upparu, Kandalkadu, Milawewa, Kuchchaveli, and Colony 9 in the Trincomalee District According to reports the government intends to colonise these Tamil villages and surrounding areas with Sinhalese people+

W-CHIEF MINISTER OF NORTH-EAST WISHES TO RETURN TO SRI LANKA

A senior Madhya Pradesh state government officer has leaked to the press that Varadaraja Perumal, the former chief minister of Sri Lanka's north-eastern province who has been in the high security Chanderi Fort in India as a "special guest" of the Indian government and looked after by a company of the Madhya Pradesh Special Armed Force (SAF) wishes to return to Sri Lanka to resume active political life. The senior leader of the EPRLF was also said to have been concerned about the future of his two sons and two daughters who are living with him+