

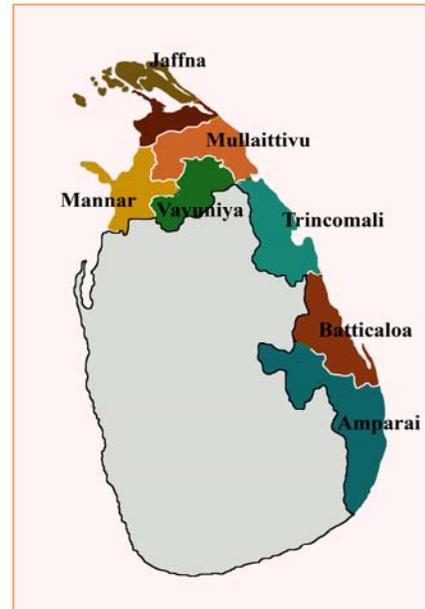


# Human rights and humanitarian situation report in Tamil Eelam for July 2007

*Press release of LTTE Peace Secretariat*

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

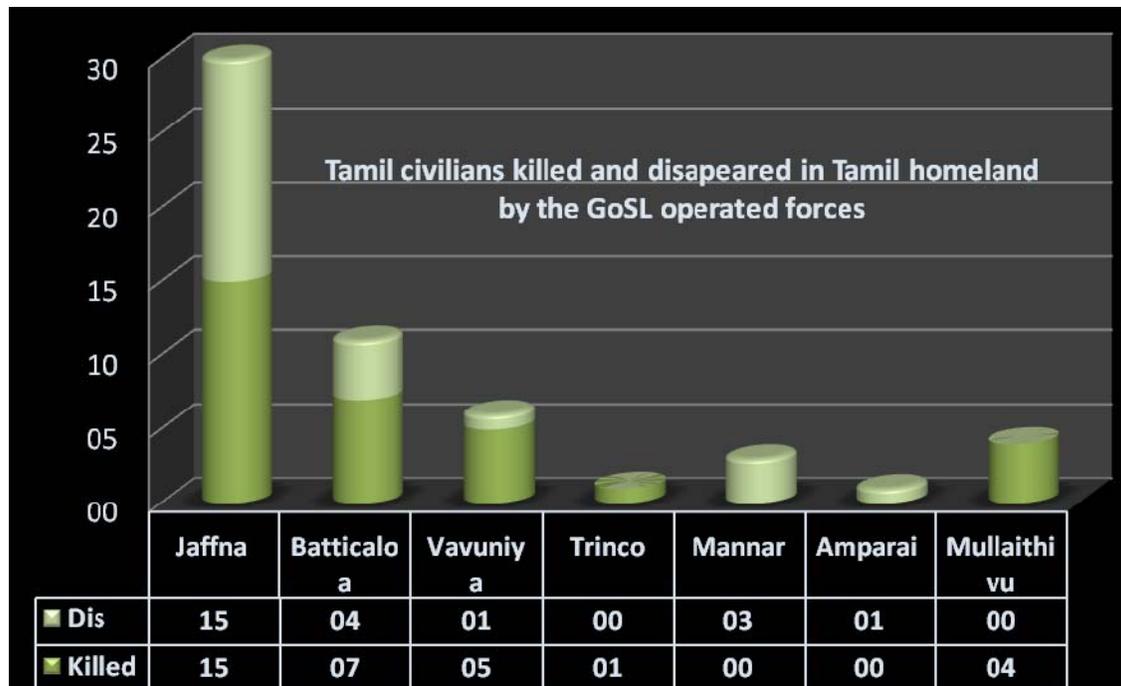
<i>Type</i>	<i>Number</i>
<b>Killed</b>	<b>1881</b>
<b>Disappeared</b>	<b>854</b>
<b>Displaced</b>	<b>340,000</b>
<b>Militarized</b>	<b>300,000</b>



*Summary :*

## **July civilian toll at the hands of GoSL operated forces**

Thirty two Tamil civilians were killed and another twenty four were disappeared by the Sri Lanka government operated forces in the Tamil homeland during the month of July. The worst affected district is Jaffna, which has been the case every month for more than a year now.



*LTTE Peace Secretariat*



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The total freedom with which young Tamil lives are dispensed with by the GoSL operated forces in Jaffna has not yet shaken the conscience of the world.

A young woman was dragged out from her home in Batticaloa by the SLA and stabbed several times. Though there were many eye witnesses in the house who saw it and said so to their local member of parliament they do not dare to say this publicly out fear of retributions.

A vehicle carrying a medical team on its way to carryout awareness education on rabies was attacked by claymore by the SLA deep penetration unit in Mankulam. Five people were killed two civilians and three LTTE members.

A boy and a woman were killed in an aerial attack on a fishing village in Mullaithivu. Another boy lost both his legs in the same attack.

### Target fishermen

On 11 July, Sri Lankan Kfir bombers dropped bombs over the shores of the Alampil fishing village in Mullaithivu killing two civilians including a child and injured a further 11 civilians including five children. The bombs were dropped just 300 meters inland from the shore where the fisher folks were preparing for the daily fishing.

On 28 July, Two fishermen brothers fishing in Chemmalai off the Mullaithivu coast were fired at by the Sri Lankan Navy on Saturday at 10.00pm wounding both brothers. One of them is in serious condition at the Mullaithivu hospital.

Two fishermen brothers, Thanabalasingam Suman aged 22 and his brother Thanabalasingam Manoharan aged 27, were fired at and injured by the Sri Lankan Navy. The older brother Manohar said of the incident,

*“We were fishing at our regular spot less than 200 meters from the shore. The SLN was positioned about 300 metres from the shore when they fired at us. My brother collapsed as soon a bullet hit him. I somehow managed to drag him to the shore and ran for help”.*



On the same night, SLN opened fire at two fishermen fishing in a boat in Uduthurai off the eastern coast of Jaffna. One fishermen was injured and the other escaped by jumping into the sea. Mayavu Vijayathanan aged 30 was seriously injured and the fellow fishermen Ranjan escaped by jumping into the sea.

Six fishermen fishing in three boats in the Mannar seas were arrested by the SLN on the same night and taken to their military camp blind folded. They were then forced to dig bunkers for the military and were later released.



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There have been several attacks on the Tamil fishermen at sea in the recent weeks. More than six such incidents were reported in this website alone over the last month.

Mullaithivu fishermen's union, representing 5000 families that depend for their livelihood on the fishing of its members, denied of their livelihood by such attacks demanded some relief through the government agent which was turned down by the GoSL.

These fishermen who used to fish in the deep seas two decades ago were gradually restricted in the distance they can go into the seas to fish. SLN imposed a limitation on the horse power of the engine they can use. In areas under GoSL control they enforced an inhuman pass system. More recently fishermen who have restricted themselves to just 500 metres into the sea have also come under attack.

### Temples and Sri Lankan military



Sri Lankan military has a long history of occupying precincts of temples and churches, worshipped by Tamil people, for its military purpose, without giving any consideration for the cultural sensitivities of the people who use them. The latest is the occupation of the very famous Thanthamalai Hindu temple on a hill top in Batticalao.

To accommodate the large number of pilgrims coming to this famous temple there are many inns built around its hill. Presently the Sri Lankan military is occupying all of these inns using them as military camps. A military camp has also been

setup at the hill top next to the temple itself.

On 8 July, the annual festival of this temple that will last for 16 days will start. In normal times this festival will attract the entire Tamil population in Batticalao.

With the temple and its inns now converted to military camps there are no buildings in which people can stay overnight to attend the festivals.

The Sri Lankan military is also banning devotees going to the hill top to worship. It has said that only the temple priest can go to the hill top to conduct the rituals.

In effect, the Tamils in Batticalao have been permanently denied access to one of their most popular temples which forms part of their religious as well as cultural life.

Is this not cultural genocide?



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### **Puliyankulam hospital damaged by SLA shelling**

Non stop SLA shelling from the Vavuniya Joseph camp, towards Puliyankulam, from 9.00am Saturday 14 July through to the next morning severely damaged the Puliyankulam government hospital. Fortunately no one was hurt by the shelling.

The maternity ward and the outpatients' clinic were the most severely damaged by the shelling. Areas adjacent to the hospital were also seriously damaged Among them is the Puliyankulam Central College.

People in this area had already displaced due to indiscriminate shelling by the SLA over recent months. The hospital however was functioning. In particular the outpatients' clinic is busy during the day treating those who come.

A handful of hospital staff were in the hospital during the all night shelling on 14 July. The shelling, however, spared the patients because the outpatients' clinic is closed for the night. Yet, the damages sustained by the hospital have made the hospital outpatients' clinic and other wards inoperative. This would force the civilians already denied basic health services to travel even further to receive treatment.

### **Aerial attacks continue to kill and injure children**

On 11 July, Sri Lanka aerial bombers dropped bombs over the shores of the Alampil fishing village in Mullaithivu killing two civilians including a child and injured a further 11 civilians including five children. The bombs were dropped just 300 meters from the shore where the fisher folks were preparing for the daily fishing.

This attack was followed by the bombing of the Alampil school and church just a week later.

On 27 July, bombs were dropped by the Sri Lankan Air Force on St. Antony's church and the Alampil Roman Catholic School twice on the same day. Nearby civilian settlements were also hit.

Students ran in all directions. A 12 year old girl and student A Arulranjana was injured in her head and was admitted to hospital.



St. Antony's Church, the Alampil Roman Catholic School, the Benasir preschool and nearby houses were damaged in this bombing.

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

*LTTE Peace Secretariat*