



Tamils Rehabilitation Organisation

TRO is a registered charity (Number L 50706) with the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRO'S DISTRICT OFFICE IN MULLAITIVU BOMBED BY SL AIR FORCE

Two MIG-27 aircraft belonging to the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) bombed TRO's Mullaitivu District Office at Kaively, Mullaitivu beginning at 11:30AM on Thursday 20 September 2007. The MIGs dropped 16 bombs on TRO buildings and civilian settlements in the area.

The TRO office building and storage buildings sustained severe damage. (Pictures: <http://troonline.org/news/more.php?id=146>) Building materials for temporary shelters, non-food relief items (NFRI) and other essential commodities destined for the Tsunami and war affected displaced persons were destroyed by the bombs and ensuing fire. Six civilians, including three TRO staff, were injured and were admitted to the Puthukkudyiruppu Hospital. One civilian house was entirely burnt down in the attack.

TRO wishes to inform the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and the international community that contrary to Sri Lanka military statements to the press claiming that the "Sri Lankan fighter jets bombed a Tamil Tiger weapons store" there were no military targets in the area. The site is solely dedicated to humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The SLAF and Sri Lanka Army (SLA) have bombed and shelled numerous TRO humanitarian projects, offices and Children's Homes:

- TRO Children's Homes
 - Nov. 8 2006 – TRO Sonobo Children's Home, Vaharai shelled;
 - 26 Apr. 2006 – TRO Santhosam Children's Home damaged by SLAF bombing),
- TRO IDP Camps
 - Nov. 8 – Kathiraveli, 62 killed, 47 injured – verified by Human Rights Watch (http://hrw.org/reports/2007/srilanka0807/4.htm#_Toc173322248)
 - Dec. 10 2006 - 3 TRO IDP camps in Palchenai, Kandalady and Vammivadduvan shelled by SLA, 40 killed, 136 injured
- Aug 2006 – TRO Boatyard in Eachchilampattu and in Vadamarachchi East bombed by SLAF

Additionally, there have been attacks on TRO offices, personnel and projects by armed paramilitary groups and/or armed persons in civilian clothes in GoSL controlled areas. In January 2006, 7 TRO humanitarian workers were abducted, tortured, raped and executed by paramilitaries working with the GoSL.

TRO calls on the United Nations, the international community and the international humanitarian and human rights community to condemn in the strongest terms the GoSL's continuing attacks on TRO and the continuing impediments to humanitarian assistance that the GoSL erects. The GoSL is violating International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law as it prosecutes its undeclared war in the NorthEast.

www.troonline.org