



வடகிழக்கு மனித உரிமைகள் செயலகம்

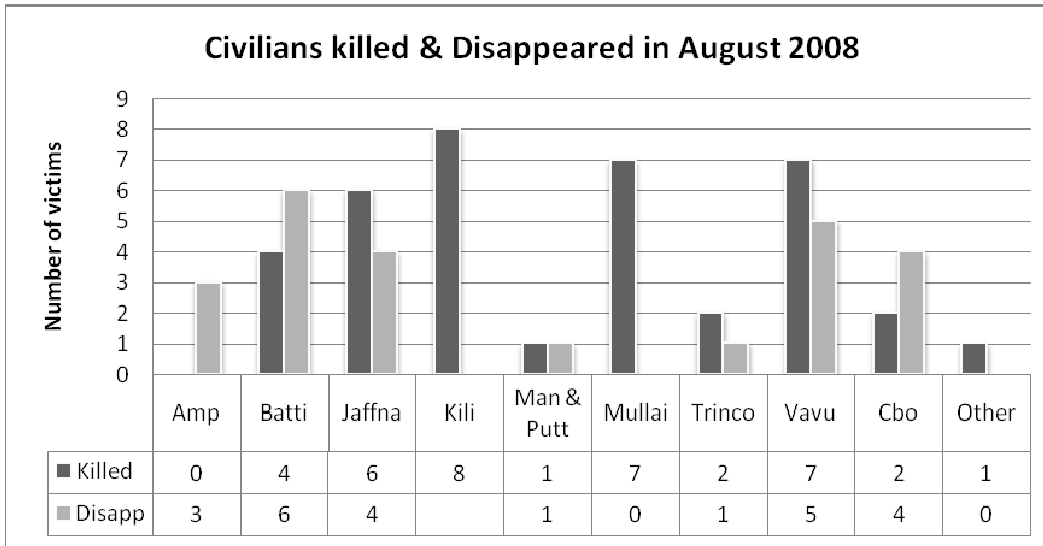
North East Secretariat on Human Rights - NESoHR

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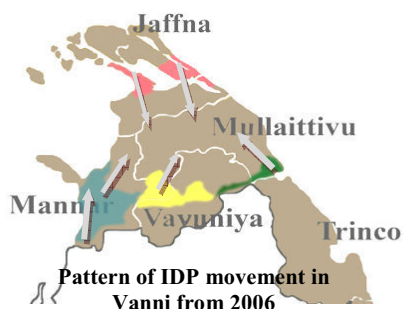
Aerial bombing, shelling and claymore attacks in Vanni carried out by the Sri Lanka military are the biggest factor contributing to civilian deaths in the island in August. Vavuniya, Batticaloa and Jaffna had the next biggest and equal number of conflict related civilian victims. The statistics on civilian victims in the month of August is as follows: killed - 38; disappeared - 24; injured - 110; and arrested - 117 (some have been released after inquiry); sought protection at the Jaffna Human Rights Commission-7.



In addition to causing 19 civilian deaths in Vanni, the bombing, shelling and the claymore attacks caused many injuries and property destruction. In Vanni 55 civilians were injured by such attacks. Also close to 50 homes and other public buildings were either damaged or destroyed by these bombing and the shelling.

IDP crisis

Displacement and its flow on effects in Kilinochchi remained the biggest humanitarian issue in the island in August. The offensives, conducted by the Sri Lanka military, continue to force people to move out of their homes and displace multiple times. Majority of the displaced are moving to the interior of the Kilinochchi district to avoid the deliberate shelling by the Sri Lanka military.



In two reports in June and July, NESoHR published updated Table of statistics related to the massive displacement in Vanni. The Table below is an update to that statistics as at end of August. Displacement of Karachchi AGA Division of Kilinochchi district that started in August is new row addition to this table. Number of hospitals that have displaced is also a new column added to this table.

Vanni Displacement Statistics up to end of August 2008								
AGA Division	No of displaced persons	No of displaced students	No of displaced schools	No of hospitals displaced	Farming land left (HA)	Live stock left	Killed by SLA attacks	Injured by SLA attacks
Total as at end of July	130123	28417	160		37573	112083	183	299
Poonahari	26512	7049	29	21	4953	31332	15	26
Pachchilaipalli	10433	2462	13	14	7210	7948	20	26
Vadamar- east	7671	1216	11	1	small scale	not known	4	8
Maritimepattu	5000	909	5	0	2657	1176	26	111
Oddusuddan	2000	150	0	0	15		7	7
Musali	4000	1177	8	1	1260	2315	19	2
Manthai west	22102	3944	25	10	7585	9910	30	70
Madu	7300	2430	13	11	2133	6506	43	37
Karachchi	14591	3129	9	7	100	20381	31	37
Manthai east	16577	3400	14	8	2505	28340	3	10
Thunukkai	20203	5450	17	13	2225	58470	4	15
Vav-North	14493	2565	22	1	7030	5901	20	22
Total as at end of August	150882	33881	166	87	37673	172279	222	371

While the actual increase in the number of IDPs from end of July to end of August is 20,000, the IDP movement itself was much higher because the same IDPs moved several times in July and August.

The story of the three IDP families settled within one piece land in Puthumurippu in Kilinochchi, who lost five members to Sri Lanka military shelling on 30 August, typifies the multiple displacements that the IDPs have been through. These three families started their displacement almost a year ago from Parapukadanthan in Mannar and had displaced five times before some of them were killed in Puthumurippu. This particular IDP killing was reported by NESoHR in a special report.

Many of those killed and injured in Vanni are IDPs. IDPs safety was also put at risk due to unsafe living conditions created by inadequate resources and the chaos of mass scale displacement. Warnings were issued, both within Vanni and also internationally, from several quarters to ensure IDP safety.

Locally there were appeals for precaution in identifying hygienic areas to put up IDP shelters taking into considerations flooding in the coming months. Health authorities warned not to put shelters too close to the road to avoid risking respiratory illness. The local police warned of accidents due to overcrowding of Kilinochchi roads. People were also advised to dig bunkers and seek protection in it without standing outside to watch when Sri Lanka military shells their area.

Meeting the nutritional needs of the IDPs, especially the very young children were another concern of the local health authorities. The relief items provided to the IDPs alone do not meet the nutritional need. At the same time, the IDPs, after losing their livelihood, are not in a position to purchase vegetables and protein.

Another part of this IDP crisis is the chaos created by the displacement of nearly 34,000 students and 166 schools. August was the month for Grade 5 scholarship examinations and the GCE Advanced Level examinations. Education officials reported that nearly 30% of the IDP students registered to sit these examinations failed to sit these examinations. Even those IDP students who did sit the examinations were very badly affected in preparing for the examinations due to displacement.

Internationally too, there were calls to comply with international obligations governing the protection of civilians during armed conflict, which include, measures to prevent displacing people from their homes and livelihoods, and to allow civilians maximum freedom of movement to make choices about their safety.

Judging from the civilian deaths, injuries and large scale displacement, and loss of livelihood, it must be said that the Sri Lanka Government has escaped lightly from condemnation for creating the Vanni the IDP crisis. At the same time, the LTTE is unlikely to escape so lightly from international condemnation for not allowing free movement of IDPs away from Vanni.

The reason for this apparent discrepancy in treating the two conducts is the difference in the weight given in international standards to the right of a state to reclaim land compared to the right of a people to reclaim their rights.

August 2008 civilian victims

No	Name	Age	G	Date	Violation	Offender	Location	Dis
1	Mohamud Rabeen	29	M	10-08-08	Disapp	Paramilitary	Sainthamaruthu	Amparai
1	Thavaratnam Kalaivanan	18	M	20-08-08	Disapp	Paramilitary	Kalmunai	
1	Thavaratnam Manjula	40	F	20-08-08	Disapp	Paramilitary	Kalmunai	
1	Neethirasa Katheeskumar		M	10-08-08	by shooting	SLAFs	Kathankudi	Batticaloa
1	Subramaniam Naharasa	61	M	18-08-08	by shooting		Eravoor	
1	Alahuthurai Tharmalingam	48	M	20-08-08	by shooting	Paramilitary	Vavunathivu	
1	Alahaih Yohanathan	37	M	26-08-08	by shooting		Nochchimunai	
5	5 civilians			07-08-08	Disapp		Paduvankarai	
1	Momud Navaz	23	M	11-08-08	Disapp	Paramilitary	Eravoor	
1	J Latheep		M	11-08-08	Disapp	Paramilitary	Ninthavoor	
1	Balasingam Sriskandaraja		M	18-08-08	Disapp	Paramilitary	Koddaikallaru	
1	T Mahenthiran	30	M	26-08-08	Disapp		Valaichenai	
1	Kanapathiillai Vasanthakumar	32	M	30-08-08	Disapp		Valaichenai	
1	1 civilian		M	04-08-08	body found		Columbuthurai	Jaffna
1	Saharius Jesuthasan	57	M	05-08-08	body found		Valikamam	
1	Kuddiyan Sivapatham	48	M	20-08-08	by shooting		VVT	
1	Nadarasa Mayoora	21	M	21-08-08	by shooting	SLAFs	Uduppidi	
1	Kanagaratnam Narmathan	29	M	31-08-08	by shooting		Sundikulam	
1	Thushyanthan Nithianathan	26	M	31-08-08	by shooting		Sundikulam	
1	Masilamani Siva	29	M	10-08-08	Disapp		Jaffna	
1	Sellakandu Rasan	19	M	15-08-08	Disapp		Jaffna	
1	Thevasenathipathy Sihanthan	27	M	24-08-08	Disapp		Karainagar	
1	Paramanantham Muruhanantham	34	M	24-08-08	Disapp		Karainagar	

N o	Name	Age	G	Date	Violation	Offender	Location	Dis
1	Thangavelu Kumenthirarasa	29	M	06-08-08	by shelling	SLAFs	Vettrilaikerni	Kilinochchi
1	Rathinam Kanesalingam	45	M	06-08-08	by shelling	SLAFs	Vettrilaikerni	
1	Sinnathamby Arulanantham	49	M	08-08-08	by shelling	SLAFs	Vanneri	
1	Visvanathan Thilakes	35	M	30-08-08	by shelling	SLAFs	Puthumurippu Shelling- NESoHR issued a report on this	
1	Karuppaihan Anantharasa	28	M	30-08-08	by shelling	SLAFs		
1	Anantharasa Gowtham	2	M	30-08-08	by shelling	SLAFs		
1	Alahesan Pathmalatha	28	F	30-08-08	by shelling	SLAFs		
1	Baby	0		30-08-08	by shelling	SLAFs		
1	P Pasunkili	35	F	09-08-08	by bombing	SLAFs	Iranaipalai	Mullaithivu
1	Murukesu Sathaneswaran	32	M	22-08-08	by bombing	SLAFs	Visuvamadu	
1	S Thayaparan	48	M	09-08-08	by bombing	SLAFs	Iranaipalai	
1	Mudiyappu Soosainathan	52	M	09-08-08	by bombing	SLAFs	Visuvamadu	
1	Thillaiampalam Gnanachandran	32	M	27-08-08	by claymore	SLAFs	Puththuvvedduvan	
1	S Tharmalingam	54	M	11-08-08	by shelling	SLAFs	Kumulamunai	
1	Iyan Sankeerthan	5	M	08-08-08	by shelling	SLAFs	Mullaithivu Hospital shelling – NESoHR issued a report on this	
1	Kandaih Manokaran	56	M	10-08-08	by shooting		Nilaveli	Trincomalee
2	2 civilians			20-08-08	by shooting		Nilaveli	
1	Pathmanathan Robinroy	27	M	08-08-08	Disappe		Trincomalee	

No	Name	Age	G	Date	Violation	Offender	Locatoin	Dis
1	Vadivel Yogenthiran	35	M	04-08-08	Body found		Veppankulam	Vavuniya
1	Suppaih Nadarasa	57	M	08-08-08	by claymore	SLAFs	Maruthodai	
1	Kiritharan Sukirthan	15	M	28-08-08	by claymore	SLAFs	Nedunkerni	
1	Chandran	35	M	28-08-08	by claymore	SLAFs	Nedunkerni	
1	Senathirasa Nahamani	53	M	31-08-08	by shelling	SLAFs	Kanakarayankulam	
1	1 civilian		M	29-08-08	by shooting		Ukkilankulam	
1	1 civilian		M	02-08-08	by stabbing		Pampaimadu	
1	Mahenthirarasa Sarangan	28	M	10-08-08	Disapp	Paramilitary	Vavuniya	
1	Ponnaih Karalasingam	55	M	10-08-08	Disapp	Paramilitary	Vavuniya	
1	Sivagnanam Anpalahan	43	M	10-08-08	Disapp	Paramilitary	Vavuniya	
1	Thillaiampalam Thillairasa	30	M	14-08-08	Disapp		Cheddikulam	
1	Muruhupillai Valliammai		F	18-08-08	Disapp		Vavuniya	
0	0 civilians			30-08-08	bus bomb	LTTE	Fort (45 civilians injured)	Colombo
1	Sathiyathan	32	M	08-08-08	by shooting		Grandpass	
1	Vijayakumar	30	M	08-08-08	by shooting		Grandpass	
1	Kirsthotharan Francis	49	M	15-08-08	Disapp		Colombo	
1	Selvarasa Balakumar	33	M	15-08-08	Disapp		Colombo	
1	A F Mariyakumar	31	M	20-08-08	Disapp		Marawila	
1	Balasingam Chandrasekaran	56	M	22-08-08	Disapp	Paramilitary	Iynthulampu Jnct	
1	1 civilian		M	10-08-08	by shooting		Puttalam	Mannar & Puttalam
1	Mohamud Hussein	37	M	14-08-08	Disapp		Puttalam	
1	Nadarasa Sivakumar		M	10-08-08	by shooting		Karamanthapuram	Other