



Human rights and humanitarian situation report in Tamil Eelam for September 2007

Press release of LTTE Peace Secretariat

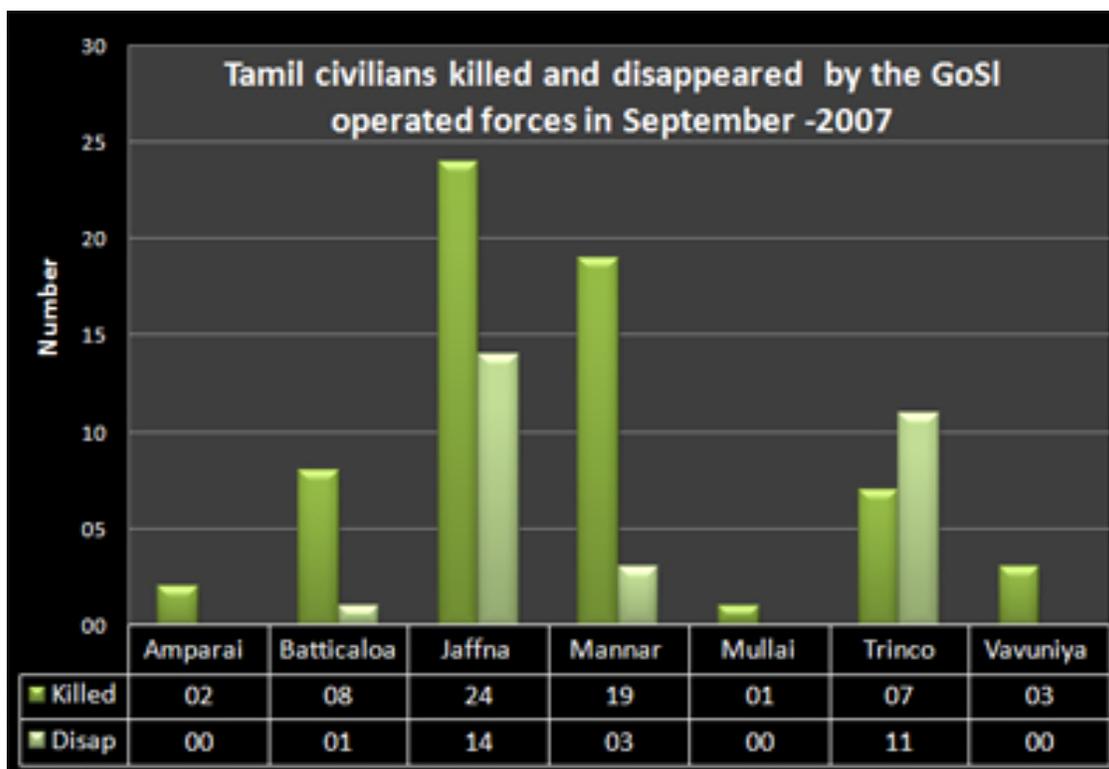
**Civilian casualty during Cease fire
– 2002 till present**

Type	Number
Killed	1988
Disappeared	910
Displaced	340,000
Militarized	300,000



Civilian toll:

64 Tamil civilians were killed and 29 were disappeared by the Sri Lanka government operated forces within Tamil homeland in the month of September, 2007.





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The killing and disappearance for the month of September shows a sharp rise from that of the previous couple of months.

Thirteen civilians were killed while trying to flee Sri Lankan military onslaught in Mannar when their vehicle was blown up by a landmine exploded by the Deep Penetration Unit of the SLA.

Sri Lankan operated forces also killed a Catholic priest of Jesuit Refugee Services in Mannar and a Grama Sevakar, a village government official, because he protested the confiscation of Mutur East and Sampur people's land by the Sri Lanka Government.

Six of the seven fishermen who went fishing in Verukal river disappeared when they left the one fisherman and went to collect honey.

Incessant aerial bombing in Vanni kills and injures civilians



Incessant aerial bombings by the Sri Lankan Air Force in Vanni are continuing to kill and injure civilians and destroy property. From 20 to 21 September for three days in a row Sri Lanka Air Force bombed civilian areas in Puthukkudiyiruppu. Thirteen civilians including children were injured and one civilian was killed in this three day bombing spree. Damages to homes were immense.

These bombings, often carried out during school hours, is creating havoc in the nearby schools. In one of the above bombings near three important schools at 8.30am resulted in the effective closure of the schools because terrified children went home without any formal closure of the schools. The affected schools in this instance are Puthukkudiyiruppu Central College, Srisubramaniam MV School and Kompalvil MV School, within two Kms of each other.

It is not too hard to imagine the chaos created. Principals of the three schools reported that students fainted in fear and that the chaos was much worse than anything they had experienced during past bombings. The principals cited that the timing and proximity to the schools were the factors for this intense level of fear and chaos.



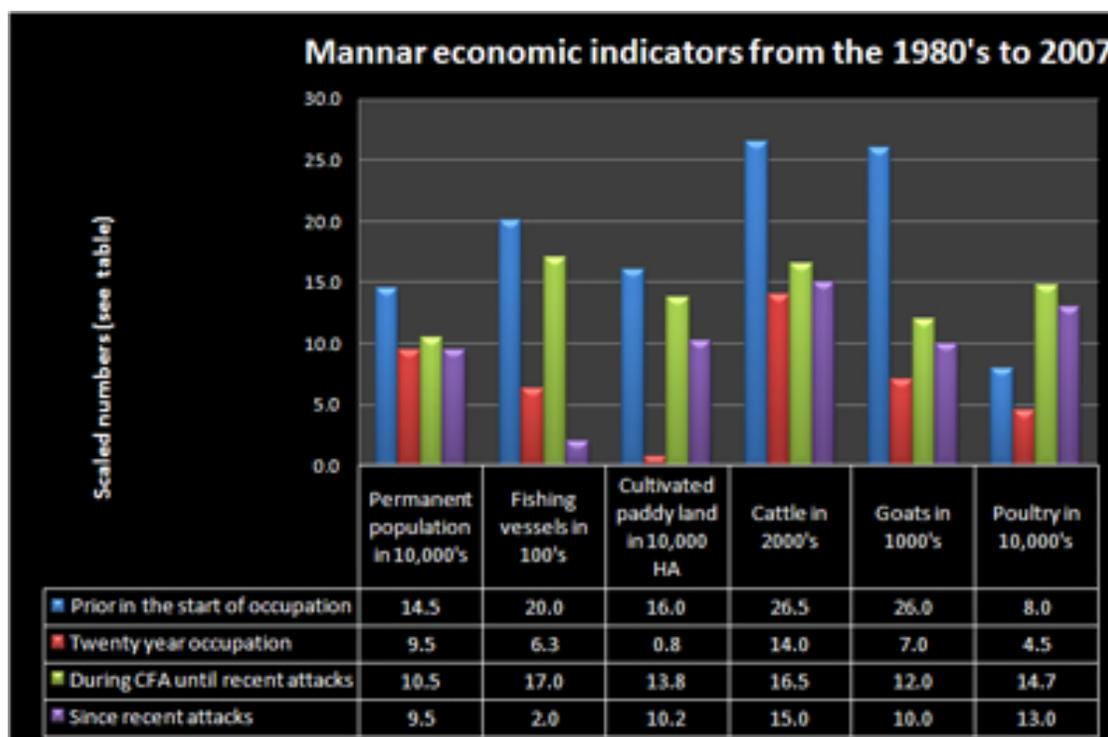
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Manthai west displacement in Mannar

The indiscriminate shelling of the Sri Lankan military into civilian areas to force them out of their homes began in Manthai west in the Mannar district during the first week of September.

One man was killed. Many homes destroyed. Many more artillery pieces fell within the homes of civilians, frightening them and eventually forcing them to make the decision to displace. Close to 2500 families have displaced from Manthai west into LTTE areas.

The displaced lament the loss of harvest as it is the peak harvesting period. Many of the displaced have not been taken care of yet and international agencies say that they need more time to kick off their relief program for these people. Until that occurs people are left living under the sky.



The slide show released by the LTTE Peace Secretariat captures these Tamil civilians on the move away from the Sri Lanka military shelling range and be viewed at: <http://www.ltteps.org/?view=2014&folder=2>

People were forced to abandon their farmland, cattle, goats, poultry and all other economic activities. The status of the fishing industry, a high yield industry in Mannar, has been under attack by the Sri Lankan Navy throughout the CFA period and has been worsening over the same period.

The chart shows the situation over the last nearly 30 years. The first period was prior to the onset of the war in the early 80's. By any normal standard, as it has been the case in the south of the island this productivity should have increased many folds over the nearly 30 years that followed.



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The second period represent the over 20 years of intense war when the economy was destroyed totally. The third period, the early part of the ceasefire agreement time, shows a small improvement but even this falls far short of the expected benefits of a ceasefire.

The fourth period is the very recent past during which large scale displacement took place as a result of indiscriminate attacks by the GoSL forces evicting people from their habitat.

All of the data for the first three periods were taken from publications of the GoSL Census Department and the Rehabilitation and Development Framework for Mannar District 2004. The data for the fourth period were estimated by grass root humanitarian workers in Mannar.

Neglected Tamil Population

International Medical Corps a medical INGO working in Trincomalee district issued a report recently that can be read at: <http://www.imcworldwide.org/content/media/detail/1346/>

Following is an excerpt from that report:

In recent years, the coastal region of Trincomalee in eastern Sri Lanka has been buffeted by civil war and natural disaster. A long-standing conflict between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the Sri Lankan Army, and the paramilitary group, Karuna, has created a persistent climate of fear and instability. The violence has driven thousands of people to abandon their villages and seek security in camps. When the tsunami struck the coast in December of 2004, thousands more were displaced. As the population struggled to recover, violence erupted once again, throwing the region's recovery efforts into reverse.

The combination of violence and natural disaster has created a health care crisis. Trincomalee's camps are teeming with people crowded into tin barracks. Illnesses such as acute respiratory infection and diarrhea proliferate in the cramped, unsanitary conditions. Before International Medical Corps set up mobile clinics in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, in November of 2006, there were only two doctors serving all of their needs; the conflict had prompted most qualified health professionals to flee the region for more stable working environments. The shortage meant that the doctors who remained were seeing as many as 150 patients a day; internationally accepted SPHERE standards for humanitarian relief recommend that doctors see no more than 50 patients per day.

Sri Lankans seeking medical treatment had to travel for up to four hours, passing through several military checkpoints, before reaching the nearest hospital. Once there, they waited for hours before being seen by a doctor, who was often too overburdened to provide more than a cursory one-minute exam.

In Trincomalee's volatile environment, travel also carries with it the risk of abduction by armed men. Those who disappear may never be heard from again. With medical care such an inaccessible and dangerous proposition, many people stopped seeking it altogether. The result: numerous Sri Lankans have died en route to medical facilities. Some have been held up at checkpoints when they needed urgent medical care; others, too intimidated to make the journey, have delayed treatment until it was too late. It's no coincidence that Trincomalee has the highest maternal mortality rate in the country.

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