



வடகிழக்கு மனித உரிமைகள் செயலகம்

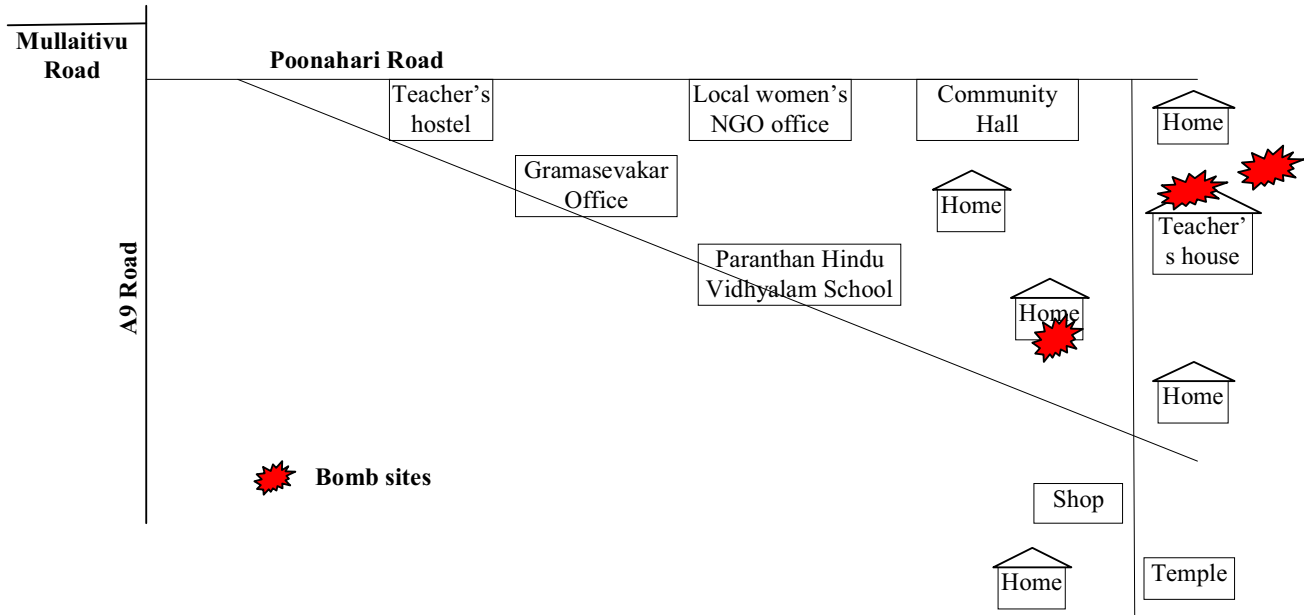
North East Secretariat on Human Rights - NESOHR

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### Kili-Kumarapuram bombing – Released 24 October 2008

Kumarapuram is a village about seven kilometers from the Kilinochchi town center. The village came under the Sri Lanka military aerial bombing at a location about 600 meters from the A9-Poonahari road junction (see map) on 10 October 2008. The bombing killed a female school teacher, her 10 year old daughter and another woman and injured the teacher's husband, their son and five more civilians. The bombing is part of a long series of aerial bombardment of the Vanni area, and particularly in recent times the surroundings of the densely populated Kilinochchi town. The extensive bombing and shelling of Kilinochchi town surroundings has caused massive exodus of people from this area, swelling the already large IDP population of Vanni. See also NESoHR report on Kilinochchi city bombing.



What the injured husband of the teacher said of the incident:

*"I am a local government employee of the Pachilaipalli AGA Division. We have three children. We displaced from our own home in Pachilaipalli in August 2006. We built a mud house in Kumarapuram in Kilinochchi and were living there since 2006. On the fatal day at 6.25am, my wife and I were cooking for the day prior to leaving for work. We heard the noise of the bombers. We took our three children and ran to the bunker. Three bombs fell around my home. One fell very close to our bunker. My wife died on the spot. My daughter was unconscious and died later in the hospital. My son and I received injuries and we both found it difficult to breathe immediately after the explosions. My hearing has also been affected by the noise and the shock. We have displaced again and are living with relatives. We held the funeral of my wife and daughter from this relative's house".*

### ***Nature of bombing injuries***

The injuries sustained by people in these long series of aerial bombardment have created many suspicions about the makeup of the bombs among the medical staff treating the injuries.

In one aerial bombardment for the first time the medical staff noticed severe burn injuries on some of the victims. Since there was no fire at the bomb site, people suspect that some burning agent is being used in some of the bombs.

Two of the Kumarapuram bombing victims, the teacher and her daughter died with no external injuries. The husband and the son of the teacher say that a bomb exploded very near the bunker where they had taken refuge and they had difficulty breathing soon after that explosion. Indeed the victims in some other bombing incidents also died with no external injuries. Medical opinion is that this could be caused by one of two causes. One is that the victims died of extreme shock waves created by the explosion. The other is that the bomb had some chemical agent that destroyed the oxygen in the surrounding area thus suffocating the victims. The experience of the teacher's husband and son suggest the second cause as the reason for the death of the teacher and her daughter.

The prevailing situation in Vanni and extreme shortage of medical staff prevents any further investigations into the cause of these unexplained injuries and causes of death among the victims.

### ***The affected teacher's family***



#### ***Killed:***

1. Arumainayagam Chandradevi, female aged 54, teacher at Paranthan Hindu Vidyalayam.
2. Arumainayagam Archika, female aged 10, daughter of the teacher.

#### ***Injured:***

1. Arumainayagam Ajithan, male aged 14, son of the teacher.
2. Thamothersampillai Arumainayagam, male aged 52, husband of the teacher

### ***Others killed and injured***

#### ***Killed:***

3. Manoharan Usha, female aged 36

#### ***Injured:***

4. Srikantha Thuvakaran, male aged 13
5. T Sivananthan, male aged 33
6. K Yohamma, female aged 65
7. Kanthan Krishnapillai, male aged 65
8. Vairavapillai Vaithilingam, male aged 86