

## NEWS

## Violence continues...

Continued from page 10

Two hand-grenades were found in his possession.

Paramilitary cadres abducted 3 youths from the villages of Paddiyadychenai in Valaichenai, Batticaloa. Parents of the abducted children, gripped by fear and insecurity, avoided making complaints to the Police. The abducted youths were identified as Nadarasha Surendran 22, Shanmugam Ariyan 21, and Kanthashamy Mohanraj 22. Paramilitary carders who came in a white van would have had to pass the SLA camp to enter the villages of Paddiyadychenai in Valaichenai.

## 15 July

Unidentified persons riding a motorbike lobbed a grenade at the Jaffna office of the Tamil Rehabilitation Organization (TRO). Several international organizations, including UNHCR, UNICEF, ICRC and SLMM also have their offices close to the TRO office. The SLA has a mini camp and check a post about 200 metres from the TRO office. The grenade exploded outside the front outer wall of the office building and no damage was caused.

Paramilitary gunmen entered the house of a tsunami survivor settled at Kalkudah, Batticaloa, and shot the man dead on the road.

Police recovered the dead body, riddled with 11 bullets from a T-56 automatic rifle, and identified the victim as Arumugam Kalakaran, 23. Paramilitary cadres had questioned and harassed the civilians at Kalmadu and had fired shots in the air on Saturday.

## 14 July

An LTTE member, Ruben, was killed and five civilians were injured when shells fired by the SLA hit Muttur east. Five houses were destroyed and several others were damaged in the attack. The artillery and mortar attack continued for about two hours from 9.30 a.m. from several SLA camps located in Monkey Bridge, Kaddaiparichchan and other camps surrounding Muttur east.

Sooriyakumar Sukirthan, 30, of Potpathy road in Kokuvil, was abducted from his house Friday night and his body was found the next morning at Amman road in Kokuvil, Jaffna. He had been hacked to death. A note nearby, signed by the 'Peoples Brigade', said Sooriyakumar was punished for his anti-social activities including theft, molesting of women and his part in several killings.

Three undergraduates travelling by bus from Jaffna town to Pt. Pedro were arrested by SLA soldiers manning a check post near Vallai Bridge. The students were

taken to an undisclosed camp, according to passengers who arrived at Pt. Pedro, later that evening. Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission and SLMM in the northern peninsula were informed about the arrests.

Parents of Mariyaseelan Jeevakumar, 17, who was arrested by the SLA at his home on Friday morning are searching for the details of the whereabouts of their son. Although the youth was allegedly handed over to Jaffna Police by the SLA, the parents were not informed of his arrest. Emergency laws mandate the Police to bring the arrested youth before a magistrate within 48 hours of the arrest, or to obtain explicit authorization from the Defense Ministry to keep him in detention. In either case, the parents or relatives have to be informed of the whereabouts of the detainees. Neither has happened in the case of Jeevakumar. In a similar arrest of a youth from Kopay previously, Jaffna Police had sent an arrested youth to Colombo to be interrogated by the Criminal Investigation Division, but admitted doing so only after the intervention of the Jaffna Human Rights Commission.

Suspected Karuna Group paramilitaries shot dead a youth and injured another at Sinna Urnai Gandhi Village, Batticaloa. The suspects, in a three-wheeler, chased the two youths and shot at them. The injured youth had fled. The dead youth is alleged to be a supporter of the LTTE.

Another youth Gunasingham Puvanendran, 19, of Palameenmadhu, Batticaloa, was shot and injured near the Palameenmadhu cemetery by unidentified persons. He was shot when he was cycling to see his friend.

An unidentified youth of about 20 years was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Vantharu-moolai, Batticaloa. A green hand-grenade was found in his possession.

Savuntharan Chandrakumar, 23, a mason, was hacked to death at Iyankerniasapuram, Batticaloa. He had gone to a local shop at Iyankerni School Road to buy provisions when five unidentified persons, coaxed him out of the shop, and hacked him to death before escaping.

## 13 July

Two SLA soldiers were killed and one wounded in a claymore attack at Kalmadu, Vavuniya.

Separately, a clash erupted at Omanthai FDL where one SLA soldier was killed and another wounded.

Artillery and mortar fire was reported at the Nagarkovil defence lines for more than 30 minutes from 7:00 p.m. Thursday.

Gunfire and explosions were reported off the shores of Vadamarachi North between Kankesanthurai (KKS) and Thondamanaru.

Sri Lankan police recovered two bombs near the residence of the government spokesman for Defence and National Security, Keheliya Rambukwella, in Kandy.

Ten Tamils were arrested during a subsequent search.

## 12 July

Four LTTE cadres were killed in an ambush by SLA soldiers who penetrated into LTTE-controlled Kadawanaikulam, in Trincomalee district. The LTTE gave the names of those killed as being Lt. Colonel Eesan (Muthulingam Kalaiarasan of Eachantivu-Alankerni), Captain Theeapan (Nagarajah Venthan, of Pattithidal-Muttur), Captain Thanushan (Venthan of Batticaloa) and Veeravengai Karuna (Thangavel Karunakaran of Mullipottanai-Thampalakamam).

A claymore attack on a Sri Lankan police vehicle claimed the lives of two policemen and injured five in Nallur, Jaffna. The attack took place in a highly guarded area surrounded by SLA camps and checkpoints. The attackers had selected an isolated pocket in the highly crowded suburb of the town to inflict high casualties.

A SLA soldier was injured in a claymore blast in the Vadamaradchi sector of the Jaffna peninsula. The troops went on a road clearing operation from a camp close to Thamotheerampillai Vidyalyam when they were attacked. Troops searched the area, but no arrests were made.

The head of the Jaffna district People Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) group, Sebastian Iruthayarajan (alias Bolder Rajan), 43, was shot dead by unknown gunmen as he was riding a bicycle towards a Girls' Convent in Martin Street to pickup his school aged children. The gunmen followed Mr Iruthayarajan shot him at close range and escaped. Iruthayarajan is a father of nine children.

The leader of the PLOTE military wing in Vavuniya was abducted Wednesday night when he went out to put up posters. The body of Ratnam Sriskandarajah, alias Bavan, 46, was found Thursday morning at Cheddikulam, Vavuniya. 'Bavan' had been operating with PLOTE in Vavuniya for a long period. A group of PLOTE members, claiming to be Tamil nationalists, in a media release, alleged SLA Intelligence, in collaboration with the PLOTE hierarchy, assassinated Bavan. He had opposed the paramilitary agenda of the PLOTE hierarchy, the cadres claimed, criticising the top hierarchy of the paramilitary organisation for collaborating with SLA Intelligence in getting rid of Tamil nationalist members.

The remains of two Tamil civilians, Sakthivel Sivasankaran, 28, and Thasan Thevarajah, 24, who disappeared on 22 May after leaving Kattumurivu, Batticaloa, to collect honey in the jungle, were found by their relatives. Both had been shot dead. Residents of Vaharai usually go to jungles of the Pollonaruwa border to collect honey and meat for their livelihood. Relatives went in search of the men to the border area of Welikanda when they failed to return home more than a month.

## Where are they?...

Continued from page 5

anywhere else in the world," says the Human Rights Commission's Remadious.

What frightens him is how quickly the scope of such killings and disappearances is growing.

Families have been executed in their homes. Hindu worshippers have simply disappeared from their temples. And when the putrefied remains of a missing Hindu priest and a retired high school principal were discovered in a shallow grave on the outskirts of Jaffna the government authorities refused to continue searching the suspected mass grave, Remadious says.

"The suspected places are still under supervision (by the army). They can't exhume them," he said.

Remadious, the priest and several diplomats agree that neither the police nor the judiciary is seriously investigating most of the killings and disappearances.

They worry signs of a government cover-up suggest the orders to carry them out may have come from Colombo.

"You basically have an apparatus in terms of law enforcement and institutional culture, that created this problem in the past - in the '90s. It was never effectively dismantled," says an international analyst who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Things are switching back to their old ways and tactics," the analyst said. "I think maybe it's too far to say it's a calibrated strategy, but the signals and so forth come from the top."

To make matters worse, the

**'It's schematized killing. To threaten the people. To keep them under pressure.'**

Tamil Tigers' propaganda machine is using these attacks to justify their own attacks on government and civilian targets.

"Invariably, it is a self-defence exercise that the Tamil people are engaged in," S.P. Thamilselvan, the Tigers' political leader, said in a recent interview, describing the guerrillas' fight.

Right now, for example, gruesome photos of the killing of a family of four, where the mother and daughter were raped and then hanged, are pasted on telephone poles and in shops throughout the territory controlled by the Tamil Tigers. Everyone assumes the military was behind the attack.

But the government's own propaganda machine is at work, too. Not far from the priest's office, a giant government troop carrier equipped with loudspeakers rumbles by carrying an auspicious message.

"Some groups are trying to destroy the good relationship that exists between the army and the civilians," the voice says over the loudspeaker in perfect Tamil. "Don't believe them. They are spreading rumours."

Andrew Mills is a Canadian freelance journalist

## TNA slams attack on MP's home, family

On Friday July 21, 2006 at about 9.15pm, the residence of S. Jeyanthamoorthy, Tamil National Alliance (TNA) Member of Parliament for the Batticaloa District was attacked with heavy Rocket Propelled Grenades within Government controlled territory, from close proximity. The attack caused extensive damage to the house (pictured). Miraculously, Mr. Jeyanthamoorthy, his wife, children and relatives who were in the house were injured. A security guard suffered minor injuries.

The TNA said in a statement it "condemns in the strongest possible terms this cowardly act on a democratically elected Member of Parliament. The TNA does not have the slightest doubt that the attack was carried out by Government Paramilitary Forces along with the active support of the Government Armed Forces."

"This is yet another incident,

of a long list of incidents that have been carried out by the Government Paramilitary Groups and the Government Armed Forces in direct contravention of the Ceasefire Agreement and the agreements reached in Geneva in February 2006. It is the refusal of the Sri Lankan Government to deal with its Paramilitary Groups and its Armed Forces as per the Ceasefire Agreement and the Geneva agreements that has been the single most destabilizing factor of the Peace Process."

"The TNA calls upon the international community to prevail upon the Sri Lankan Government to immediately stop all acts of violence against the Tamil population and their representatives, and pressure the Sri Lankan Government to fulfill its commitments to the Ceasefire Agreement and the Geneva agreements if the Peace Process is to be saved."

