

NEWS

At least a death a day as violence

Sri Lanka's low intensity conflict continued over the past fortnight, with ongoing clashes between the Liberation Tigers (LTTE) and the Sri Lanka Army (SLA), Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) and their paramilitaries.

24 July

One SLA soldier was killed when unidentified gunmen, waiting in ambush, fired at a group of soldiers at Kaddaiadampan, Mannar. The firefight ensued for about half an hour. W. D. P. C. Priyatharshana, who was seriously wounded, succumbed to injuries.

Unidentified men shot and killed Maha Kanapathipillai, a senior member of the paramilitary Eelam Peoples Democratic Party (EPDP), in Wellawatte, Colombo. Maha Kanapathipillai was responsible for Public Relations of EPDP leader Douglas Devananda who is the Sri Lankan Minister of Social Services and Social Welfare and an ally of President Mahinda Rajapakse. The incident took place on All Ceylon Buddhist Congress Road in Wellawatte and Maha Kanapathipillai, 55, rushed to Kalubowila hospital but succumbed to his wounds.

Thirukovil Police recovered the bullet riddled bodies of two Tamil youths in Porakalappu, Thirukovil, Batticaloa. The bodies were identified as belonging to Kandiah Thivakaran, 21, a mason by profession of Vinayagapuram and Jeyapragasam Jeyaraj, 23, a labourer.

Two Tamil youths, Kumaranayagam Sasikaran, 23, and Manoharan Rajendran, 22, both tractor drivers by profession, had sustained injuries in a shooting incident that took place around Sunday midnight in the vicinity of

Thirukovil Sithira Velauthar Temple where the annual festival was being held.

At least four hand grenades were detonated Monday morning before the water cutting festival of the temple commenced in the sea shore located close to the temple.

Unidentified persons shot dead Nagarajah Suntharalingam, 34, at Poonagar in Eachchilampathu.

Serunuwara Police also recovered the body of a home guard, identified as Nissanka Ranjith Bandara, from Sri Mangalapura, a Sinhala settlement located close to Serunuwara police station. Nissanka Bandara had been cut to death on Sunday night.

23 July

A Tamil and a Sinhalese were found shot dead at a graveyard in Thonikkal, Vavuniya. Police suspected that the victims were persons involved in petty theft and burglary in Vavuniya area for a long time. The Sinhala victim is a Homeguard from Madukande and the other is a Tamil from Rasendrakulam in Vavuniya. Their hands were bound and eyes were covered when the police recovered the dead bodies.

SLA soldiers conducted an early morning cordon and search operation in Suthanthirapuram, Vavuniya and arrested four civilians on suspicion of having links with the LTTE, Vanni district parliamentarian Sivanathan Kishor said. The arrested four, Velayuthan



Srinithi Nandasegaran, Jaffna Additional Magistrate inspects a murder scene on July 21. Photo Tamilnet

Saivaruban, 27, Mylvaganam Ketheeswaran, 23, Chelliah Govindarajan, 55, and Thaavalan, 25, were transferred to the Vavuniya Police after the relatives complained to the parliamentarian who intervened on their behalf.

Emily Janoos, 58, a senior member of the paramilitary EPDP was shot dead by gunmen at Uoorkavatturai, Jaffna as he was riding his bicycle over Kayts Bridge. He was a member of the Uoorkavatturai Pradeshya Sabha.

A 45-year-old man was found shot dead in Karainagar, an islet off Jaffna. Unidentified gunmen shot and killed Somasundaram Thirugnanasbandar, at his house.

Unidentified gunmen shot and killed Thirunavukarasu, 67, in Mallakam, Jaffna. Civilian sources in Mallakam alleged that the victim was an informer to the SLA

in the area.

Two SLN soldiers were injured, one seriously, when gunmen riding a motorbike hurled hand grenades at the soldiers engaged in security duties in Vankalavady in Velanai, Jaffna. Two civilians were injured following indiscriminate firing by the SLN soldiers on pedestrians after the grenade attack. The attack was third within the last two months inside the SLN High Security Zone (HSZ) in Velanai - a SLN petty officer was killed on 6 July, and an EPDP supporter was shot dead in June.

Two youths were shot dead in Kalviyangkadu, Jaffna, by gunmen who followed the youths on a motorbike. Gunmen followed Selvam Sutharsan, 22, from Nallur Temple Road and his friend Anton Kanagaratnam Thushyanthan from Thalayadi Road, Thirunelvely, Jaffna who were also riding a motorbike, and unloaded a hail of bullets at the victims. Both died on the spots. Residents also said that both victims were suspected to be involved in the robberies and killing in the neighbourhood.

22 July

Mr. A. Nagamani, 55, a civilian from Ottumadam, Jaffna, was shot dead in front of his house. The gunmen called Mr. Nagamani to come out of the house and shot him at point blank range.

The President of the Myliddy Fisheries Society was abducted by armed persons in a white van in Pt. Pedro, Jaffna. Justin Cruz, 35, was riding his bicycle along College Road when he was abducted. Local residents, on hearing a man shouting for help, arrived at the spot and saw a white van speeding away. "The men in the van were armed and they threatened to shoot us," an eyewitness told TamilNet. Cruz is a fisherman and a father of three. He was displaced from SLA's Myliddy HSZ. His

wife has made a complaint with the Human Rights Commission (HRC).

President of the Aathikovilady Fisheries Society and Board member of the Federation of Fisheries Societies, Vadamaradchi North, Mr. Rasathurai Inthirarajah, 38, has been "missing" since 21 July. He went missing while he was riding a bicycle from his home at Valvettithurai to the Fisheries Society office at Pt. Pedro.

A SLA soldier was killed and 3 seriously wounded in a claymore explosion at Meesalai, Jaffna. The soldiers were on a road clearing patrol on the A9, close to Meesalai Railway Station. Traffic through the A9 at Meesalai was blocked and SLA troopers launched a cordon and search operation.

Unidentified motorbike-gunmen shot and killed two Tamil youths at Periyaneelavanai, Batticaloa. The victims were Kirushnappillai Arumugam, from Kannankudah, and Sithambarapillai Kajeewan from Kaluthawalai.

SLA troops shot dead a Tamil civilian N. Suthakar, 30, of Palampadru in Thampalakamam division at Kachchakodithivu, Kinniya. Police claimed troops opened fire when the youth attempted to snatch a rifle from a soldier. Civilians in the area said the youth was shot dead for no reason.

Two masked men riding a motorbike shot dead Cassim Bawa Abdul Rahim, 44, in Thoppur, Trincomalee, while he was returning home after morning prayers in a mosque in his village. The police detained a Muslim man and his motorbike in connection with the killing.

21 July

A 68-year old man was shot dead by unidentified gunmen at his house, in Urani, Puttur East, Jaffna. Two motorbike-riding gunmen asked Valli Krishnan to come

Army torture of TRO staffer

THE Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO) last week released a statement by Kanthasami Sivasuthan, a TRO staffer in Kalvayal, Chavakachcheri who was arrested and tortured by Sri Lanka Army and released to the press Saturday. Kanthasami, Technical officer of NECORD project, was beaten and threatened by Army Intelligence on 18 and 20 July. The text, translated from Tamil, of Kanthasami's statement follows:

"On 18 July 2006, when I had visited the Community hall project site I was stopped by the Army near the Kodikamam Army camp in Point-Pedro road. I had my Sri Lanka Army issued ID and National Identity Card (N.I.C.) with me. They took those.

"They knew I am working at TRO. They asked if our office was attached to the LTTE. And also th-

ey asked me about 2 members of LTTE. They took me into the bushes where there was an open bunker. They beat me with the "Naval Kottan". They then released me. They gave back my Army ID and NIC.

"On 20 July 2006, I visited our project site and, as before, while I was stopped by the same Army persons. They took my Army ID and NIC. I said: 'you were stopped me on 18 July 2006 and you know about me.' I asked for my IDs back. They said that their commander wants to meet me and they took me to the same place as before.

"They removed my shirt and covered my eyes with it. They asked me about the 2 members of the LTTE - the same as they had the last time and they asked me for places where LTTE was hiding the

claymore mines, bombs etc... I told them that I don't know anything about these. They beat again. They asked where Mr. Jeyaraj is. I said I don't know.

"They beat me again. They then released me. They didn't give me my Army ID and they said when I gave the details of LTTE they will give my Army ID. They said this beating was the last and next time they would shoot.

"[The beating] was done by Mr. Kumara (Army intelligent group, Kodikamam camp). Somebody was called him when he was interrogating me. He spoke very good Tamil.

"I reported [the incident] to the HRC because I need my Army ID. I didn't report to the police because somebody was shot dead after they reported to the police about Army harassment."