



வடகிழக்கு மனித உரிமைகள் செயலகம் NORTH EAST SECRETARIAT ON HUMAN RIGHTS NESOHR

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NESOHR Case Report issued on 12th February 2006

Abduction of Rajaratnam Thevachandran on 3 January 2006

Thevachandran



Name: Rajaratnam Thevachandran (Male) (29)
Marital status: Married with three children
Address: Sakkalawaththai, Karanavai North, Karaveddi, Jaffna
Occupation: After school tuition centre manager

Thevachandran and his wife Thayalini together operate two tuition centres, one in Nelliadi and another in Point Pedro in Jaffna. About 1000 students were attending after-school classes in these tuition centres. Thevachandran and Thayalini, in addition to their three children, are supporting his widowed mother and two brothers of his mother. Both of these uncles of Thevachandran are over the age of 50. They became affected by polio at the age of 16 and remain severely handicapped.

Background

About three months ago, the radio station belonging to EPDP broadcast scandalous news about Thevachandran's wife. People in the area were outraged.

The Nelliadi tuition centre, located on a main road, shares a wall with the Nelliadi EPDP camp. Just across the road is the Nelliadi police station and next to it is an SLA camp. Given the current climate of terror in the area, the students attending the Nelliadi tuition centre have asked for the classes to be shifted to a different place. For these reasons Thevachandran and his wife decided to shift the tuition classes to another place. For one week prior to Thevachandran's disappearance this Nelliadi tuition centre carried a closed sign on the gate and no classes were held there.

Incident

On 3 January, Thevachandran left home at 7.30 am and collected two people to assist him in the cleanup of the new location for the tuition centre which is also in Nelliadi but away from the main road. He left the two assistants at the new location, told them to wait and left at 8.00 am. Several people in the area saw Thevachandran at 11.00 am in front of the old Nelliadi tuition centre that is next to the EPDP office talking to a man. That was the last time he was seen.

His wife noticed that he was missing at 12.00 noon on the same day. When she tried to ring him on his mobile phone there was no answer. She went to the old and the new Nelliadi tuition centre as well as their Point Pedro tuition centre to look for Thevachandran.

On the 9th of January the EPDP radio station broadcasted news about Thevachandran saying that there were several Identity Cards belonging to students at his old Nelliadi tuition centre and implied that Thevachandran had taken these students to join the LTTE. His wife denies this.

Family's efforts

Thevachandran's family members have been visiting, one office or another since 3 January, to either lodge a complaint about his disappearance or to search for him. Below is a list of efforts made by the family.

- Complained at the Nelliadi police station.
- Went to the Srithar theatre EPDP office several times.
- Went to the EPDP office next to their tuition centre
- Complained to SLHRC
- Complained to SLMM
- Complained to ICRC

Members of the EPDP group who have taken pity of Thevachandran's family have made some comments that implied that he may be held at one of the SLA camps in Jaffna.

Dr N Malathy
(NESOHR Secretary)