

# SUMMARY EXECUTIONS

The United Nations Investigation said the 53 and 58 Divisions of the Sri Lankan army, under the overall command of Jagath Jayasuriya, were involved in the “white flag” surrenders, which resulted in summary executions or disappearances of those who surrendered while they were hors de combat and in the custody of the security forces.

“In many cases the material collected indicates that the victims were shot from close range and were blindfolded and had their hands bound when killed<sup>4</sup>.”



**BALACHANDRAN PRABHAKARAN (12-YEAR-OLD SON OF THE LTTE LEADER)<sup>4</sup>**

“One gunshot wound with soot markings indicate the weapon was fired from a distance of 60-90 cm... there are reasonable grounds to believe that

Balachandran Prabhakaran was captured or otherwise taken into custody by the security forces who subsequently extrajudicially executed him<sup>5</sup>.”



**LTTE COL. RAMESH**

“...was extrajudicially executed sometime between 18 and 22 May 2009<sup>2</sup>.”

“...the images depict a killing in execution-style with a single gunshot to the head<sup>3</sup>”.



**ISAIPRIYA AND USHALINI<sup>6</sup>**

“Based on the video footage and photographs along with witness testimonies, OISL [Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Investigation into Sri Lanka] has reasonable grounds to believe that security forces captured Isaipriya alive and then killed her with

gunshots to the head execution-style. Further, based on the images of Isaipriya’s dead body and those of many other women, OISL believes that Isaipriya’s dead body was desecrated<sup>7</sup>.”



**BODYGUARDS**

“In several photos, five men seen lying beside the body of Balachandran (three in underwear, one wearing a sarong and t-shirt, one in short pants) appear to have been shot dead (blood seen underneath the bodies and no other visible damage to the bodies). The men appear to have had their hands tied behind their backs and the cord taken off before the photographs were taken, one body has a loosened blindfold

beneath his face, and all bodies are facing down<sup>8</sup>.”

“In many cases the material collected indicates that the victims were shot from close range and were blindfolded and had their hands bound when killed<sup>9</sup>.”



**BALASINGHAM NADESAN [LTTE POLITICAL WING HEAD] AND SEEVARATNAM PULEDEVAN [LTTE PEACE SECRETARIAT HEAD]<sup>10</sup>**

“They all were unarmed and held white flags...<sup>11</sup>”

“...photographs of Nadesan’s body showed that cause of death would

be at least one and possibly three gunshots to the front torso<sup>12</sup>.”

“...the pattern of injuries indicates that Puleedevan was shot multiple times in the back, almost certainly whilst his arms were restrained behind his back<sup>13</sup>.”



Two ITJP eyewitnesses place 58 Division Commander Shavendra Silva at the surrender, shaking hands with the LTTE leaders before they were murdered; one insider witness says Jagath Jayasuriya also crossed the bridge to receive the surrendering LTTE political wing leaders.

# ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES



## FATHER FRANCIS SURRENDERS

A large group of individuals from the LTTE's civilian administration and their family members, including children and babies, surrendered with an elderly Catholic priest called Father Francis on 18th May 2009. They were loaded into buses which disappeared along with the passengers and the priest. The priest had written a public letter a week before criticising the Church and the Sri Lankan Government and warning that if he were captured he might be killed<sup>4</sup>.

Several ITJP witnesses, now safely abroad, testified that they saw Father Francis collect the names of LTTE cadres loaded on to buses. One such witness says he also saw Jagath Jayasuriya and Shavendra Silva at the site during the loading of the buses with surrendeers:

“Father Francis went to the army and got a paper and pen and wrote down all the names and handed it over to an army major. I don't know his name but I recognized his rank. The Major contacted his superior over the telephone and after that some landrover came and many senior army officers came to that area including Jagath Jayasuriya

who was the commander for the Vanni at the time and also Shavendra Silva<sup>15</sup>.”

The ITJP compiled a list of more than 100 surrendeers seen by eyewitnesses in army custody who have disappeared; the list includes many women and young children<sup>6</sup>. Attempts have been made in vain in the Sri Lankan courts by the families of the disappeared to compel the 58 Division to give the court a list of names of surrendeers.

### LETTER TO THE POPE

“Last night's toll of the dead is 3318 and of the injured more than 4000. It was a barrage of artillery, mortar, multi-barrel shelling and cluster bombs, weapons, which Sri Lankan government denies using on the civilians in the no fire zone. The cries of woes and agony of the babies and children, the women and the elderly fill the air that was polluted by poisonous and unhealthy gases and pierced the hearts of fathers and mothers, of elders and peasants of old men and women of all walks of life. I am not unaware that this letter would arouse the wrath of the Sri Lankan government which will resort to the revenge by killing me.”

FATHER FRANCIS JOSEPH  
10TH MAY 2009



## OTHER DISAPPEARANCES

Families of the disappeared have been holding roadside protests in Northern Sri Lanka, desperate to get some information 8 years on, about their loved ones. The government has been slow to respond to them. Two years ago, it promised to establish an Office of Missing Persons to look into an estimated 20,000 cases of disappearance dating back decades, but the office is not yet operational and it is unclear if it will ultimately have the ability to hold perpetrators criminally accountable.



## BALAKUMARAN PHOTOS

Balakumaran was photographed in custody with his son and helper and has disappeared since.



<sup>1</sup> OISL, para 322

<sup>2</sup> OISL, para 310

<sup>3</sup> OISL, para 309

<sup>4</sup> Balachandran Prabhakaran: Sri Lanka army accused over death, BBC Online, 19 February 2013, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-21509656>, Handed a snack, and then executed: the last hours of the 12-year-old son of a Tamil Tiger, Andrew Buncombe, 18 February 2013, The Independent, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/handed-a-snack-and-then-executed-the-last-hours-of-the-12-year-old-son-of-a-tamil-tiger-8500295.html>; Sri Lanka killings: Channel 4 reports 'unlikely to be faked', 20 October 2015, Channel 4, <https://www.channel4.com/news/sri-lanka-killings-channel-4-reports-unlikely-to-be-faked>

<sup>5</sup> OISL, para 312

<sup>6</sup> A video also shows her surrendering to the army: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUB6n6icWd4>

<sup>7</sup> OISL, para 316.

<sup>8</sup> OISL, para 319

<sup>9</sup> OISL, para 322

<sup>10</sup> Also see [www.white-flags.org](http://www.white-flags.org).

<sup>11</sup> OISL, para 301

<sup>12</sup> OISL, para 304

<sup>13</sup> OISL, para 301

<sup>14</sup> Church accused of 'being silent', BBC Sinhala Online, 24 September 2011, [http://www.bbc.com/sinhala/news/story/2011/09/110926\\_letter\\_to\\_pope.shtml](http://www.bbc.com/sinhala/news/story/2011/09/110926_letter_to_pope.shtml)

<sup>15</sup> ITJP Witness testimony.

<sup>16</sup> The ITJP has collected a list of the disappeared witnessed surrendering which includes infants and children: [http://www.fhr.org.za/files/9314/3210/3774/List\\_2\\_2009\\_Missing.pdf](http://www.fhr.org.za/files/9314/3210/3774/List_2_2009_Missing.pdf)