



வடகிழக்கு மனித உரிமைகள் செயலகம்

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Destruction in Karaithuraipattu AGA Division

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Karaithuraipattu, translated into English as Maritimpeattu, is a coastal Assistant Government Agent (AGA) Division of the Mullaithivu district (see map). The population of this AGA Division is about 30,000 individuals in about 6000 families.

Like all parts of the Vanni area, it too has seen a number of Sri Lankan military's aerial bombings, shelling and claymore attacks over the last two years. Some of the civilian casualties caused by these attacks were reported in the media. It is indeed appropriate to focus on civilian deaths, when reporting on a single incident. Other devastations in a single attack often do not appear dramatic and thus do not draw the attention. However, repeated attacks of this type have a cumulative and wide ranging effect on the community. This report is an attempt to bring out this devastation using the Karaithuraipattu AGA Division as an example.

Karaithuraipattu, being an eastern coastal village, is also an area worst affected by the 2004 tsunami. It is also well known that aid to rebuild tsunami affected communities did not reach this area and that the resulting difference in rebuilding this area compared to the tsunami affected areas in the south of the island is strikingly visible.

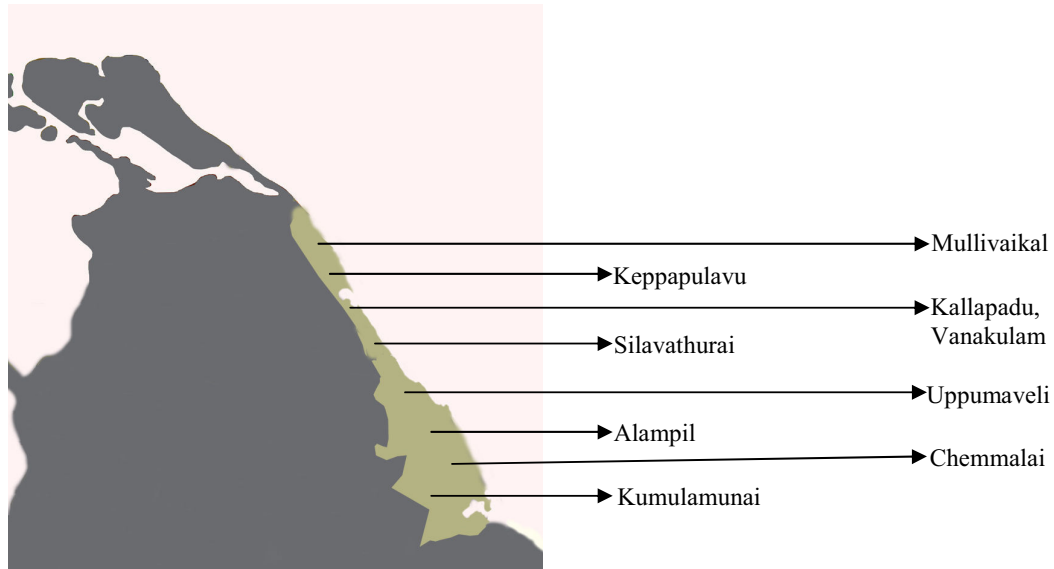
During a war situation, shortages of all kind, can lead to problems in collecting and maintaining data on the devastations caused by the attacks. NESoHR has collected this data long after the events, realizing the need to bring out the level of devastation. In this effort it approached both Gramasevakars as well as some of the non government organizations and collated the data they were holding. It is, therefore, fair to say that the data presented does not cover all the attacks.

The attacks in each Gramasevakar division till end of August 2008 and the related devastations are presented as a list. The list notes the number of people killed, number of people injured, schools and other public places damaged, houses destroyed and damaged, livestock killed, productive trees destroyed, livelihood equipment such as nets, fishermen shelter, boats and tractors destroyed. It also noted whether the people displaced after the attack.

In addition to these property losses, when a home is destroyed a lot more invaluable items, which may not have any monetary value to anyone outside the family, are lost. Losing the school books and work of children is a good example. Such a loss to a child will have devastating effect on the child's education. Behind the destruction of each home, is the lost education of one or more child.

The damage an exploding bomb does to the land is often ignored in reports. Besides destroying plants, the soil itself is dugout deep and to put the land that was once a very valuable habitation or farmland back to its old stage or even to a state that is not dangerous is a costly exercise.

The typical news reports on such bombings hardly convey the devastation on civilian property and it is brushed off as collateral damage. The continuous and cumulative effect of these bombings on the psychological, educational and economic welfare of a community is ignored and not brought out in the news reports.



No	GS Division	Date	Type of attack	Results	killed	injured	homes
1	Mullivaikal East	15-Jun-06	Aerial bombing	Five civilians injured. Productive trees destroyed. Livestock killed. People living in tsunami housing scheme temporarily displaced.		5	
2	Silavaththurai	3-Jul-06	Shelling	Two civilians injured		2	
3	Keppappilavu	27-Jul-06	Aerial bombing				
4	Alambil North	21-Nov-06	Aerial bombing	One old man injured. One house destroyed. Two trucks destroyed. Many of the bombs did not explode. People displaced but returned later.		1	1
5	Mullivaikal East	23-Nov-06	Aerial bombing	A tsunami house fully destroyed. Nine houses damaged. People displaced but returned later.			10
6	Chemmalai East	14-Dec-06	Shelling	One wood cutter killed. Many unexploded shells in the land.	1		
7	Silavaththurai	30-Dec-06	Aerial bombing	Five civilians were injured. A home for the orphaned children was damaged. Another private home was completely destroyed and a further number of the temporary shelters for the tsunami affected people were damaged. People displaced but returned later.		5	10

No	GS Division	Date	Type of attack	Results	killed	injured	homes
8	Uppumaveli	4-Jan-07	Aerial bombing	Nine civilians were injured and fourteen homes were damaged.		9	14
9	Alampil	5-Jan-07	Aerial bombing	Five civilians were injured. Temporary shelters in a settlement of tsunami were damaged.		5	4
10	Chemmalai East	11-Mar-07	Shelling	People displaced after this shelling attack.			
11	Alampil	3-Apr-07	Aerial bombing	Six civilians were injured		6	
12	Alampil North	3-May-07	Aerial bombing	People displaced after this aerial bombing.			
13	Chemmalai East	11-Jun-07	Aerial bombing	Three homes sustained minor damages. Several productive trees were destroyed.			3
14	Chemmalai East	17-Jun-07	SLN firing	One house was slightly damaged. People displaced temporarily.			1
15	Alampil South	27-Jun-07	Aerial bombing	One school student was injured. A church, a preschool, Alampil GTMS school and several homes were damaged. People displaced after this.		1	10
16	Alampil North	27-Jun-07	Aerial bombing	Tsunami affected people in temporary shelters displaced after this.			
17	Chemmalai East	11-Jul-07	Aerial bombing	Houses belonging to coastal fishing families damaged. Fishermen's rest shelters damaged. Productive trees damaged. People displaced after this attack.			10
18	Alampil North	11-Jul-07	Aerial bombing	Two civilians were killed and a further 11 civilians were injured. Fishermen's rest shelters were damaged. Fishing nets of fishermen were damaged. Temporary shelters of tsunami affected people were damaged.	2	11	5
19	Chemmalai East	16-Jul-07	SLN firing	Several houses were destroyed and people displaced after this attack.			5
20	Chemmalai East	12-Aug-07	Shelling	People displaced after this attack.			
21	Kallappadu North	14-Oct-07		A fisherman who went to sea did not return.	1		

No	GS Division	Date	Type of attack	Results	killed	injured	homes
22	Thiththakkarai	30-Oct-07	Aerial bombing	Two civilians were injured and the temporary shelters were damaged.		2	3
23	Uppumaveli	4-Jan-08	Aerial bombing	13 civilians were injured, 20 houses were destroyed, people displaced temporarily.		13	20
24	Chemmalai East	26-Mar-08	Shelling	People displaced after this attack.			
25	Alampil North	16-Apr-08	Aerial bombing	18 homes were destroyed, productive tress were destroyed, people displaced temporarily.			18
26	Silavaththurai	19-Apr-08	Aerial bombing	One civilian was injured, ten houses were destroyed, several fishing equipment were destroyed.		1	10
27	Vanakulam	21-Apr-08	Aerial bombing	One civilian was killed and a further eight were injured. 12 homes built for the tsunami affected people by INGOs were destroyed.	1	8	12
28	Kumulamunai	30-Apr-08	Aerial bombing	A temple, "Athi Iyan temple" was completely destroyed.			1
29	Kumulamunai	26-May-08	Shelling	People displaced after this attack.			
30	Kumulamunai West	27-May-08	Shelling	One home was damaged, productive trees were destroyed.			1
31	Kumulamunai East	2-Jun-08	Shelling	One home was damaged.			1
32	Alampil south	6-Aug-08	Shelling	An educational institution destroyed			1
33	Kumulamunai West	11-Aug-08	Shelling	1 civilian killed	1		
34	Chemmalai East	11-Aug-08	Shelling	One house fully destroyed two houses damaged			3
35	Alampil North	6-Aug-08	Shelling	Four houses damaged			4
36	Kumulamunai East	6-Aug-08	Shelling	Six houses damaged			6
37	Uppumaveli	6-Aug-08	Aerial bombing	11 houses damaged. Livestock killed			11
38	Kumulamunai East	8-Aug-08	Shelling	One child killed. 18 people injured. 11 houses destroyed. Livestock killed.	1	18	11
Total					7	87	175