



வடகிழக்கு மனித உரிமைகள் செயலகம் North East Secretariat on Human Rights - NESOHR

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NESOHR Report on the claymore attack on a private van near Murukandy

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On 23 May 2008, a private van carrying nineteen members of an extended family including several children was travelling on the Murikandy-Akkarayan road in Kilinochchi when the van came under a claymore attack near Murukandy at 2.00pm. Sixteen civilians including five children were killed and the other three passengers were injured. This report records the details of this claymore attack.

The attack fits the ongoing pattern of claymore attacks inside the LTTE held areas by the Deep Penetration Unit (DPU) of the Sri Lanka military. The terrain where the attack took place leads to some speculation about the rationale for the attack. The spot was just 2 kilometers from the A9 highway and just 10 kilometers south of the Kilinochchi town. The proximity to Kilinochchi town makes it an attractive target for the DPU. The road was also easy access from the southern border of the LTTE area through the forested region (see green area in the map). For this reason anyone who has an awareness of the potential claymore threats from DPU avoids using this route. Innocent people however felt safe to travel until 23 May. The attackers could have easily seen that the van was carrying mostly women and children. They were still determined to detonate the claymore to prove that they have come this far and can carry out an attack close to Kilinochchi, be it on an obviously civilian target.

The extended family in the van was returning from Mulankavil where they had visited a relative who was a patient at the Mulankavil hospital. All the five children killed in this attack are not only from one extended family but they also attended the same school in Parathipuram. The rage and grief of the family was very palpable at the funeral that was held the next day in the school that they attended.



Funeral scenes

The principal of the school speaking at the mass funeral said, “Among these people who had left us are five of my students, one school employee and the rest are parents and grandparents of students studying at this school”.

Details of the victims killed in the attack



Five members of one family killed and remaining two members injured

Mother: V Loganantha aged 39
 Father: P Vijayaratnam aged 40
 Daughter: V Sivakala aged 16
 Son: V Vithushan aged 9
 Son: V Thanu aged 7

Son V Karthik aged 14 and daughter V Sobika aged 12 from the family were injured in the attack.



Two more children and three mothers killed

From left to right:

1. Santhirasekana Keerthika student aged 11.
2. Thiagaraja Karthika student aged 10
3. Selvarasa Kalathevi aged 34
4. Paneerchelvan Alahuraneer aged 44
5. Rajenthiram Kalavalli aged 32



Two more couples killed:

1. Wife: Karuppaih Annaladchmi aged 45
Husband: Samikkannu Karuppaih aged 50
2. Wife: Subramanium Saraswathy aged 37
Husband: Alahan Subramanium aged 37
3. Name: Subramanium Thanaladchi aged 53
4. Name: Kanesan Thanaraj aged 34

Dr Sathyamoorthy, commenting on the claymore attack, after receiving the dead and injured at his hospital said,

“We have suffered claymore attacks even on ambulances on many occasions and our medical staff who come with patients from distant places are frightened as a result. Three such attacks have taken place on ambulances on 8 August 2006, 25 November 2007 and 22 May 2008. Seven people most of them medical personnel were killed in these three attacks on ambulances”.