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Home Office

**Border &
Immigration Agency**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INFORMATION REPORT

SRI LANKA

11 MAY 2007

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Preface

- i This Country of Origin Information Report (COI Report) has been produced by Research, Development and Statistics (RDS), Home Office, for use by officials involved in the asylum/human rights determination process. The Report provides general background information about the issues most commonly raised in asylum/human rights claims made in the United Kingdom. The main body of the report includes information available up to 31 March 2007. The 'latest news' section contains further brief information on events and reports accessed from 1 April to 30 April 2007.
- ii The Report is compiled wholly from material produced by a wide range of recognised external information sources and does not contain any Home Office opinion or policy. All information in the Report is attributed, throughout the text, to the original source material, which is made available to those working in the asylum/human rights determination process.
- iii The Report aims to provide a brief summary of the source material identified, focusing on the main issues raised in asylum and human rights applications. It is not intended to be a detailed or comprehensive survey. For a more detailed account, the relevant source documents should be examined directly.
- iv The structure and format of the COI Report reflects the way it is used by Home Office caseworkers and appeals presenting officers, who require quick electronic access to information on specific issues and use the contents page to go directly to the subject required. Key issues are usually covered in some depth within a dedicated section, but may also be referred to briefly in several other sections. Some repetition is therefore inherent in the structure of the Report.
- v The information included in this COI Report is limited to that which can be identified from source documents. While every effort is made to cover all relevant aspects of a particular topic, it is not always possible to obtain the information concerned. For this reason, it is important to note that information included in the Report should not be taken to imply anything beyond what is actually stated. For example, if it is stated that a particular law has been passed, this should not be taken to imply that it has been effectively implemented unless stated.
- vi As noted above, the Report is a collation of material produced by a number of reliable information sources. In compiling the Report, no attempt has been made to resolve discrepancies between information provided in different source documents. For example, different source documents often contain different versions of names and spellings of individuals, places and political parties etc. COI Reports do not aim to bring consistency of spelling, but to reflect faithfully the spellings used in the original source documents. Similarly, figures given in different source documents sometimes vary and these are simply quoted as per the original text. The term 'sic' has been used in this document only to denote incorrect spellings or typographical errors in quoted text; its use is not intended to imply any comment on the content of the material.

- vii The Report is based substantially upon source documents issued during the previous two years. However, some older source documents may have been included because they contain relevant information not available in more recent documents. All sources contain information considered relevant at the time this Report was issued.
- viii This COI Report and the accompanying source material are public documents. All COI Reports are published on the RDS section of the Home Office website and the great majority of the source material for the Report is readily available in the public domain. Where the source documents identified in the Report are available in electronic form, the relevant web link has been included, together with the date that the link was accessed. Copies of less accessible source documents, such as those provided by government offices or subscription services, are available from the Home Office upon request.
- ix COI Reports are published regularly on the top 20 asylum intake countries. COI Bulletins are produced on lower asylum intake countries according to operational need. Home Office officials also have constant access to an information request service for specific enquiries.
- x In producing this COI Report, the Home Office has sought to provide an accurate, balanced summary of the available source material. Any comments regarding this Report or suggestions for additional source material are very welcome and should be submitted to the Home Office as below.

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ADVISORY PANEL ON COUNTRY INFORMATION

- xi The independent Advisory Panel on Country Information was established under the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 to make recommendations to the Home Secretary about the content of the Home Office's country of origin information material. The Advisory Panel welcomes all feedback on the Home Office's COI Reports and other country of origin information material. Information about the Panel's work can be found on its website at www.apci.org.uk.
- xii It is not the function of the Advisory Panel to endorse any Home Office material or procedures. In the course of its work, the Advisory Panel directly reviews the content of selected individual Home Office COI Reports, but neither the fact that such a review has been undertaken, nor any comments made, should be taken to imply endorsement of the material. Some of the material examined by the Panel relates to countries designated or proposed for designation for the Non-Suspensive Appeals (NSA) list. In such cases, the Panel's work should not be taken to imply any endorsement of the decision or

proposal to designate a particular country for NSA, nor of the NSA process itself.

Advisory Panel on Country Information

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Website: www.apci.org.uk

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Latest News

EVENTS IN SRI LANKA, FROM 1 APRIL 2007 TO 30 APRIL 2007

- 30 April Selvarajah Rajivarnam, a young reporter employed by the Tamil daily *Uthayan*, was gunned down near the newspaper's office in the northern city of Jaffna. Reporters Without Borders noted that he was the second journalist to be killed in a government-controlled area in the past ten days.
Reporters Without Borders, Young reporter with Tamil newspaper murdered in Jaffna' 30 April 2007
http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21932
Date accessed 3 May 2007
- 29 April Tamil Tiger rebels carried out an air raid with a light aircraft on the capital Colombo with relatively little damage. The raid was the LTTE's third aerial attack after the first on a Colombo airbase in March 2007 and a second attack on 24 April 2007.
BBC News, Sri Lanka rebels in new air raid, 29 April 2007
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/6604645.stm
Date accessed 30 April 2007

Financial Times, Tigers air attack rattles Colombo, 30 April 2007
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2e8314cc-f761-11db-86b0-000b5df10621.html>
Date accessed 2 May 2007
- 28 April According to the pro-LTTE website TamiNet, 16 civilians (the majority of them Tamils) were arrested in a cordon and search operation conducted in Colombo city by Sri Lanka's security forces and 12 of them were taken into custody for alleged involvement in terrorist activities.
TamiNet, 16 civilians arrested in Colombo, 28 April 2007
<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=22018>
Date accessed 3 May 2007
- 27 April A news note issued by UNICEF said that the Karuna faction had not been taking seriously its public assurance that it was not recruiting children. It was also reported that, as of the end of March 2007, out of 285 children known to have been recruited by the Karuna faction, there were 194 'outstanding' reported cases.
UNICEF says Karuna faction "not serious" about child releases, 27 April 2007
http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/media_39477.html
Date accessed 30 April 2007
- 25 April Heavy fighting between government troops and Tamil Tiger rebels was reported in the north-west of the country. According to the military, at least 20 rebels were killed with the loss of two soldiers near the coastal town of Mannar and 40 wounded on both sides. According to the Tamil Tigers, ten soldiers were killed and another 50 wounded .
BBC News, Fighting rages in north Sri Lanka, 25 April 2007
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/6593231.stm
Date accessed 26 April 2007

It was announced that the Government of Sri Lanka had taken steps to re-circulate the Presidential directives of 7 July 2006 on the protection of the Fundamental Rights of persons arrested and/or detained.

Department of Government Information (The Official Government News Portal of Sri Lanka),

Presidential directives on Fundamental Rights re-circulated, 25 April 2007

http://www.news.lk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2235&Itemid=44

Date accessed 25 April 2007

- 24 April An air attack was launched by the Tamil Tiger rebels on the Sri Lankan military's main base in Palaly in the northern Jaffna peninsula, killing at least six soldiers.
BBC News, Tamil Tigers in deadly air attack, 24 April 2007
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/6586283.stm
Date accessed 25 April 2007
- 23 April The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) released the report of its observer on the inquest into the killings of 17 aid workers killed in August 2006 in Muttur. According to the report, there were 'significant flaws' in the investigation carried out by the Sri Lankan police and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).
International Commission of Jurists, Sri Lanka - ICJ inquest observer finds flaws in investigation into killing of ACF aid workers, 23 April 2007
http://www.icj.org/news.php3?id_article=4151&lang=en
Date accessed 2 May 2007
- 20 April Reporters Without Borders called on the Sri Lankan government to order an investigation into the murder of the Tamil journalist Chandrabose Suthakaran on 16 April in the northern town of Vavuniya.
Reporters Without Borders, Tamil journalist murdered in government-controlled zone, 20 April 2007
http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=21864
Date accessed 3 May 2007
- 18 April It was reported that some of an estimated 40,000 Trincomalee residents displaced in the south – mainly in the Batticaloa District, as the conflict intensified in 2006 – were in the process of returning to their home areas. However, it was also reported that IDPs had said they had been urged by the authorities to leave the Kiliveddy refugee camp for their former homes only to quickly return after finding out the situation was not conducive to their return.
IRIN News, Sri Lanka: IDPs in transit centre face uncertain future, 18 April 2007
<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=71682>
Date accessed 24 April 2007
- 11 April Clashes were reported between the Sri Lankan army and the Tamil Tiger rebels in the north. A defence ministry official said that at least 20 rebels had been killed around the Omanthai checkpoint in the Vavuniya district. A rebel spokesman denied the claim and said they had ambushed army soldiers and killed ten of them.
BBC News, 'Many dead' in Sri Lanka clashes, 11 April 2007
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/6543819.stm
Date accessed 11 April 2007
- Reuters Foundation Alertnet, Sri Lanka military, rebels say clashes kill around 30, 11 April 2007

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/COL234157.htm>

Date accessed 11 April 2007

The military said that the security forces had taken full control of the Mahaoya-Chenkalady (A-5) main road after 14 years, driving the remaining LTTE cadres to Thoppigala jungle.

Daily Mirror, A-5 cleared after 14 years: Military, 12 April 2007

<http://www.dailymirror.lk/2007/04/12/front/1.asp>

Date accessed 11 April 2007

- 7 April Security officials said that a roadside bomb had hit a bus outside the town of Vavuniya, in northern Sri Lanka, killing seven people and injuring 26. A Tamil Tiger claymore mine was blamed but the rebels denied any involvement, accusing the military intelligence.
BBC News, Seven die in Sri Lanka bus attack, 7 April 2007
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/6534355.stm
Date accessed 10 April 2007
- 5 April Several human rights organisations were reported to have appealed to Sri Lanka's government and the Tamil Tigers to stop a series of human rights abuses and abductions. According to the Sri Lanka's Human Rights Commission, hundreds of people have 'disappeared' so far in 2007, on top of 1,000 in 2006.
Reuters Foundation Alertnet, Halt abductions, Sri Lanka and Tigers urged, 5 April 2007
<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/COL144892.htm>
Date accessed 5 April 2007
- 4 April The Sri Lankan air force said it had destroyed the headquarters of the Tamil Tiger rebels' sea force in the north-eastern district of Mullaitivu. However, the Tigers said the airforce had hit a civilian charity building.
BBC News, Tamil Tigers' sea HQ 'destroyed', 4 April 2007
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/6525127.stm
Date accessed 3 May 2007
- 3 April The Sri Lankan army said it had captured four Tamil Tiger bases and killed 23 rebels in clashes in the eastern district of Batticaloa during the previous night.
BBC News, Sri Lanka army 'kills 23 rebels', 3 April 2007
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/6520829.stm
Date accessed 4 April 2007
- 2 April At least 16 people were reported to have been killed in an explosion on a bus carrying civilians in Sri Lanka's eastern district of Ampara. Tamil Tiger rebels were accused by the government of being behind the blast, but they denied any involvement. It was also reported that, in a separate development, six tsunami reconstruction workers, all ethnic Sinhalese, had been killed on the previous day in the eastern district of Batticaloa. The government accused the Tamil Tigers who in turn blamed the Karuna faction.
BBC News, Sri Lanka blast 'kills civilians', 2 April 2007
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/6517167.stm
Date accessed 3 May 2007
- 1 April It was reported that in the two months from 1 January to 28 February 2007, over 349 children below the age of 18 had been subjected to crimes such as murder, rape, serious injuries and kidnapping in Sri

Lanka. According to statistics produced by the Women's and Children's Bureau (WCB), over 116 girls were raped and 77 were sexually abused. Forty-two children were kidnapped; 22 had been subjected to cruelty. Six children had been sexually abused by their fathers and uncles; four children were killed and five were seriously injured.

Sunday Observer, Over 349 children subject to grave crimes in two months – WCB, 1 April 2007

<http://www.sundayobserver.lk/2007/04/01/new13.asp>

Date accessed 4 April 2007

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US Department of State

<http://www.state.gov>

Country Reports on Terrorism, Chapter 2 – Country Reports: South and Central Asia Overview, Sri Lanka, 30 April 2007

<http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/2006/82734.htm>

Date accessed 2 May 2007

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

<http://www.icrc.org/eng>

Sri Lanka – ICRC Bulletin No. 12 / 2007, 23 April 2007

Date accessed 26 April 2007

UNHCR Sri Lanka

<http://www.unhcr.lk/>

Statistical Summary of IDP Movements in North-East Sri Lanka for the period 7 April 2006 – 16 April 2007, undated

<http://www.unhcr.lk/statistics/docs/SummaryofDisplacement-7Apr06-16Apr07.pdf>

Date accessed 26 April 2007

Human Rights Watch (HRW)

<http://hrw.org>

Sri Lanka: Antiterrorism Laws Used to Muzzle the Press: 12 April 2007

<http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2007/04/12/slanka15681.htm>

Date accessed 12 April 2007

Amnesty International – Sri Lanka

<http://web.amnesty.org/library/eng-lka/index>

Sri Lanka: urgent need for effective protection of civilians as conflict intensifies, 5 April 2007

<http://web.amnesty.org/library/print/ENGASA370092007>

Date accessed 10 April 2007

World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)/International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

<http://www.omct.org/> / <http://www.fidh.org>

Annual Report 2006 of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, 5 April 2007

http://www.fidh.org/article.php3?id_article=4166

Date accessed 11 April 2007

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Background Information

1. GEOGRAPHY

- 1.01 As recorded in the CIA World Factbook, Sri Lanka (website accessed on 7 September 2006), the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, formerly known as Ceylon, lies in the Indian Ocean, south of India. The country covers an area of 65,610 square kilometres. The capital is Colombo. [Note: Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte is the legislative capital] It has a population of 20,222,240 (July 2006 estimate). The CIA World Factbook also noted that since the outbreak of hostilities between the government and armed Tamil separatists in the mid-1980s, several hundred thousand Tamil civilians have fled the island and more than 200,000 Tamils have sought refuge in the West. There are eight provinces: Central, North Central, North Eastern, North Western, Sabaragamuwa, Southern, Uva, Western. [30] As recorded by the Sri Lanka Department for Census and Statistics (Statistical Abstract 2005, Population of principal towns by sex, census, years (Table 2.4, website accessed on 27 March 2006) the principal towns are Colombo, Dehiwala-Mount Lavinia, Moratuwa, Sri Jaywardene Kotte, Negombo, Kandy, and Galle. [58a]
- 1.02 The CIA World Factbook, Sri Lanka also records that the population can be divided into the majority Sinhalese (73.8 per cent), Sri Lankan Moors 7.2 per cent, Indian Tamil 4.6 per cent, Sri Lankan Tamil 3.9 per cent, other 0.5 per cent, unspecified 10 per cent (2001 census provisional data) [30] However, as recorded by the Sri Lankan Department of Census and Statistics (Statistical Abstract 2005, Chapter II, tables 2.10 - 2.11), based on a total population of 18,797,257 the population comprises: Sinhalese (82 per cent), Sri Lankan Tamil (4.3 per cent), Indian Tamil (5.1 per cent), Moor (7.9 per cent), Burgher (0.2 per cent), Malay (0.3 per cent), Sri Lankan Chetty (0.1 per cent) and other (0.1 per cent). However, data from Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts, in which the 2001 census enumeration was not completed, were not included. [58a]
- 1.03 As recorded in the US State Department Report for 2006 on Religious Freedom in Sri Lanka published on 15 September 2006 "Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and Christianity all are practiced. Approximately 70 per cent of the population was Buddhist, 15 per cent Hindu, 8 per cent Christian, and 7 per cent Muslim. [2a] (Section I)
- 1.04 The CIA World Factbook Sri Lanka also records that three languages are spoken: Sinhala (official and national language) 74 per cent, Tamil (national language) 18 per cent, Tamil and English (commonly used in government and spoken competently by about 10 per cent of the population. Other languages are also spoken (8 per cent). [30] As noted in Europa World Year Book 2004, the Constitution recognises two official languages, Sinhala and Tamil. Either of the national languages may be used by all citizens in transactions with government institutions. [1a] (p3949)
- 1.05 As recorded by the Sri Lankan Department of Census and Statistics (Statistical Abstract 2005, Chapter II, table 2.10) the highest concentration of Sinhalese population is in the districts of Gampaha, Colombo, Kurunegala, Kandy and Galle. The districts of Colombo, Ampara, Gampaha, Kandy,

Puttalam and Nuwara Eliya have a high concentration of Tamils. However, data from Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts, in which the 2001 census enumeration was not completed, were not included. [58a]

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MAP
 1.06



<http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/srilanka.pdf>

For additional maps:

<http://www.unhcr.org/publ/PUBL/3dee2ccd0.pdf>

<http://www.unhcr.lk/statistics/index.html>

<http://www.unhcr.lk/offices/>

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2. ECONOMY

- 2.01 As recorded in the CIA World Factbook, Sri Lanka (website accessed on 7 September 2006):

“In 1977, Colombo abandoned statist economic policies and its import substitution trade policy for market-oriented policies and export-oriented trade. Sri Lanka’s most dynamic sectors now are food processing, textiles and apparel, food and beverages, telecommunications, and insurance and banking. In 2003, plantation crops made up only 15% of exports (compared with 93% in 1970), while textiles and garments accounted for 63%. GDP grew at an average annual rate of about 5.5% in the 1990s, but 2001 saw the first contraction in the country’s history, by 1.4%, due to a combination of power shortages, severe budgetary problems, the global slowdown, and continuing civil strife. Growth recovered to 5% between 2002 and 2005. About 800,000 Sri Lankans work abroad, 90% in the Middle East. They send home about \$1 billion a year. The struggle by the Tamil Tigers of the north and east for a largely independent homeland continues to cast a shadow over the economy. In late December 2004, a major tsunami took about 31,000 lives, left more than 6,300 missing and 443,000 displaced, and destroyed an estimated \$1.5 billion worth of property.” GDP per capita: \$4,300 (2005 est.); Unemployment rate: 7.7% (2005 est.); Population below poverty line: 22% (1997 est.); Inflation rate (consumer prices): 11.6% (2005 est.)” [30]

- 2.02 As noted in the report, ‘The Economy, the Tsunami and Poverty Reduction’ from the World Bank Sri Lanka Development Forum 2005 held in Kandy on 16 and 17 May 2005 “The tsunami that hit Sri Lanka on December 26, 2004 caused the worst devastation from a natural disaster in the country’s history...The international community has come to Sri Lanka’s aid with unprecedented levels of financial assistance, particularly from private donors.” [55c] (Introduction)
- 2.03 The approximate rate of exchange from xe.com Universal Currency Converter on 25 April 2007 was £1 = 220 Sri Lankan rupees. On 29 January 2007 it was £1 = 213 Sri Lankan rupees. [33]
- 2.04 The Human development index (HDI) for Sri Lanka was 0.755 for 2004, giving Sri Lanka a HDI rank of 93 out of 177 countries. The GDP per capita was US\$ 4,390 for the same year. “The HDI provides a composite measure of three dimensions of human development: living a long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy), being educated (measured by adult literacy and enrolment at the primary, secondary and tertiary level) and having a decent standard of living (measured by purchasing power parity, PPP, income).” (UNDP, Human Development Report 2006) (p263 & p283-286) [60a]

- 2.05 As noted in the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), Country Report Sri Lanka, Main report, 1 February 2007, "Following the release of higher than expected consumer price inflation figures in late 2006, the Economist Intelligence Unit has raised its forecast for inflation in 2007 from 7.8% to 9.3%. Partly as a result, the forecast rate of depreciation of the Sri Lankan rupee in 2007 has also been raised. [75a] (Economic Forecast) For the year 2006 the EIU estimated a real GDP growth of 7.3 per cent and an average consumer price inflation of 13.6 per cent. [75a] (Economic structure: Annual indicators) The EIU also estimated that the unemployment rate was 7.6 per cent in 2006 (the actual figure for 2005 was 7.7 per cent) and their forecast for 2007 was again 7.6 per cent. [75a] (Outlook for 2007-2008: Forecast summary)

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3. HISTORY

- 3.01 As recorded in the Foreign & Commonwealth country profile of Sri Lanka (last reviewed on 30 March 2007):

"Sri Lanka's history has reflected its close links with the subcontinent and with South East Asia. The colonial European powers arrived in 1505. The Portuguese, the Dutch and then the British ruled Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka (or Ceylon, as it was then known) gained independence from Britain in February 1948... Following independence from Britain in February 1948, the political scene has been dominated by two parties: the United National Party (UNP) and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), which is now part of the People's Alliance (PA). The SLFP was founded by S W R D Banadaranaike, who was Prime Minister until he was assassinated in 1959 by a Buddhist extremist. His widow, Sirimavo Banadaranaike, became leader of the SLFP and served as both Prime Minister and leader of the opposition. A republican constitution was adopted in 1972 and the ruling coalition, led by Sirimavo Banadaranaike, gave itself an extra two years in power. The UNP returned to power in 1978 and adopted a new constitution based on an executive presidency. It introduced for the first time elections based on proportional representation. The UNP's Ranasinghe Premadasa, who won the presidential election in 1988, was President until his assassination in 1993." [15j] (History and Recent Political History)

- 3.02 "The SLFP became part of the People's Alliance (PA) coalition which, headed by Mrs Chandrika Kumaratunga (the daughter of S W R D and Sirimavo Bandaranaike), won general elections in August 1994. Mrs Kumaratunga then went on to win a landslide victory in elections in November 1994 and 1999 and served as President until November 2005. The PA also won the next Parliamentary elections in October 2000. Although there were reports of violence, intimidation and voting irregularities, the EU Election Observation Mission acknowledged that the result overall reasonably reflected the opinion of the people. In 2001, less than a year after being re-elected, the PA lost their majority and new elections were held in December 2001. The United National Front coalition, lead [sic] by UNP Ranil Wickremasinghe, won with 109 seats and the President's PA came second with 77 seats, which led to an arrangement of political cohabitation between two rival parties, with the PA's leader as President and the UNP's leader as Prime Minister." (FCO Sri Lanka country profile) [15j] (Recent Political History)

- 3.03 “In November 2003, President Kumaratunga suspended parliament, sacked three key ministers taking over their portfolios (including defence) and declared a state of emergency (which was lifted a few days later). This was done on the grounds of national security, and the actions were within her Constitutional powers. No agreement on working arrangements was reached between the President and Prime Minister, and in January 2004, the SLFP signed an alliance with the JVP forming the United People’s Freedom Alliance (UPFA). In February, the President dissolved Parliament and called general elections in April. The elections in April 2004 produced a new political order with the victory of the UPFA (SLFP and JVP alliance). Support for the traditional parties dropped, and smaller parties - JVP, TNA and JHU gained significant numbers of seats. The UPFA formed a minority government.” **(FCO Sri Lanka country profile) [15j] (Recent Political History)**
- 3.04 “At the general election, which took place on 2 April 2004, the UPFA won 105 of the 225 seats, having taken 45.6% of the votes cast; Wickremasinghe’s UNP retained 82 seats (with 37.8% of the votes), while the TNA won 22 seats (with 7%). In an unexpected development, the Buddhist Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU—National Heritage Party) won nine seats. The LTTE had openly supported the TNA during the election campaign and described the large number of seats won by the alliance as an endorsement and recognition of the LTTE as ‘the sole representative’ of the Tamil population. Participation at the election was reported to have reached 75% of eligible voters. The poll concluded peacefully. However, there were claims of voter intimidation and electoral malpractice, particularly in the north and east of the country. The UPFA, which had not secured an outright majority of seats in Parliament, undertook negotiations with a view to forming a coalition administration. Meanwhile, Mahinda Rajapakse, a senior member of the UPFA and former fisheries minister, was sworn in as Prime Minister on 6 April.” **(Europa World Online) [1b] (Recent History)**
- 3.05 The final official results were published in the official website of the Department of Elections. **[39a]**
- | | |
|--|-----|
| United People Freedom Alliance (UPFA) | 105 |
| United National Party (UNP) | 82 |
| Tamil National Alliance TNA | 22 |
| Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU) | 9 |
| Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) | 5 |
| Eelam People’s Democratic Party (EPDP) | 1 |
| Up-Country People’s Front (UCPF) | 1 |
- 3.06 “In September 2004, the Ceylon Workers' Congress (CWC – representing Indian-origin Tamils) with 8 seats joined the government giving it a small majority. In June 2005 the JVP left the Government after the President’s decision to sign a post-tsunami funding arrangement with the LTTE.” **(FCO Sri Lanka country profile) [15j] (Recent Political History)**
- 3.07 On 26 December 2004, BBC News reported that thousands of people had been killed across southern Asia in massive sea surges triggered by the strongest earthquake in the world for 40 years. **[9d]**

- 3.08 “Sri Lanka was one of the countries most seriously affected by the devastating tsunami caused by a massive earthquake in the Indian Ocean on 26 December 2004. More than 31,000 Sri Lankans were killed in the disaster, which also left thousands homeless and without livelihoods. The tourism industry was badly affected by the catastrophe, with many hotels and resorts being damaged or destroyed. It was initially hoped that the scale of the disaster would serve to ease tensions between the Government and the LTTE, particularly as the Tamil areas of the island were amongst those worst hit. However, conflicts soon surfaced over the distribution of aid; the LTTE claimed that the Government was restricting the flow of international aid into Tamil-controlled areas and demanded that it be delivered directly to them.” **(Europa World Online) [1b] (Recent History)**
- 3.09 “In August 2005 the peace process between the Government and the LTTE was seriously threatened when the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lakshman Kadirgamar, was assassinated by unidentified gunmen at his home in Colombo. Although they denied responsibility, the LTTE were held responsible for the attack. In the aftermath of the murder, President Kumaratunga declared a state of emergency, granting the security forces broad powers of detention. Amidst widespread fears that the cease-fire would collapse, both sides announced their commitment to its maintenance, and the LTTE agreed to meet with the Government to review the truce agreement.” **(Europa World Online) [1b] (Recent History)**
- 3.10 “Meanwhile, there was controversy over when the country’s next presidential election was scheduled to take place. While, under the terms of the Constitution, the next election was due to be held in December 2005, President Kumaratunga claimed that the holding of an undisclosed swearing-in ceremony in 2000...had actually extended her second term until December 2006. In July the SLFP announced that its presidential candidate would be Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse. In August the Supreme Court brought an end to the controversy, ruling that the election should be held by 22 November 2005. In September it was announced that the election would take place on 17 November. Former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe subsequently declared that he would stand as the candidate of the UNP. The JVP offered its support to Rajapakse, on the condition that were he to secure victory he would commit his government to the retention of a unitary state, renegotiate the ongoing cease-fire with the LTTE and end the privatization of state assets. Rajapakse concluded a similar agreement with the JHU.” **(Europa World Online) [1b] (Recent History)**
- 3.11 As reported by BBC News on 18 November 2005:
- “Sri Lankan premier Mahinda Rajapakse has won the presidential election by a narrow margin, officials have said. Mr Rajapakse secured a little over 50% of the popular vote against main opposition rival Ranil Wickramasinghe. Mr Rajapakse, who has taken a hard line with Tamil Tiger rebels, said after his victory he would ‘bring about an honourable peace’... Mr Wickramasinghe’s opposition United National Party (UNP) demanded a fresh election in Tamil-dominated Jaffna, where the voter turnout was particularly low, but this has already been rejected by the electoral commission...At the end of counting, Mr Rajapakse had secured more than 4.8m votes, about 180,000 ahead of Mr Wickramasinghe. There were eleven other candidates...The election campaign was one of the most peaceful in years, although at least four people

are reported to have died when two grenades were thrown into a mosque on Friday. Police said it was unclear if the attack was linked to the poll. Another 25 people were injured in the violence, in the town of Akkaraipattu in eastern Batticaloa district. Elections Commissioner Dayananda Dissanayake said the poll turnout was about 75% but the boycott in Tami-dominated [sic] areas was almost total. In Jaffna, turnout was put at only 0.014% of more than 700,000 registered voters - the lowest ever anywhere in the country. In the 1999 election, 19% of voters in Jaffna cast ballots...Officials said there were roadblocks and intimidation in rebel-held areas. More than 13m people were eligible to vote in Sri Lanka's fourth national poll in six years. The poll ends the tenure of President Chandrika Kumaratunga. She has dominated the island's politics since taking office for the first of her two terms in 1994." [9fi]

The full official results of the presidential elections of 2005 can be accessed from the website of the Sri Lanka Department of Elections. [39c]

- 3.12 On 21 November 2005 BBC News reported that: "Sri Lanka's newly-elected president, Mahinda Rajapakse, has appointed a hardliner as his prime minister...Like Mr Rajapakse, Mr Wickremanayake is a Sinhala nationalist ...Under Sri Lanka's constitution, the prime minister's role is overshadowed by the much more powerful post of executive president." [9fm] As reported by BBC News on 23 November 2005:

"Mahinda Rajapakse appointed a 25-strong cabinet following his presidential election win last Thursday...President Rajapakse will also be defence and finance minister...In other cabinet appointments, the new prime minister was also given the disaster relief portfolio. Mangala Samaraweera was named foreign minister and Anura Bandaranaike, the brother of outgoing President Chandrika Kumaratunga, becomes tourism minister. Mr Bandaranaike had been tipped as prime minister but during the election campaign criticised Mr Rajapakse's alliance with the JVP." [9fn] The current list of Government ministers can be accessed from the official website of the Government of Sri Lanka. [44a]

See also Section 4

THE INTERNAL CONFLICT AND THE PEACE PROCESS

- 3.13 "The ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka has been going on for over 20 years as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fight for an independent homeland. Some 70 000 people are estimated to have been killed and some one million displaced. The roots of the conflict lie in the deterioration of relations between the Tamil and Sinhalese communities from the 1950s. By the late 1970s a number of armed groups were operating in the north and east of the island. In 1983 there were serious anti-Tamil riots in Colombo resulting in the lynching and killing of some 2000 Tamils. Some Ministers in the Government of Sri Lanka were implicated in the event. Many Tamils returned to traditional Tamil areas in the North and many others began to seek asylum abroad. One of the highest profile violent acts was the assassination of the Mayor of Jaffna in 1975 by Vellupillai Prabhakaran who later became established as the leader of the LTTE. In mid 1987 when a Government of Sri Lanka embargo of Jaffna began to result in severe hardship, the Government of India, pushed by public opinion in Tamil Nadu, forced the Sri Lankan Government to sign the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord. This provided for an Indian peacekeeping Force (IPKF) in the

North and East. However relations between the IPKF and the LTTE broke down and there was heavy fighting and reports of human rights violations on both sides. President Premadasa negotiated the IPKF's withdrawal, which was completed in March 1990. During 1988, in part against the India intervention, among [sic] the Sinhalese community grew into a violent insurgency by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) and a counter-terrorist campaign. The rebellion ended in 1989 after JVP leaders were murdered. The Sri Lankan army undertook a ruthless counter-insurgency campaign and tens of thousands were killed. There followed a period of relative peace before the situation in the North and East deteriorated in June 1990. After 18 months, negotiations fell apart and the LTTE again resorted to violence. They extended their control until they held the Tamil heartland: the Jaffna Peninsula and large areas of the North and East. The security forces succeeded in winning back most of the East, but the North remained outside their control." (FCO Sri Lanka country profile) [15j] (The Internal Conflict)

- 3.14 "In July 1995, the Sri Lankan army launched a military operation, culminating in the fall of Jaffna in December 1995 to Government forces. At the end of January 1996 the LTTE began a bombing campaign in Colombo... During 1996, the Sri Lankan army secured enough of the Jaffna Peninsula to allow the civilian population to return to Jaffna town. The LTTE reasserted themselves in the Eastern province and infiltrated back into the Jaffna Peninsula. LTTE inspired terrorist attacks continued in the south, including on the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy, the most sacred Buddhist site in Sri Lanka. In March 1999 the Sri Lankan Army launched two major offensives in the Vanni and captured over 800 sq kms of territory from the LTTE. Fighting in the North intensified in late 1999 and the Vanni (jungle areas in the North) fell to the LTTE after some of the fiercest fighting since the conflict began. In April 2000 the LTTE carried out a major assault which led to the withdrawal of Sri Lankan troops from Elephant Pass (which links the Jaffna peninsula to the rest of Sri Lanka). With control of Elephant Pass, the LTTE continued further attacks into the Jaffna Peninsula. Fighting continued until December 2001 when the announcement of a new ceasefire by the LTTE was reciprocated by the newly elected UNF government. A Ceasefire Agreement was signed in February 2002 by the government and LTTE." (FCO Sri Lanka country profile) [15j] (The Internal Conflict)
- 3.15 As recorded on the website of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM):
- "The Ceasefire Agreement entered into force between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The Ceasefire document is signed by Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and the LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran. The overall objective of the Parties is to find a negotiated solution to the ongoing ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. They recognize the importance of bringing an end to the hostilities, improving the living conditions and restoring normalcy for all inhabitants of Sri Lanka, whether they are Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims or others. The Ceasefire Agreement also commits the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE to accept on-site monitoring of the implementation of the Agreement by the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM). The Head of SLMM is the final authority on the interpretation of the Ceasefire Agreement." [22i]
- 3.16 Article 1 of the agreement deals with the modalities of a ceasefire; article 2 deals with measures to restore normalcy. This includes both parties, in

accordance with international law, abstaining from hostile acts against the civilian population, including such acts as torture, intimidation, abduction, extortion and harassment; the parties refraining from engaging in activities or propagating ideas that could offend cultural or religious sensitivities; the parties reviewing security measures and the set-up of checkpoints, particularly in densely populated cities and towns, in order to prevent harassment of the civilian population; the parties agreeing that search operations and arrests made under the Prevention of Terrorism Act shall not be made, and that arrests shall be conducted under due process of law in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Code; and the parties agreeing to provide family members of detainees access to those detainees. Article 3 deals with the role and functions of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission. The full text of the Ceasefire Agreement is available from the SLMM website. **(SLMM website, Ceasefire Agreement) [22i]**

- 3.17 “In mid-March 2002 Prime Minister Wickremasinghe visited Jaffna, the first premier to do so since 1982. In early April the Government lifted a six-year ban on domestic flights and allowed commercial airlines to resume flights to Jaffna. A week later an important road linking the Jaffna peninsula with the rest of the country was opened for the first time in 12 years. On 10 April Prabhakaran addressed an international press conference for the first time in more than 10 years. He demanded the lifting of the ban on the LTTE as a prerequisite to negotiations and declared his commitment to peace and full support of the cease-fire.” **(Europa World Online) [1b] (Recent History)**
- 3.18 The Sri Lankan Government lifted its ban on the LTTE on 4 September 2002, BBC News reported on the following day. The LTTE had made the removal of the ban a main precondition for sitting down to talks with the Government. **[9ai]** As stated in the U.S. Department of State Report 2003 “This meant that members of the LTTE were no longer subject to arrest simply because of their status.” **[2b] (p8)**
- 3.19 In December 2002, at peace talks in Norway the government and rebels agreed to share power. “Under the deal, minority Tamils would have autonomy in the mainly Tamil-speaking north and east.” In February 2003, the peace process talks got under way in Berlin but in April 2003, the Tamil Tigers suspended their participation in the peace talks, saying they were being marginalised.” **(BBC News Timeline: Sri Lanka) [9fo]**
- 3.20 As summarised on the official website of the Sri Lankan Government’s Secretariat for Co-ordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP), Session One of the peace talks was held in Thailand on 16 – 18 September 2002; Session Two also in Thailand on 31 October – 3 November 2002; Session Three in Norway on 2-5 December 2002; Session Four in Thailand on 6 – 9 January 2003; Session Five in Germany on 7 – 8 February 2003 and Session 6 in Japan on 18 – 21 March 2003. Further details on all the peace talk sessions are available from the website of SCOPP. **[41j]**
- 3.21 “Efforts to revive the peace process suffered a set-back in May 2003. In a letter to the Prime Minister, Balasingham demanded that the Government establish an interim administration for the north-east of the country. The Government refused to agree, offering instead a ‘development-orientated’ structure for the area, with greater financial authority for the LTTE. The LTTE rejected this proposal as not extensive enough, and attempts to resume the

peace negotiations failed. Informal talks, however, continued to take place.” (Europa World Online) [1b] (Recent History)

- 3.22 “In early March 2004 a rift within the LTTE appeared after a senior Tamil eastern regional commander declared his independence from the rest of the group. V. Muralitharan (commonly known as Col Karuna) withdrew his 6,000 fighters from the 15,000-strong LTTE in a dispute with the northern-based LTTE leader, Prabhakaran. Karuna, who accused northern Tamil groups of ignoring and discriminating against eastern groups, made it clear that he would not resume violence. However, he would not recognize the cease-fire agreement between the Government and Prabhakaran, and instead demanded a separate truce agreement with the Sri Lankan administration. Analysts feared that the schism might escalate into factional war; the split also raised questions about Prabhakaran’s control over the LTTE and undermined the Tamil militants’ claims that the main obstacle in the peace process was political divisions among Sinhalese political parties. The rift also adversely affected Norway’s fresh attempt to revive the peace initiative. In late March [2004] the LTTE vowed to remove Karuna from Sri Lanka. The Tamil political candidate and supporter of Karuna, Rajan Sathyamoorthy, was shot dead by suspected Tamil militants in the eastern town of Batticaloa, raising fears of factional fighting. Although the LTTE denied any involvement in the killing, government troops were deployed to Batticaloa to maintain law and order. On 9 April fighting between the two factions broke out. The conflict ended on 13 April with Karuna reported to have fled from his base and gone into hiding, his forces having dispersed and the LTTE assuming full control of the eastern areas.” (Europa World Online) [1b] (Recent History)
- 3.23 “From June 2004 onwards the cease-fire between the LTTE and the Government came under increasing pressure. During discussions with Hågrup Haukland, leader of the Norwegian team monitoring the ongoing peace process, the LTTE accused the Sri Lankan armed forces of sheltering Col Karuna and of assisting him in waging a campaign against them. The armed forces initially denied that they had helped Karuna to escape following the April [2004] conflict; however, later in that month the Minister of Ports and Aviation and of Information and Media, Mangala Saramaraweera, admitted that the army had helped Karuna to escape, while insisting that the plan had been carried out without government knowledge.” (Europa World Online) [1b] (Recent History)
- 3.24 “Fears that the cease-fire was close to collapse were heightened when a suicide bomber blew herself up during questioning at a police station in Colombo in early July [2004], having first attempted to meet the Tamil Secretary-General of the EPDP, Douglas Devananda, who was a long-standing opponent of the LTTE. Although the LTTE denied any involvement in the attack, they were widely believed to have been responsible both for the bombing, and for the assassination of an EPDP politician in Ampara district later in that month. Meanwhile, clashes continued to occur between the LTTE and members of the faction that had broken away under the leadership of Karuna. At the end of July Norway’s Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vidar Helgesen, arrived in Sri Lanka to attempt to restart peace talks, accusing both the Government and the LTTE of complacency. The opposition UNP subsequently offered to support the Government in any parliamentary vote on the resumption of talks. However, in September it was reported that

Norwegian envoy Erik Solheim had failed in his attempts to instigate new peace talks.” (Europa World Online) [1b] (Recent History)

- 3.25 “In December 2005 violence in the country escalated. At least 60 people died over the course of the month as a result of various attacks believed to have been co-ordinated by the LTTE. At the end of that month President Rajapakse stated that he was ready to hold talks with the LTTE. Shortly before his announcement, Norwegian peace envoy Erik Solheim had urged both sides to enter into new peace talks, stressing that the cease-fire was in imminent danger of collapse. In early January 2006 a suicide bomb attack on a naval patrol vessel resulted in the deaths of 13 sailors, equalling the largest loss of military life since the cease-fire began. A further nine sailors were killed in a land-mine explosion later in that month, as the number of violent incidents continued to increase. In February negotiators representing the LTTE and the Government convened in Geneva, Switzerland, to hold talks on how to control the recent increase in violence. A joint statement issued following the conclusion of the talks committed both sides to uphold the cease-fire. The LTTE agreed to try and prevent further attacks on the security forces, while the Government pledged to try and disarm the Karuna faction of the LTTE, which was thought to have been acting on behalf of the armed forces against its erstwhile colleagues. However, prior to the second round of talks, scheduled to take place in Geneva in mid-April, the violence intensified once again. Several days before the talks were due to commence, the LTTE requested that they be postponed, in order that members of their delegation could first meet with LTTE commanders. Later that month the LTTE stated that they would not attend talks, alleging that government forces had perpetrated attacks on Tamil civilians. In late April a suicide bombing believed to have been perpetrated by the LTTE at the army headquarters in Colombo killed at least 11 people and seriously injured the Chief of Staff of the Army, Lt-Gen. Sarath Fonseka. The Government subsequently ordered a number of air strikes on the LTTE. Violence continued into May, placing the ongoing cease-fire in further jeopardy.”(Europa World Online) [1b] (Recent History)
- 3.26 As reported in Keesing’s Records of World Events, January 2006 – Sri Lanka, “The prospect of the February 2002 ceasefire between government forces and the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) breaking down completely and the country reverting to full-scale civil war grew closer in January [2006] with a succession of violent incidents in an atmosphere of growing tension, suspicion, and mutual recrimination.” [23a]
- 3.27 As reported in Keesing’s Records of World Events, March 2006 – Sri Lanka:
- “The government on March 27 banned deep sea fishing up to 12 nautical miles (1 nautical mile = 1.852 km) from the coast of the northern Jaffna peninsula, up to the maritime border with India, two days after a fishing boat approached by a Sri Lankan navy patrol boat blew itself up, sinking the naval vessel and killing eight members of its crew of 19. The navy said that the six crew members of the fishing boat, allegedly gun running for the LTTE, also died. The LTTE denied involvement in the incident...The government claimed that the Tamil Tigers on March 13 abducted two schoolboys in the eastern district of Batticaloa, despite agreeing under the terms of the ceasefire to end child recruitment.” [23b]

- 3.28 The SLMM (Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission) document entitled 'Implementation of the Agreements Reached Between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam at the Geneva Talks the 22-23 February 2006' (a.k.a. the Geneva Report 24 February – 28 May), released on 9 June 2006 noted that:

"The period [24 February – 28 May 2006] started with a positive atmosphere and steps were taken to further normalize the situation...Although the level of violence decreased drastically after the decision was taken to resume high-level talks, the situation became very tense again following the assassination of the Trincomalee District President of Tamil Peoples Forum on 7 April 2006. The killing triggered a resumption of attacks against the GOSL forces, which began with hand grenade and claymore mine attacks, notably in the East. However, this soon escalated into more high profile attacks such as the suicide attack against the Commander of the Army Lt. Gen Fonseka on 25 April, and the sea tiger attack on a SLN Dvora on 11 May. GOSL showed restraint to begin with, but as the seriousness of the incidents increased, so did GOSL's." [22g] (Paragraph 2)

- 3.29 The SLMM Geneva Report continued:

"The level of intimidation and harassment of civilians increased with the resumption of attacks against the security forces, forcing people to seek shelter in schools, churches and temples... There had only been few attacks against the security forces or police during the initial six weeks after the Geneva Talks. However following the abovementioned killing the attacks resumed again on the 8th of April [2006] when a claymore mine targeted an Army truck in Jaffna. This attack was followed by a series of mine and bomb attacks mostly targeting the SLA and SLN. The security forces and police were attacked more than 141 times in seven weeks resulting in at least 88 servicemen killed in action. The number of attacks, the targets, the tactics used, and geographic dimension pointed towards the LTTE as being the most likely perpetrator. It does however not rule out that some attacks might have been executed by some other actors or that they could be cover operations. The attacks were a very serious violation of the CFA. LTTE forward defense localities or convoys in the East were attacked on a number of times throughout the period resulting in the death of at least 19 LTTE cadres." [22g] (Paragraph 3)

- 3.30 "At least 223 civilians were killed during the period [24 February – 28 May 2006]. In Jaffna more than 43 civilians were assassinated since the 10th of April [2006] in a virtual campaign of targeted killings. On several occasions these killings took place within close vicinity of permanent SF presence. Yet, they denied witnessing any of these killings. The killings followed a pattern where gunmen approaching the victims at their house, calling them out and shooting them...The fighting between LTTE and the Karuna faction in Batticaloa District lead [sic] to at least 25 civilian casualties, some of which were most likely Karuna cadres...Furthermore tension in Vavuniya, partly believed to have been related to extortion and armed groups, led to at least 21 civilians being killed. Even though it is difficult to verify, it is likely that many of the civilians killed were actually members or supporters of either the LTTE or an armed group, thus directly related to the conflict." (SLMM Geneva Report) [22g] (Paragraph 3)

- 3.31 “On 23 April [2006] a suicide bomber exploded herself in the vicinity of the commander of the Sri Lankan army Lt Gen Fonseka. The explosion took place inside the army headquarters in Colombo. 9 persons were killed and 27 wounded in this attack. The incident clearly bears the hallmark of the LTTE. In retaliation the Sri Lanka Armed forces on 25 and 26 April attacked the LTTE controlled area of Sampur and Ilakkantai, by using air and artillery capabilities to strike military and political targets of the LTTE. Approximately 15 civilians were killed in these actions. The number of LTTE cadres killed in these strikes is unknown as the LTTE has not revealed any figures to the SLMM.” **(SLMM Geneva Report) [22g] (Paragraph 3)** “Continued attacks on LTTE forward defence localities throughout the period showed that one or more armed groups were actively engaged in offensive operations against the LTTE...The continued high number of assassinations of civilians, including LTTE supporters, in the East, as well as numerous reports of harassment of civilians strongly indicates that armed groups are operating in that area...The only clearly identified armed group is the Karuna faction and their political front TMVP who, contrary to the GOSL commitment, became even more visible in GOSL controlled areas in the East in March [2006]...There are a number of indications that the GOSL is actively supporting the Karuna group. Known Karuna supporters have been seen moving to and from SLA camps, and it is evident that the security forces and police in some areas are not taking action to prevent armed elements from operating. **(SLMM Geneva Report) [22g] (Paragraph 4)**
- 3.32 As reported in Keesing’s Records of World Events, April 2006 – Sri Lanka:
- “A number of serious violations of the ceasefire between the government’s forces and the separatist rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) appeared to push the country to the brink of full-scale civil war by the end of the month. These culminated in an attack by a suicide bomber on April 25 [2006] at the Sri Lankan Army (SLA) headquarters in Colombo, the capital, killing 11 people and injuring 25, which was followed on April 25-27 by retaliatory air strikes and artillery and naval shelling of suspected LTTE camps near the north-eastern port city of Trincomalee. At least 120 people died in the escalating violence, including more than 50 military and police personnel. The female suicide bomber, initially described as having used false documentation and the pretence of pregnancy to smuggle explosives into the headquarters complex, was later reported to have been pregnant. She appeared to target SLA chief Lt-Gen. Sarath Fonseka, who suffered serious injuries in the blast. Fonseka, who became head of the armed forces in November 2005, had a reputation as a hardliner who believed that military victory over the Tamil Tigers was possible. The LTTE disclaimed responsibility for Sri Lanka’s 244th suicide bombing, the first in Colombo since July 2004.” **[23c]**
- 3.33 “The government described the air strikes near Trincomalee [of 25-27 April 2006] as ‘limited in time and scope’, but the LTTE claimed to the Nordic Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission (SLMM) overseeing the 2002 ceasefire that at least 18 Tamil civilians had been killed in the bombing and that some 15,000 villagers had fled their homes...Norwegian peace envoy Jon Hanssen-Bauer visited Sri Lanka on April 18-27 but failed to secure a firm commitment from both sides to attend new peace talks in Geneva...Each side blamed the other for undermining the ceasefire...There were further incidents of violence throughout the month, including landmine attacks on the military and execution-style murders of civilians. The LTTE claimed that one of its

commando units on April 30 had attacked armed camps at Kasankulam, in the eastern district of Batticaloa, killing 15 paramilitaries belonging to the faction led by Col Karuna...The LTTE accused the SLA of subsequently secretly arming and collaborating with Karuna's faction in a covert war against the LTTE. In an agreement reached at peace talks with the LTTE in February [2006] the government had pledged to disarm 'armed groups' — meaning Karuna's fighters — but analysts said that nothing had been done to rein them in, because the internecine Tamil conflict undermined the position of the LTTE...Communal tension increased in Trincomalee, an ethnically mixed town whose population included majority Sinhalese, Tamils (about one third), and minority Muslims. A bomb that exploded in a market on April 12, killing one soldier and six civilians, was blamed on the LTTE and triggered anti-Tamil riots in which at least 15 people, mostly Tamils, were killed and about 20 Tamil shops were burned down. Another six people were later found burned to death. A bus carrying naval personnel near Trincomalee on April 11 was hit by a landmine explosion that killed 11 sailors." (Keesing's Records of World Events, April 2006 – Sri Lanka) [23c]

3.34 As reported in Keesing's Records of World Events, May 2006 – Sri Lanka:

"Maj.-Gen. (retd) Ulf Henricsson, the Swedish leader of the Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission (SLMM), on May 19 [2006] admitted that his Nordic team was no longer monitoring a ceasefire between the government and the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) but a 'low intensity war'. According to the SLMM, 191 people were killed in violent incidents in April [2006]. Some of the most serious violations of the ceasefire in May [2006] occurred at sea...A suicide attack by a boat laden with explosives sank one naval vessel, killing 17 sailors, but the navy claimed that its other gunboats sank five LTTE craft, killing an estimated 50 of the rebels...Dozens more people died during May in clashes between the rebels and the security forces, landmine explosions, and shootings of civilians." [23d]

3.35 "The LTTE and the navy accused each other of responsibility for a massacre by gunmen on May 13 [2006] of 13 Tamil civilians in the village of Allaipiddy on the small island of Kayts off the Jaffna peninsula, which was controlled by the navy...Ministers of the EU on May 29 formally added the LTTE to a list of banned terrorist organisations, which meant a bar on LTTE fundraising and that the group's financial assets would be frozen in all 25 EU member states. LTTE officials would also be prevented from visiting the EU." (Keesing's Records of World Events, May 2006 – Sri Lanka) [23d]

3.36 As reported in Keesing's Records of World Events, June 2006 – Sri Lanka:

"Maj.-Gen. Parami Kulatunga, the third-highest-ranking officer in the Sri Lankan Army (SLA), was killed on June 26 [2006] when a suicide bomber on a motorcycle rammed his convoy, some 15 km south-east of Colombo. Two other soldiers and a civilian also died in the attack. The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) denied responsibility, saying that they were upholding a ceasefire, but Sri Lankan government officials blamed them for the attack. Amid escalating violence, the worst single incident since the current, fraying ceasefire began in February 2002 occurred on June 15 when at least 64 civilians were killed and 78 injured as claymore landmines blew up a packed bus in the town of Kebitigollew in the northern Anuradhapura district. It was reported that 15 of the dead were children and that most were from the

ethnic Sinhalese majority. The government blamed the LTTE and launched air strikes against Kilinochchi, the de facto capital of the LTTE on the northern Jaffna peninsula. The LTTE denied responsibility and condemned the bombing.” [23e]

- 3.37 “There were numerous other armed clashes, and fatal bombings and shootings of civilians during the month. The government said that in a naval clash between the Sri Lankan Navy (SLN) and the Sea Tigers on June 17 [2006] off Mannar, on the island’s north-west coast, eight out of 11 Sea Tiger boats were destroyed and 25 rebels killed for the loss of six SLN sailors. The LTTE maintained that three SLN boats were sunk and 12 SLN sailors killed. Bishop Rajappu Joseph of Mannar said on June 19 that after the naval battle, SLN personnel on shore had killed five fishermen and attacked Tamil refugees in a church, killing one woman and injuring 47 people. At least 700 people had been killed since the ceasefire came under serious threat in April [2006], after a second round of peace talks was cancelled.” (Keesing’s Records of World Events, June 2006 – Sri Lanka) [23e]
- 3.38 The SLMM document entitled ‘Implementation of the Agreements Reached Between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam at the Geneva Talks the 22-23 February 2006. Follow-up report covering the period 29th May to 31st August 2006’ (a.k.a. the Geneva Report 29 May – 31 August), released in September 2006 noted that:
- “The high number of attacks directed towards the GOSL forces continued, in several cases also involving the injuries and deaths of civilian bystanders. The period [29 May - 25 July 2006] saw several high profile attacks, such as most notably the assassination of 13 Sinhalese workers in Wellikanda on May 30th, the claymore attack on a civilian bus killing 65 and injuring 70 in Kebitigellewa on June 15th, the attack on Pesalai church killing 8 and injuring 38 civilians on June 17th, the suicide attack on the SLA Deputy Chief of Staff outside Colombo on June 26th, the clash between SLA and LTTE in Vakaneri on July 14th, killing 12 SLA soldiers and 4 LTTE cadres, and finally the closing of the Mavil Aru sluice gate on July 22nd, the last leading to the major escalation of violence in period 3 [actually period 2, 26 July - 31 August 2006].” [22h] (Section 1)
- 3.39 The Geneva Report of September 2006 further recorded that:
- “The most notable attacks during the period [26 July - 31 August 2006], were the assassination of 17 local employees of ACF in Muttur on August 4th, the killing by claymore attack of an STF commander in Kandy on August 6th, the shelling in an area near Mavil Aru on August 6th, when it was known that SLMM was present, the assassination of the SCOPP Deputy Secretary General in Colombo on August 12th and the air strike on a training site in Sensoolai, killing at least 40 on August 14th, as well as the claymore attack on the convoy of the Pakistani High Commissionaire in Colombo on the same date.” [22h] (Section 1)
- 3.40 “[In the period 29 May - 25 July 2006] A total number of 209 attacks on the SF took place, killing 78 and injuring 129 staff, both military and police...At least 230 civilians were killed during the reporting period, as well as a similar number injured; several of them from being in the area where attacks on the GOSL forces took place... Attacks continued also in Colombo, when a suicide

bomber targeted the SLA Deputy Chief of Staff, killing him, as well as three other soldiers.” (Geneva Report 29 May – 31 August) [22h] (Section 2)

- 3.41 “The overall situation became tense and unpredictable with large scale military confrontations starting on July 26th [2006] in the Muttur/ Sampur area south of Trincomalee related to the closure of Mawil Aru sluice gates by the LTTE restricting the access to water for the population living in GoSL controlled areas...The situation further worsened with large scale military confrontations spreading to Jaffna peninsula on the 11th Aug...The main attack linked to, but still outside the direct fighting, was the killing of 17 local employees of the French organization ACF, on August 4th in Muttur. All 17, 14 men and 3 women were killed execution style in the compound of the ACF office. All but one was [sic] Tamils, the last Muslim. An air strike took place in Soosalai on August 14th, when SLAF bombed what they claimed was a [sic] LTTE training camp west of Mullaitivu. It was later confirmed that a former children’s home had been targeted in the air strike. All small children had however left the compound earlier to make space for a few hundred young females attending what LTTE called a live-in first-aid course. At least 40 persons were killed and more than 100 injured in the attack. SLMM was not able to confirm the GoSL claims that the girls were given military training.” (Geneva Report 29 May – 31 August) [22h] (Section 2)
- 3.42 “At least 250 civilians were killed during the reporting period [29 May – 31 August 2006], with at least an additional 415 injured. In addition to the assassinations continuing in several districts, a large majority of the victims were killed in relation to the fighting in Trincomalee and Jaffna. An increased LTTE activity targeting GOSL VIPs in the southern part of the country was noted. The STF Director of Training was killed in a claymore mine attack not far from his home in Kandy on the 6 August, and a senior EPDP member survived a bomb attack in central Colombo, but his driver and two bystanders, were killed on the 8 August. The Deputy Secretary General of SCOPP was assassinated in his home in Colombo on the 12 Aug - the anniversary of the killing of the late Foreign Minister, and on the 14 August there was a Claymore attack targeting the Pakistani High Commissionaire’s convoy and killing seven people.” (Geneva Report 29 May – 31 August) [22h] (Section 2)
- 3.43 [On 13 August 2006] “The LTTE alleges that 15 civilians are killed as rockets and artillery shells fired by SFs [Sri Lankan forces] hit a church in the Allaipiddy area of Jaffna district. It also alleges that seven more civilians are killed in a separate artillery fire by the SFs...[On 15 August 2006] The Sri Lankan Military said that at least 250 LTTE cadres are killed and another 300 injured in continued fighting in the Jaffna peninsula during the past 72 hours...[On 16 August 2006] Troops kill at least 98 LTTE cadres in retaliation when the latter attacked the FDL in Kilaly area of Jaffna district. The SLA has reported that three soldiers are also killed and 15 others wounded in the incident...President Mahinda Rajapakse states that the Government is not engaged in a war and forces are retaliating against the LTTE offensive to safeguard the sovereignty of the country.” (SATP Sri Lanka Timeline –Year 2006) [37c]
- 3.44 [On 25 August 2006] “At least 31 persons are killed and 105 are wounded, when troops backed by multi-barrel rocket launchers and artillery guns, retaliate [sic] a LTTE attack at Sampur in the Trincomalee district...[On the following day] At least 66 cadres of the LTTE and 13 SF personnel are killed in

continued fighting between troops and the LTTE cadres in the Trincomalee district till last reports came in...The SLMM formally accuses the SFs of being behind the execution-style murders of 17 local staff of French aid agency, Action Contre La Faim. It blames that [sic] Sri Lankan authorities obstructed their efforts to investigate. The SLMM also accuses LTTE for the June 15 attack of a civilian bus at Kabitigollewa in the Anuradhapura district...[On 31 August 2006] it was reported that] 119 LTTE cadres and 14 soldiers are killed in the continued fighting between SFs and the outfit since August 28 in Trincomalee district.” (SATP Sri Lanka Timeline –Year 2006) [37c]

- 3.45 As recorded in Keesing’s Records of World Events, September 2006 – Sri Lanka, “Intense fighting between the Sri Lankan Army (SLA) and the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) continued throughout the month, leaving the 2002 ceasefire in tatters.” [23h]
- 3.46 [On 1-2 September 2006] “The Sri Lankan military said it has sunk 12 boats of the LTTE and killed 80 of its cadres in a sea battle off the northern Jaffna peninsula in a retaliatory action as 20 LTTE boats, including five suicide boats laden with explosives, had attacked a patrol near the Kankasanturai harbour...[On 4 September 2006] The Sri Lankan military claims that it had taken control of the strategically crucial town of Sampur in the Trincomalee district. The military backed by air support had launched an offensive to take control of Sampur over a week ago to halt attacks by the LTTE on the strategic port of Trincomalee harbour and the naval base... [On 6 September 2006] Heavy fighting erupts between LTTE and its breakaway faction led by ‘Colonel’ Karuna in the jungles in the Kanchankudi area of Ampara district in which six LTTE camps, including the Kanchikudichchuaru, Pavata and 73 Camp, are overrun by hundreds of Karuna cadres. However, the LTTE blames SFs for the incident...The Sri Lankan Navy and Air Force in a coordinated attack on September 17 sank an [sic] suspected LTTE ship carrying weapons in the sea off Kalmunai in the Batticaloa district. Unconfirmed reports suggest that 12 to 15 LTTE cadres were on board the ship, when it sank...[On 18 September 2006] At least 11 civilians, belonging to the Muslim community, are killed at Pottuvil town in the Amparai district. Both the LTTE and Sri Lankan Army accuse each other of being involved in the killing.” (SATP Sri Lanka Timeline –Year 2006) [37c]
- 3.47 On 25 September 2006, BBC News reported that the Sri Lankan navy had said it had attacked 25 Tamil Tiger rebel boats off the eastern coast of the country, killing up to 70 separatists. [9fp]
- 3.48 As reported by BBC News on 28 September 2006:
- “At least 200 civilians have died in two months of intense fighting between Sri Lankan troops and Tamil Tiger rebels, ceasefire monitors say. Both the government and rebels have openly violated a 2002 ceasefire agreement, said monitoring mission head Maj Gen Lars Johan Solvberg. The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) also accused both sides of hampering the work of aid agencies and monitors. Correspondents say the ceasefire now seems to exist only on paper. The monitors also said that intense fighting had led to several thousand people being internally displaced, ‘creating a serious humanitarian crisis in the eastern and northern part of Sri Lanka’...The SLMM said its movement had been ‘severely and continuously restricted both in the Jaffna peninsula as well as in the Vanni area.’ [9a]

See also Annex A and B

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4. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

4.01 As recorded in Keesing's Records of World Events, October 2006 – Sri Lanka:

"Both sides accused each other of starting an offensive on Oct. 11 on the ceasefire line at Muhamalai, on the Jaffna peninsula, but analysts said that government forces had made a badly planned attack. The Sri Lankan Army (SLA) admitted losing 129 soldiers killed and 283 wounded in the fighting, but claimed to have killed about 200 LTTE fighters, although the Tamil Tigers admitted losing only 22 dead...Suspected LTTE suicide bombers on Oct. 16 [2006] rammed a truck full of explosives into a convoy of coaches at a military transit camp, killing 99 people, mostly naval personnel...The LTTE on Oct. 18 demonstrated their reach by striking for the first time since 1997 at the tourist resort of Galle, at the southern tip of Sri Lanka. Five Sea Tiger boats disguised as trawlers entered Galle's harbour in an attempt to attack its Dakshina naval base. Three rebel boats were blown up in the water but the other two landed rebel fighters who engaged onshore naval forces in a gun-battle. All 15 Tamil Tigers on the boats were thought to have been killed, whilst the navy admitted that one sailor was dead and two were missing. After reports of looting of Tamil-owned shops in Galle by gangs of majority Sinhalese a curfew was imposed upon the town. The navy claimed that on Oct. 20 it intercepted 15 Sea Tiger boats off the village of Nagarkovil, on the Jaffna peninsula, sinking two boats and killing at least 20 rebels. It was estimated that at least 3,000 people had died in renewed fighting since the beginning of the year." [23i]

4.02 "Peace talks held on Oct. 28-29 [2006] between government negotiators and the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Geneva, Switzerland, ended without any agreement between the parties. Both sides promised to abide by the terms of the 2002 ceasefire agreement, despite at least seven months of escalating violence since the last round of peace talks in February [2006]...The LTTE negotiators, who accused the government of pursuing a military strategy to end the conflict, were willing to set a date for another round of talks, but on condition that the government reopened the A9 highway into the Jaffna peninsula, where about 600,000 people had been cut off by the fighting since August." (Keesing's Records of World Events, October 2006 – Sri Lanka) [23i]

4.03 On 30 October 2006 BBC News reported that heavy artillery shelling between the Sri Lankan forces and the Tamil Tiger rebels had resumed in northern Jaffna peninsula, just a day after peace talks failed over the issue of the main A9 highway. The government had rejected the rebels' demands to re-open the road, saying the Tigers wanted access to the area of Jaffna simply to levy taxes." [9g]

4.04 As recorded in Keesing's Records of World Events, November 2006 – Sri Lanka:

“Fighting continued both in the country’s northern districts, including the Jaffna peninsula, and eastern districts around the coastal towns of Trincomalee and Batticaloa. There was an escalation of fighting in the east, where the government on Nov. 1 [2006] mounted an offensive against LTTE positions in districts around Batticaloa. According to the LTTE an SLA artillery barrage on Nov. 8 killed at least 45 civilians and injured 125 at a school in the coastal village of Kathiraveli [near Vaharai], in the Batticaloa area, where some 5,000 people displaced by the fighting were sheltering. The government said that the army was replying to heavy rebel shelling and that the Tigers were using civilians as human shields. The Red Cross said that its staff had seen at least 18 bodies, and doctors at nearby hospitals put the death toll as high as 65...The LTTE claimed on Nov. 21 that government air strikes had hit two hospitals on the Jaffna peninsula, but gave no casualty figures... In a naval battle on Nov. 9 off the Jaffna peninsula between Sri Lankan Navy (SLN) attack boats and Sea Tigers’ gunboats the LTTE claimed to have sunk at least one SLN vessel, captured two others, and killed 26 sailors, for the loss of five of its own personnel. The SLN claimed to have sunk two Sea Tiger boats in another battle on Nov. 10 off the port of Trincomalee. “[23j]

- 4.05 “Prominent Tamil legislator Nadarajah Raviraj, a former mayor of Jaffna city, was shot dead on Nov. 10 in Colombo by gunmen on a motorcycle. Raviraj was an MP for the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), a group of small parties acting as the unofficial political representatives of the LTTE in the legislature. He was an outspoken campaigner against extra-judicial killings and other human rights abuses for which the security forces were held responsible, but he had also recently criticised the LTTE leadership.” (**Keesing’s Records of World Events, November 2006 – Sri Lanka**) [23j] As reported by the *Daily Mirror* on 11 November 2006, during the previous few months, Raviraj had participated in the Civil Monitoring Committee (CMC), working with Mano Ganesan and others to monitor extra judicial killings, abductions and disappearances mainly in Colombo. On the day before the attack he had taken part in a TNA protest campaign condemning the killing of civilians in Vakarai and in a live TV interview where he had spoken on the rights of Tamils.” [11c]
- 4.06 “In his annual ‘Heroes’ Day’ speech on Nov. 27 Velupillai Prabhakaran (also rendered Pirapaharan), the leader of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), said that the Sri Lankan government led by President Mahinda Rajapakse had embraced a policy of military aggression in order to occupy Tamil land, effectively rendering the 2002 ceasefire agreement defunct... Prabhakaran’s speech effectively recognised that the 2002 ceasefire and the process of Norwegian-mediated negotiations had effectively broken down.” (**Keesing’s Records of World Events, November 2006 – Sri Lanka**) [23j]
- 4.07 As reported by Reliefweb (quoting AFP) on 29 November 2006:
- “The Tamil Tigers have renewed a campaign to partition Sri Lanka, but the guerrillas already have a surreal separate ‘state’ of their own. Tigers’ supremo, Velupillai Prabhakaran, in his annual policy speech on Monday [27 November 2006], wrote off four years of peace talks and said he had no option but to resume a campaign for full independence in this majority-Sinhalese nation. But the Tigers already run their own civil administration, courts and police in large swathes of land in the island’s northeast and have ‘customs’ and ‘visa’ formalities for people crossing de facto front lines... They have a bank, but no currency. They use Sri Lankan cash and have even threatened to print their

own money unless the Central Bank of Sri Lanka improves its monetary policy to make the rupee stronger. The Tigers collect 'taxes' from minority Tamils in areas under their control as well as those outside and even abroad, and boast that compliance is 100 percent. International rights groups, however, have accused them of extortion...Although the guerrillas boast of a parallel administration, it cannot survive without the Sri Lankan state, said former Tamil militant-turned-politician Dharmalingam Sithadthan. Doctors, teachers and all other public servants working in areas under rebel control are paid by the Sri Lankan government but must take orders from the local Tiger area commanders." [31c]

4.08 On 1 December 2006 BBC News reported that President Mahinda Rajapakse's brother had escaped a suspected suicide bomb attack in Colombo and that the government had blamed Tamil Tiger rebels for the explosion, which killed at least one person and hurt 14 others. [9k]

4.09 As reported by BBC News on 6 December 2006:

"Sri Lanka's cabinet has announced sweeping anti-terror measures after months of worsening violence between security forces and Tamil Tiger rebels. Ministers stopped short of banning the rebels but tightened existing emergency laws which have been dormant since a 2002 ceasefire that is now in shreds. Security forces will have wide-ranging powers to search, arrest and question...The government said the far-reaching measures, which do not mention the Tamil Tigers by name, would take effect immediately...Sri Lanka's government lifted its ban on the Tamil Tigers ahead of the [2002] ceasefire deal and peace talks brokered by Norway. The old Prevention of Terrorism Act was effectively suspended following the truce." [9o]

See also section 12

4.10 "[On 5 December 2006] Sri Lankan troops kill at least 16 LTTE cadres in the Vaharai region of Batticaloa district. Two soldiers are reported to have died in the incident...[On 10 December 2006] At least 19 civilians are killed and 25 others sustain injuries when SLA personnel fire artillery shells at Kandalady Government School in the Vaharai area of Batticaloa district. At least 12 soldiers are killed and 51 others sustain injuries when the LTTE cadres directed heavy artillery and mortars towards Kaddimuravikulam, Kadjuwatta, Kirimichchiya and Madurankerni in the Batticaloa district. A Sri Lankan military spokesperson said that a large number of LTTE cadres are also killed and many more are reportedly injured when the troops retaliated. [On 11 December 2006] Government troops clashed with the LTTE in the Eastern province leaving at least 24 soldiers dead and 69 injured." (SATP Sri Lanka Timeline –Year 2006) [37c]

4.11 Incidents of violence and fighting were reported throughout January and February 2007. "[On 5 January 2007] At least six passengers are killed and 63 are wounded in a bomb blast inside a bus bound for Giriulla from Nittambuwa in the Gampaha district. The Government blames the LTTE for the attack. [On the following day] At least 16 persons are killed and 40 injured as a second explosion occurred in a bus in a span of less than 24 hours in the Galle district, over 80 km from the national capital Colombo. The Government blamed the LTTE for the attack...[On 9 January 2007] Armed men ambushed two camps belonging to the breakaway faction of the LTTE led by 'Colonel'

Karuna at Valachchenai in the Batticaloa district, killing several cadres of the Karuna faction. The LTTE claims that unidentified assailants killed at least 10 members of the breakaway Karuna faction and wounded four more in the ambush. An official at the Defence Ministry in Colombo confirmed the attacks, but said only two Karuna group cadres died and that two were wounded...[On 10 January 2007] Troops confront[ed] a concentration of the LTTE cadres in the Kondagalchena area of Batticaloa district and killed at least 10 cadres of the outfit after overpowering them...[On the same day] Troops kill eight LTTE cadres in the Korakallimadu area of Batticaloa district.”(SATP Sri Lanka Timeline – Year 2007) [37d]

- 4.12 On 16 January 2007, BBC News reported that: “At least nine soldiers and two policemen have been killed in fresh violence in Sri Lanka, military officials said on Tuesday. The pro-rebel Tamilnet web site quoted a Tamil Tiger spokesman as saying that 12 of their fighters have been killed...The army says that 30 Tigers have been killed and many more injured in the fighting in the east.” [9w] On 19 January 2007 BBC News reported that “The Sri Lankan military says troops have captured a key Tamil Tiger stronghold in the east of the country. Thousands of Tamil civilians are fleeing the town of Vakarai, which has been the focus of heavy fighting for several weeks...In recent months the government has been stepping up military activity in the east, aiming to seize pockets of territory held by the Tigers.” [9v]
- 4.13 “[On 21 January 2007] Troops advancing further captured the area from Verugal to Mavil Aru and Sinhapura, west of Vakarai and capture a number of LTTE camps in the area. Troops also found 22 dead bodies of the outfit’s cadres scattered in the area. SFs [security forces] confronted a group of about 75 LTTE cadres who were attempting to escape towards Toppigala from the Vakarai area in Batticaloa district. Official sources confirm that at least 18 LTTE cadres are killed and a large number sustain injuries in the incident. A fierce sea clash broke out after about 20 LTTE boats attack a cargo ship. Navy ships backed by air fire destroyed three of the LTTE boats, killing at least six of the outfit’s cadres...[On 31 January 2007] Eleven security personnel and a civilian were killed and 13 others are injured [sic] when cadres of the LTTE detonate a claymore mine at Vandaramoolai in the Batticaloa district.” (SATP Sri Lanka Timeline – Year 2007) [37d]
- 4.14 As reported on the Official Government News Portal of Sri Lanka on 28 January 2007:
- “The new Cabinet of Ministers took oaths this morning before President Mahinda Rajapaksa. This is the first major cabinet reshuffle of the United Peoples Freedom Alliance (UPFA) government. Several members of the main opposition United National Party (UNP) and the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) led by Rauff Hakeem also joined the government...Mr Ratnasiri Wickremanayake retains his Prime Minister post in the reshuffle. Mr Rohitha Bogollagama has been appointed new Foreign Minister. Mr Anura Priyadarshana Yapa will continue as Minister of Mass Media and Information. Mr Mangala Samaraweera [who also was Foreign Minister] retains Port Development and Aviation portfolio.” [10d] On the same day BBC Sinhala reported that “Over 20 members of Sri Lanka’s opposition parties have defected to the government cementing the parliamentary majority of President Mahinda Rajapaksa’s administration...Thirty three Non-cabinet ministers and nineteen deputy ministers were also sworn in before the President on Sunday.

With the latest reshuffle, 104 members of the 225-member parliament are ministers and deputy ministers.” [9z] The current list of Government ministers can be accessed from the official website of the Government of Sri Lanka. [44a]

- 4.15 “[On 12 February 2007] The Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) successfully repulsed an LTTE attack on a naval patrol and killed over eight LTTE cadres in the South coast off Poduwakkattu at Trincomalee...[On 27 February 2007] SLN [Sri Lankan Navy] personnel sank two LTTE boats in the North off Pulmoddai coast and killed at least 16 LTTE cadres on February 27. Two SLN personnel were injured in the confrontation...[On the following day] SLN blew up an unidentified arms-smuggling ship and killed about 12 of its crew off southern Sri Lanka.” (SATP Sri Lanka Timeline – Year 2007) [37d]
- 4.16 As noted in a press release issued by the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) on 22 February 2007 for the fifth anniversary of the Ceasefire Agreement:
- “Nearly 4000 people have lost their lives in incidents connected to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka during the past 15 months. A large number of persons have been seriously injured, and thousands of families have been fleeing from areas of fighting. In contrast, during the three previous years less than 130 deaths related to the conflict were recorded. In the pursuit of a negotiated solution to the conflict, the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) signed a Ceasefire Agreement on 22 February 2002. The Parties committed themselves to refrain from conduct that would undermine the spirit of the agreement...Following the Agreement, a considerable reduction of violence was reached, particularly welcomed by the families in the North and the East who had lived for two decades in areas ravaged by war. At the time of the five-year milestone, however; abductions, harassments, killings, shelling and air strikes are taking place at a war like level.” [22a]
- 4.17 During March 2007 there were also numerous reports of violence and fighting. “[On 4 March 2007] Two SLA personnel and an officer of the intelligence unit were killed in a claymore mine attack targeting the vehicle carrying them, near Kothiyaladi between Maruthanamadam junction and Chunnakam in the Jaffna district...[On 8 March 2007] During confrontations between SFs and LTTE cadres, ten outfit cadres were reported killed and seventeen others sustained injuries in the Thoppigala region of Batticaloa district...[On 8 March 2007] Anti-insurgency commandos overran a LTTE base in the Ampara district, killing at least 20 outfit cadres. Three commandos were killed and 12 others sustained injuries during the operation. Eight persons, including two senior Army officers, two soldiers, warden for Wilpattu National Park, three wildlife rangers were ambushed and killed by LTTE cadres in the Anuradhapura district.” (SATP Sri Lanka Timeline – Year 2007) [37d] On 11 March 2007 BBC News reported that the defence ministry had said that soldiers had recovered the bodies of 14 Tamil Tigers after a battle in the east of the country. “There has been escalating fighting as government forces try to drive the rebels from pockets they still control.” [9u]
- 4.18 As reported by BBC News on 21 March 2007:

“At least 12 people have been killed in fighting between Sri Lankan troops and Tamil Tiger rebels in eastern Batticaloa district, the military says. Analysts say the island is sliding back towards full-scale civil war, although a ceasefire remains nominally in force. The rebels and the government agreed the truce five years ago but more than 4,000 people have been killed since fighting flared up again in late 2005. Wednesday's fighting around an army camp at Sittandy near Batticaloa was the heaviest fighting for several months, military officials said.” [9s]

- 4.19 “[On 22 March 2007] Thirteen LTTE cadres were killed in three separate confrontations with the security forces in the Northern Province, the defence ministry said. [On 23 March 2007] At least twenty LTTE cadres and nine soldiers were killed in a clash between SFs and outfit cadres in the Mannar district near Vavuniya border. The battle marked the opening of a new front in escalating hostilities between soldiers and the outfit cadres in the Northwest, as fighting had previously been concentrated in Northern and Eastern districts...[On 26 March 2007] Two persons were killed when a suspected LTTE suicide bomber blew himself up at a military check point in Jaffna. The man was killed along with the soldier who tried to search him near a Hindu temple...[On 26 March 2007] The LTTE carried out their first ever air attack on the main Sri Lankan Air Force base in Katunayake, killing three air force personnel and injuring another seventeen at 12:45 am on, the military said. A light wing aircraft manned by the outfit dropped two bombs near the engineering section of the base. There were no damages to the fighter jets. [On 27 March 2007] The LTTE carried out a suicide attack targeting the Army main base at Chenkalady in the Batticaloa district against. Three members of the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP), identified as Carthic, Chandru and Vicky, a 12-year-old boy Navarathnam two security force (SF) personnel were killed in the explosion. Five civilians, two Army soldiers and two Policemen were injured.” (SATP Sri Lanka Timeline – Year 2007) [37d]
- 4.20 On 29 March 2007 BBC News reported that “Sri Lankan navy troops have sunk three Tamil Tiger boats off the island's north-east coast, killing at least 15 rebels, the military says. Officials said the navy fought a three-hour battle with 10 rebel boats. They said one navy sailor was wounded in the clash, which took place about 60 nautical miles from Trincomalee. The incident came a day after Sri Lankan troops said they had driven Tamil Tiger rebels from a major base in the east of the island.” [9t]

See also Annex A, B, E and F

USEFUL SOURCES

- 4.21 A list of some selected key sources of information on Sri Lanka is provided below, together with weblinks. These sources may be useful if additional up to date information is urgently required to supplement the material in this COI Report. For the full list of sources contained in this COI Report, please refer to Annex H – References to source material.

Alert Net <http://www.alertnet.org/db/cp/srilanka.htm>

Amnesty International <http://web.amnesty.org/library/eng-lka/index>

BBC News	http://newssearch.bbc.co.uk/cgi-bin/search/results.pl?scope=newsukfs&tab=news&q=sri+lanka&go.x=32&go.y=8
BBC Sinhala	http://www.bbc.co.uk/sinhala/
Daily Mirror	http://www.dailymirror.lk/
European Country of Origin Information Network	http://www.ecoi.net/index.php?countrychooser_country=190162%3A%3ASri%20Lanka&step=1&command=showcountryhome
Free Media Sri Lanka	http://www.freemediasrilanka.org/
Human Rights Watch	http://www.hrw.org/doc?t=asia&c=slanka
IRIN News Sri Lanka	http://www.irinnews.org/Asia-Country.aspx?Country=LK
Peace in Sri Lanka (The Official website of the Government Secretariat for Co-ordinating the Peace Process – SCOPP)	http://www.peaceinsrilanka.org/
The Official Government News Portal of Sri Lanka	http://www.news.lk/
The Official Website of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	http://www.priu.gov.lk/
Relief Web	http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc104?OpenForm&rc=3&cc=lka
South Asia Terrorism Portal	http://www.satp.org/satporgrp/countries/shrilanka/databases/index.html
Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission	http://www.slmm.lk/
Asian Human Rights Commission	http://www.srilankahr.net/index.php
The Lanka Academic	http://www.theacademic.org/
UNHCR Sri Lanka	http://www.unhcr.lk/
UNICEF Sri Lanka	http://www.unicef.org/srilanka/

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5. CONSTITUTION

- 5.01 As stated in the Europa World Yearbook 2004, Volume II, the Constitution was promulgated on 7 September 1978. It guarantees the fundamental rights and freedoms of all citizens, including freedom of thought, conscience and worship and equal entitlement before the law. Buddhism has the foremost place among religions and the State has a duty to protect and foster Buddhism. Sinhala and Tamil are the two official languages. [1a] (p3949)
- 5.02 “In 1982 the Constitution was amended, allowing the President to call a presidential election before his/her first term of office was completed. In 1983 the Constitution was further amended to include a ‘no-separation’ clause, making any division of Sri Lanka illegal, and any advocates of separatism liable to lose their civic rights.” (Europa World Online, Sri Lanka: Government) [1b]
- 5.03 The Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution was published as a Supplement to Part II of the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka of October 5, 2000. It introduced the Constitutional Council; the Public Service Commission; the Election Commission; the Judicial Service Commission and the National Police Commission. (The official website of the Government of Sri Lanka, The Constitution) [44i] For the full text of the Constitution and of the Seventeenth Amendment:
<http://www.priu.gov.lk/Cons/1978Constitution/Introduction.htm> [44i]

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6. POLITICAL SYSTEM

- 6.01 “A presidential form of government was adopted in October 1977 and confirmed in the Constitution of September 1978. The Constitution provides for a unicameral Parliament as the supreme legislative body, its members being elected by a system of modified proportional representation. Executive powers are vested in the President, who is Head of State. The President is directly elected for a term of six years and is not accountable to Parliament. The President has the power to appoint or dismiss the Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet; may assume any portfolio; and is empowered to dismiss Parliament...Sri Lanka comprises nine provinces and 25 administrative districts, each with an appointed Governor and elected Development Council. In November 1987 a constitutional amendment was adopted, providing for the creation of eight provincial councils (the northern and eastern provinces were to be merged as one administrative unit). A network of 68 Pradeshiya Sabhas (district councils) was inaugurated throughout the country in January 1988.” (Europa World Online, Sri Lanka: Government) [1b] Head of State: President Mahinda Rajapakse. Head of Government: Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickremanayake. Last election: Presidential, 17 November 2005. Next election: Legislative, due by December 2007. (Europa World Online, Sri Lanka) [1b]

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Human Rights

7. INTRODUCTION

- 7.01 As noted in the US State Department Report 2006 (USSD), Sri Lanka, released on 6 March 2007:

“The government's respect for the human rights of its citizens declined due in part to the breakdown of the CFA [ceasefire agreement]. Credible sources reported human rights problems, including unlawful killings by government agents, high profile killings by unknown perpetrators, politically motivated killings by paramilitary forces associated with the government and the LTTE, and disappearances. Human rights monitors also reported arbitrary arrests and detention, poor prison conditions, denial of fair public trial, government corruption and lack of transparency, infringement of religious freedom, infringement of freedom of movement, and discrimination against minorities. There were numerous reports that armed paramilitary groups linked to government security forces participated in armed attacks, some against civilians. Following the December 1 [2006] LTTE attempt to assassinate Defense Secretary Gothabaya Rajapaksa, the government strengthened emergency regulations that broadened security forces' powers in the arrest without warrant and non-accountable detention of civilians for up to 12 months. The LTTE continued to control large sections of the north and east and engaged in politically motivated killings; suicide attacks; disappearances; torture; arbitrary arrest and detention; denial of fair public trial; arbitrary interference with privacy; denial of freedom of speech, press, and of assembly and association; and the recruitment of child soldiers.” [2c] (Introduction)

- 7.02 The Human Rights Watch (HRW), World Report 2007, Sri Lanka, January 2007 noted that:

“In 2006 the Sri Lankan government and the armed opposition Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) both undertook major military operations for the first time since agreeing to a ceasefire in 2002. The fighting resulted in a dramatic increase in serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law and massive displacements of the largely Tamil and Muslim populations in the embattled north and east of the country...In the latter half of the year, government security forces and associated armed groups, as well as the LTTE, were implicated in dozens of killings and ‘disappearances’ of Tamils in the north and east, and in Colombo. Impunity prevailed as government investigations of serious abuses produced no successful prosecutions.” [21b]

- 7.03 The Human Rights Watch (HRW) report entitled ‘Improving Civilian Protection in Sri Lanka’, released on 19 September 2006 stated that:

“The resumption of major military operations between the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) since April 2006 has placed civilians at greater risk than at any time since the signing of the 2002 ceasefire agreement. Violations of international humanitarian law, including indiscriminate attacks and summary executions, have resulted in numerous preventable civilian deaths and injuries. Humanitarian aid is not reaching those at risk. Neither the government nor the LTTE has ensured that humanitarian relief is going to the hundreds of thousands of people who have

been forced to flee their homes or otherwise require assistance. Aid workers have been targets of attack, threatening an exodus by international humanitarian organizations. The human rights abuses that characterized the ceasefire period — politically motivated assassinations and ‘disappearances’ — have become more frequent. And rising communal violence between Tamils, Sinhalese and Muslims has been exploited rather than dampened by the government and the LTTE. Impunity for even the most serious crimes remains the norm.” [21p] (Introduction)

- 7.04 As noted in the Amnesty International report of February 2006 entitled ‘Sri Lanka – A climate of fear in the East’:

“The human rights situation in eastern Sri Lanka has deteriorated dramatically over the last two years, as levels of violence have escalated, resulting in widespread human rights abuses and a climate of fear and insecurity. Ever since the signing of the 2002 ceasefire agreement (CFA) between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) there have been large numbers of reported ceasefire breaches, including armed ambushes, abductions and intimidation, as well as human rights abuses under international law, such as politically motivated killings, torture and the recruitment of children as soldiers. Although such ceasefire breaches and human rights abuses have been regularly reported since the signing of the CFA in 2002, since February 2005 they have escalated in number and are now taking place on an unprecedented scale. While all communities are affected, the majority of the violence has been against Tamils.” [3m] (Introduction)

8. SECURITY FORCES

- 8.01 The security forces comprise the 66,000-member police force (which included the 6,000-strong paramilitary Special Task Force) (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 1d); the 151,000-strong armed forces, and paramilitary forces of around 88,600 (including 13,000 Home Guard, an estimated 15,000 National Guard and a 3,000-strong anti-guerrilla unit). (Europa World Online, Defence) [1b]

POLICE

- 8.02 As noted in the USSD 2006:

“Following the November 2005 presidential election, the government eliminated the Ministry of Internal Security and placed control of the 66,000-member police force, which included the 6,000-strong paramilitary Special Task Force, under the Ministry of Defense. Senior officials in the police force handled complaints against the police, as did the civilian-staffed National Police Commission (NPC). Few police officers serving in Tamil majority areas were Tamil and generally did not speak Tamil or English. Impunity, particularly for cases of police torture and disappearances of civilians within high security zones, was a severe problem. Several NGOs claimed that corruption was also a problem in the police force.” [2c] (Section 1d)

- 8.03 “The NPC, composed entirely of civilians, was authorized to appoint, promote, transfer, discipline, and dismiss all police officers, except for the inspector general of police. The NPC also has the power to establish procedures to

investigate public complaints against the police. In practice, however, the NPC devolved responsibility for discipline of less senior police officers to the inspector. In November 2005 the three-year term of the NPC lapsed, and by year's end, the government had not appointed new commissioners to the NPC." (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 1d)

8.04 "In the majority of cases in which security force personnel may have committed human rights abuses, the government had not identified those responsible or brought them to justice. Human rights organizations noted that some judges were hesitant to convict on cases of torture because of a seven-year mandatory sentence for committing torture." (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 1d)

8.05 As noted in the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on his Mission to Sri Lanka (28 November to 6 December 2005), published on 27 March 2006:

"Significant levels of police brutality and impunity were reported to me by a wide range of sources. The underlying causes are not difficult to discern. In the course of more than three decades of civil strife and violence, the police force has been transformed into a counter insurgency force. More than two thirds of today's police officers belong to the 'reserve' rather than the regular force and most of these have never received significant training in criminal detection and investigation... To make matters worse, police operations during the armed conflict were subject to 'emergency' legislation that permitted prolonged detention without habeas corpus, the admission into evidence of confessions which would be inadmissible under the ordinary law of evidence, and the disposal of the bodies of persons killed by the armed forces or the police without a formal inquest. It is regrettable that many of these provisions are now back in force in emergency regulations promulgated since the assassination of Foreign Minister Kadirgamar. Today, too many police officers are accustomed to 'investigating' by forcibly extracting confessions and to operating without meaningful disciplinary procedures or judicial review." [6x] (Paragraph 50)

8.06 As reported by BBC Sinhala on 9 October 2006:

"The judiciary in Sri Lanka has ordered the police authorities to invalidate appointments offered to those accused of human rights violations. The Appeals Court ruled that a circular issued by Inspector General of Police (IGP) promoting suspended officers was null and void. The officers suspended as they were accused of human rights violations during the 'era of terror' in late 80s. The circular was issued in January 2001 by then Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Victor Perera on behalf of the IGP. Victor Perera was appointed as the new IGP by President Mahinda Rajapaksa last week. Appeals Court judge S Sriskandharajah issued the ruling after considering a petition by the relatives of those disappeared during late 80s. The court ruled that the circular was contradictory to the promotions code." [9n]

8.07 As recorded on the website of the Sri Lanka Police Service:

"The Special Task Force is the Para military arm of the Sri Lanka Police, deployed essentially for counter Terrorist and Counter Insurgency operations within the country. They are also deployed in the close protection Units providing security for VVIP's [sic] and at Key Installations... The nucleus of the Special Task Force (STF) was formed in 1983, drawing on Policemen already

in service and having them trained by the Army in the handling of Infantry weapons and given basic training in 'jungle operations'. The first few Platoons formed were deployed mainly to provide support for Police Station [sic] in the North of Sri Lanka... As the STF grew in numbers, they took on the added responsibilities of providing protection to Key Installations in the Colombo District and providing personnel for the protection of the President, Prime Minister and several Ministers of the Cabinet." [7]

- 8.08 In addition to the Special Task Force, police divisions include: Mounted Police; Traffic Police; Human Rights Division; Women & Child Bureau; Police Narcotics Bureau and Tourist Police. The Inspector General of Police (IGP) controls both the Functional Command and the Territorial Command. (**Website of the Sri Lanka Police Service Special Information, accessed on 13 September 2006**) [7]
- 8.09 As recorded in Jane's Sentinel Security Assessments, Country profile - At a glance, Sri Lanka, 3 November 2006:
- "Policemen are poorly paid and susceptible to corruption at lower levels. Senior police officials are recruited more on a basis of class than ability. (Sri Lanka is a highly class-conscious society.) Human rights organisations have been highly critical of the Sri Lankan police, whose rapid expansion and poor training have contributed to lack of professionalism... Policing is conducted through over 300 police stations located throughout the country. Police stations are graded into six categories and are under the charge of officers in the rank of chief inspectors, inspectors and sub-inspectors, depending on the grade of the station. Police stations are further grouped into 132 territorial districts, each under the charge of a superintendent/assistant superintendent of police. These districts are in turn grouped into 35 police divisions. Each division is under the charge of a senior superintendent of police/superintendent of police." [5a] (**Security and foreign forces, 18 January 2006**)
- 8.10 "The Sri Lankan police recruits personnel directly at three levels - probationary assistant superintendent of police, probationary sub-inspector of police, and police constable. There is little if any chance of promotion from constable to senior rank. A six-month training programme is intended to impart traditional police skills as well as providing instruction in the role of the police in the community and the criminal justice system. Induction training includes: origin and nature of police work; general police responsibilities; elements of organisation and administration; ethics; operations and patrol systems (techniques, tactics and patrol), and the handling of public disorder. The US is increasingly involved in the police training process and in September 2004 provided further funding and assistance for programmes." [5a] (**Security and foreign forces, 18 January 2006**)
- 8.11 "The 'Tamil Eelam Police', with its headquarters at Kilinochchi was formed in [the] year 1993, and reportedly has several wings, including traffic, crime prevention, crime detection, information bureau, administration and a special force. LTTE cadres collect taxes, its courts administer their version of justice and the entire law and order machinery is LTTE-controlled." (**South Asia Terrorism Portal, Terrorist Groups, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)**) [37a]

Arbitrary arrest and detention

- 8.12 As noted in the USSD 2006:

“The law prohibits arbitrary arrest and detention; however, such incidents occurred. There were 528 arrests while the emergency regulations were active. [However, as noted in Section 1c of the USSD 2006, 288 of those arrested were released within 12 hours]. The government stated that most of those arrested were released within a few days. In December [2006] in a reaction to the December 1 LTTE attempt to assassinate the defense secretary, the government reinstated certain provisions of the pre-CFA Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) as an additional emergency regulation. This gives security forces broader arrest and detention prerogatives than previously allowed.” [2c] (Section 1d)

8.13 The USSD 2005 reported that “[In 2005] There were 1,798 arrests while the emergency regulations were active. The government stated that most of those arrested were released within a few days. [However, Section 1c of the USSD 2005 reported that 1,236 of those arrested were released within 12 hours].” [2g] (Section 1d)

8.14 A letter from the BHC Colombo dated 26 September 2005 noted that:

“One of our political officers and I have spoken to several NGOs to discuss the Emergency Regulations. The Western Province Peoples Front (WPPF, a political party representing Tamils in Colombo which has 1 MP in alliance with the United National Party) said that there was serious harassment of Tamils. They had documented over 500 detentions under the regulations and the reintroduction of House Registration (used to track the identity of individual members of houses) which had been suspended since 2002. They also linked the Emergency regulations to the abduction and murders of five Tamil civilians in Colombo...The Government (Marasinghe, Legal Director Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process) said that in the ‘chaos’ after the assassination of Kadirgamar some members of the Police had gone too far and had detained ‘everybody they could find’. However the situation was settling down and the ERs were aimed at finding the killers and not at suppressing legitimate political activity.” [15d]

Cordon and search operations

8.15 On 31 December 2005 the pro-LTTE website TamilNet reported that:

“Sri Lankan Military troopers and the Colombo Police have arrested 920 Tamils, including 105 Tamil women, in a joint cordon and search operation in Colombo between Friday midnight and Saturday noon, police said. The arrested were taken in busses to 8 different police stations and were being photographed, finger-printed and videoed by the Sri Lankan Intelligence agencies, informed sources said. The search operation was conducted in Tamil residential areas in Wellawatte, Bambalapitiya, Maradana, Kotahena, Grandpass and Mutuwal. Fifty three Tamils were detained after identity-registration in the operation code named ‘Strangers Night III,’ Police said...A number of Tamil persons were arrested during the search operations conducted in Colombo over the past weeks. Only five persons, from the earlier search operations were still in custody, the Police sources claimed.” [38u]

8.16 As mentioned in a letter from the British High Commission, Colombo to the Home Office dated 13 February 2006:

“The Sri Lankan authorities had launched a number of ‘cordon and search’ operations in recent weeks. Of these the largest, in Colombo on 31 December [2005], had been called Strangers Night III. About 1000 people had been arrested, most had been detained briefly, but released after fingerprinting or photographs had been taken. The HRC had summoned the Inspector General [of] Police, Defence Secretary, Attorney-General, the Police Deputy Inspector General in charge of the operation and the Deputy Inspector General in charge of the Criminal Investigation branch to explain the purpose of these operations. They had initially argued that the operations were aimed at ordinary criminals, but also caught some security suspects. The HRC disagreed, the ethnic balance of the suspects show it was a security operation i.e. most arrested were Tamil. The HRC reminded the police that they could not simply round up hundreds of suspects. If they were operating under normal law they must first demonstrate reasonable suspicion, they could not detain and then begin to investigate. If the arrests were part of a security operation (i.e. Prevention of Terrorism Act or the Emergency Regulations) then the police had to inform the HRC within 48 hours even if the suspect had been released in the interim.” [15c]

8.17 The Letter from the BHC Colombo of 13 February 2006 continued:

“The Attorney General told the HRC he concurred with this analysis and accepted there had been some lapses. He said that during the ceasefire the security forces had got out of practice of complying with Human Rights regulations as they had not been conducting security operations. More broadly the HRC said they did not oppose these type [sic] of operations, they were a necessary part of security. The Security Forces had an obligation to protect the state and its citizens, during the ceasefire the LTTE had abused the lower security presence to transport arms, ammunition and operatives to Colombo. The HRC described conditions of detention to me as ‘broadly OK’. Most terrorist suspects would be kept in Police stations or at the Terrorist Investigation Branch HQ away from other prisoners. There was no evidence of torture in any of the cases they had investigated since the current outbreak of violence.” [15c]

8.18 The letter from the BHC Colombo of February 2006 and a further letter dated 4 April 2006 provided some data from the HRC on arrests since the declaration of the state of emergency in August 2005. As of 8 February 2006, the overall figure for those still in detention was 87. Most detainees had been arrested by the police; 17 of them had been arrested by the army, the air force or the navy but, as of 8 February 2006, the overwhelming majority were in detention in police stations in various locations. [15g]

8.19 As mentioned in a letter from the British High Commission, Colombo, dated 7 July 2006, “There are no further HRC figures that we have been able to obtain. The Security Forces have issued detention orders 1 to 247 this year, suggesting that about 250 people have been detained under the emergency regulations, which were extended for another month on 6 July.” [15k]

8.20 A letter from the British High Commission in Colombo, dated 24 August 2006, noted that:

“The Sri Lankan authorities often require households in predominantly Tamil areas to register all residents. These lists are then used in cordon and search operations to identify people who the police consider need to give a fuller explanation of why they are residing or travelling in a location. Lists of failed asylum seekers could form part of this, although the areas covered by cordon and search operations (normally a few blocks) would not yield very many. Normally the police detain those who have not registered, for further questioning. After a big push in November and December 2005, when police registration forms were distributed throughout Colombo and which culminated in Operation Strangers Night II, the authorities have become more relaxed about this. In June [2006] there was public discussion about implementing police registration island wide as was done in the past, but nothing has come of this. Occasional cordon and search operations still take place, mainly where there are Tamil pockets in predominantly Sinhalese or Muslim areas. In July [2006] the government published large advertisements in the press reminding security officials of their responsibilities when they detain anyone. This is a partial response to complaints that those detained in cordon and search operations were not being treated according to the law.” [15h]

- 8.21 On 28 August 2006 the pro-LTTE website TamilNet reported that 76 Tamils, including eight women, had been arrested in Colombo and its suburbs during a combined search operation by Sri Lankan military troopers and police and that according to the police the arrested were being interrogated at different police stations in Colombo. “The search operations were conducted in police divisions of Borella, Kotahena Bambalapitiya, Kollupitya and Wellawatte, between noon and midnight.” [38d]
- 8.22 On 12 January 2007 the pro-LTTE website TamilNet reported that “Tamil civilians arrested by the Sri Lanka's forces under the newly introduced Prevention of Terrorism (PTA) Act are now sent to Boosa detention camp located in Galle in the south of the island due to lack of space in Colombo jails.” [38f]
- 8.23 On 13 January 2007, the pro-LTTE website TamilNet reported that:
- “Sri Lanka Security forces assisted by Police arrested 209 youths in Gampaha, 36 in Nittambuwa, 22 in Minuwangoda, and 7 in Borelesgamuwa Friday and Saturday during separate cordon and search operations, sources in Colombo said. Many were released after proving their identity, and others were detained for further questioning, sources said. Majority of the arrested youths are Tamils. Most of the youths are natives of Trincomalee, Killinochchi, Jaffna, Batticaloa, and Upcountry, and have been working in factories and other worksites in Sinhalese dominated areas, according to sources.” [38e] On 20 January 2007, the same source reported that 145 persons (majority of them Tamils) had been arrested during a combined cordon and search operation by the Sri Lanka army and police in the district of Puttalam in the north-west province.” [38g]
- 8.24 As reported by BBC Sinhala on 24 January 2007:
- “The President of Sri Lanka, Mahinda Rajapaksa, has ordered the police to take immediate steps to release detained Tamil youths of Indian origin. In a meeting held with union leaders of plantation workers, Mr. Rajapaksa has ordered the police to produce those accused of any wrongdoings before the

courts...Nearly 400 Tamils of Indian origin were arrested by the security forces during the last few weeks, Deputy Minister for Vocational Training Radhakrishnan told BBC Sandeshaya. 116 of those arrested - 108 boys and eight girls - have been sent to the 'infamous' military detention camp in Boossa, the minister said...Police authorities, meanwhile, accused the minister of 'exaggerating' the figures." [9e] As noted on the following day by the pro-LTTE website TamilNet "Of the 116 held in Boosa camp, inquiry against 74 suspects have been completed and 33 of them are expected to be released soon as no evidence has been found against them involving in any illegal activity, sources said." [38h]

8.25 On 4 February 2007, the pro-LTTE website TamilNet reported that:

"More than 300 persons, majority of them Tamils, were arrested during a combined cordon and search operation conducted by Sri Lanka security forces in Fort and Pettah areas in Colombo, [ahead of Independence Day celebrations] Sunday [4 February] morning. Police said the suspects were been [sic] arrested when they failed to prove their identities and the reasons for their presence in their location. These persons are being held in police stations and being interrogated. Also on Saturday [3 February 2007], 266 Tamils were arrested in Fort area in Colombo city. Of them about 70 are being detained in police station and the rest were released after inquiry, police said. They are being interrogated following the recovery of a claymore mine in a three-wheeler during the search operation at Maligawatte on Saturday, according to the police said." [38c]

8.26 On the following day the same source noted that:

"Government security forces in two-day cordon and search operations arrested more than six hundred Tamil civilians including about one hundred women, majority of them natives of North East. They were taken into custody allegedly for failing to prove their identity and reasons for their stay in Colombo. Majority of them were staying in lodges at that time of arrest, police said. Most of the arrested have been detained in about nine police stations in Colombo police division. They were produced in court Monday [5 February 2007] and police moved that they be sent to Boosa detention camp until the inquiry is completed. Police told court that some of the suspects had been involved in terrorist activities according to preliminary investigation conducted so far, sources said. Police said these suspects would be released only after intensive investigation." [38i]

8.27 A letter from the British High Commission in Colombo, dated 10 April 2007, noted that:

"There seems to be a link between large scale Cordon and Search Operations and the environment created by the ERs. We are not aware of the total number of arrests – many of whom are only detained briefly, but ICRC reports that about 900 people have been registered as detained for longer periods since September 2006 and have been visited by them. Our assessment of the profile of the detainees is similar to that reported in the media. They are overwhelmingly Male, Tamil (either Sri Lankan or Hill Tamil) and generally young. Most are detained because they unable to produce ID, or unable to explain the reason for being in a particular area. Migrant and casual workers

are therefore particularly vulnerable. Some of the largest Cordon and Search operations have taken place in the Hill Country near Nuwraya Eliya.” [15a]

8.28 The letter from the British High Commission dated 10 April 2007 continued:

“We spoke to a senior officer in Boosa detention centre who said that at 0930 on 10 April there were 110 people in security detention in Boosa. These are almost all Tamils (there are also 150, mainly Sinhalese, drug suspects in another part of Boosa) and the bulk are detained following Cordon and Search operations. The numbers have varied over the last few months between 100 and 150. There is quite heavy churn of detainees as investigations come up blank or the courts order releases and new detainees arrive. We have no independent confirmation on conditions. The ICRC have access, which provides a safeguard, but it would compromise their neutrality to ask them to share information on their findings. I am not aware of former Boosa detainees complaining about conditions.” [15a]

See also sections 12, 28 and 31

Disappearances/Abductions

8.29 As noted in the USSD 2006:

“The Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission (SLHRC) reported 345 instances countrywide of politically motivated disappearances at the hands of the security forces or by paramilitary forces allegedly tied to the government, or the LTTE...The SLHRC reported 33 known abductions in the Colombo district with ransom paid ranging from \$23,251 (rupees 2,526,221) to \$558,035 (rupees 60,630,502). Of those abducted, 12 have not been released although ransom was paid. President Rajapaksa appointed former High Court Judge Mahanama Tilakaratna to inquire into incidents of abductions, but at year's end no report had been issued...There were no developments in any of the unclassified disappearance cases cited by the 2000 UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; neither was there any apparent effort put forth by the government to gather information on these cases.” [2c] (Section 1d)

8.30 “At year's [2006] end the HRC continued to investigate 16,305 past cases of disappearance by security forces, some of which had been pending for over a decade. There were no indictments, investigations, or prosecutions of security force personnel for past disappearances. During the year the LTTE continued to detain civilians, often holding them for ransom...The SLMM reported that LTTE and Karuna Faction abductions increased significantly during the year.” (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 1d)

8.31 A letter from the BHC Colombo of 13 February 2006 reported that:

“The Human Rights Commission was aware of about 25 reported disappearances in the Jaffna peninsular. All had been reported since the 17 November [2005] Presidential Election. 7 of those reported missing were found by a HRC official in a police station in Point Pedro, Jaffna District where they had been arrested by the security forces on suspicion of involvement in a ‘Claymore’ mine attack on an Army patrol. The other cases were being investigated. The primary aim of the HRC was to ensure that the law on

arrests was followed up. They were aggressively pursuing compliance with the authorities. If the law was enforced i.e. the security forces issued a receipt to the family and informed the HRC of all arrests and movements under the Prevention of Terrorism Act or the Emergency Regulations then the prospects of the security forces 'disappearing' [sic] anyone was remote." [15c]

8.32 As noted in an AI press release issued on 30 August 2006:

"...there are fears that a pattern of enforced disappearance by state agents is re-emerging in Sri Lanka following the introduction of new Emergency Regulations in August 2005 that granted sweeping powers to the security forces. Sixty-two cases of enforced disappearance in the north of the country have been registered by the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka over the past year. The Commission is also investigating the status of 183 other individuals who are still missing under unknown circumstances...Sri Lanka has one of the highest levels of unresolved enforced disappearances in the world." [3q]

8.33 On 10 September 2006 BBC Sinhala.com reported that:

"The Human Rights Commission in Sri Lanka (HRCSL) says it has received 419 complaints on disappearances in Jaffna peninsular since December last year. Commissioner Dharmasiri Jayawickrama said the HRCSL has already begun investigations based upon the complaints received. 'The security forces are accused for [sic] 60 dissapearances [sic],' he told bbcsinhala.com. 54 others were released after intial [sic] investigations by the police, he added. '23 others are detained by the police'. No information was available on what happened to 245 others, according to HRCSL. It is suspected that 183 of those missing were abducted by 'some other militant group'. Commissioner Jayawickrama told BBC Sandeshaya that HRCSL received reliable information that that [sic] some of those were abducted by the Tamil Tigers. Others have joined the LTTE voluntarily, the former Appeals' [sic] Court judge added. The Commission is also to investigate disappearances [sic] in the capital, Colombo. 'We will initiate investigations on media reports that nearly 30 people are missing in Colombo'." [9b]

8.34 As reported by the Asian Human Rights Commission on 13 September 2006:

"The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) gives the number of the disappeared from the Jaffna peninsular since December last year [2005] as 419. Not all these disappearances are attributed to 'armed men coming in white vans without number plates', which usually means the military. The LTTE and other militant Tamil groups alleged to be working with the military have also been accused of such abductions which end up as disappearances. International human rights groups have accused the LTTE and other militant groups also on that score... In Sri Lanka causing of forced disappearances has been treated by the state as a legitimate means by which to deal with 'terrorism'. The failure to investigate and to take appropriate legal action is also evidence of the state's involvement in such matters...Within Sri Lanka at the moment there is no government authority with the capacity to efficiently investigate the disappearances like the one in the case mentioned above. The HRCSL may record some facts of such disappearances but it does not have the capacity to investigate them in any manner that could be called a credible, criminal investigation. The assurance of some state authorities to the effect

that if soldiers are found to be guilty of such acts they would be punished is a mere rhetorical gesture in the face of heavy criticism from local and international sources. There is no state machinery to give credibility to such assurances.” [47i]

8.35 As reported by BBC News on 26 September 2006:

“Members of the minority Tamil community in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, have appealed for government help to tackle a spate of abductions. They say the police and government have not done enough to investigate the kidnappings of nearly 50 Tamils in recent weeks. Campaigners met Sri Lanka’s president on Tuesday to request more protection. The police say they have not been given enough information by victims’ families to carry out investigations. Those kidnapped include an eminent Tamil journalist working for a private media network in Colombo...The police have asked the families of victims to provide them with more information...The relatives of the victims, however, say they are afraid of speaking out due to the continuous abductions and killings. Many others, who have informed the local police, say they have not yet been given information about the fate of their loved ones. The national Human Rights Commission (HRC) told the BBC that it would initiate investigations into the abductions.” [9c]

8.36 A Statement released by the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) on 3 October 2006 noted:

“Civil society organizations in Sri Lanka made a great advance during the last week when they were able to identify a group of persons who are allegedly involved in the abductions in Colombo. On the basis of their information the police at Kotehena have been able to arrest several persons who are said to belong to this group. Sri Lanka has a long history of abductions which often end up in disappearances and this is the first time that it has been possible to arrest alleged abductors. The People’s Monitoring Committee (PMC) yesterday claimed that they had played a major role in arresting the suspects. According to the Committee members, including Democratic Left Front Leader Vasudeva Nanayakara, Wickramabahu Karunaratne and Western People’s Front Leader Mano Ganeshan they visited the Kotahena police station when they heard of the arrest and requested the police to do their duty, despite of political interference. However, the PMC has also informed the public that the government is attempting to release the alleged suspects of these abductions. A spokesperson for the PMC alleged that the Kotahena police have already received orders from the top, to release the gang leader. He alleged that there are plans to release him and claim that he escaped.” [47f]

8.37 The AHRC statement of 3 October 2006 further noted that:

“The causing of large scale abductions can only happen with the connivance of those who control the territory, which in Colombo means the government. In fact, it would have been the duty of the government to investigate and to arrest the abductors and with the huge machinery at their disposal this would not have been a difficult task. The very fact that it has been the civil society monitoring groups that had to investigate and uncover information of such abductors is itself a severe indictment against the government. Now that these monitoring groups were able to provide the information and to get the

alleged abductors arrested it is shocking that the top government officials are said to be involved in trying to get these same persons released.” [47f]

- 8.38 On 10 November 2006, the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), commenting on the death of the TNA MP N. Raviraj killed on the same day, noted that “The death of the legislator took place in Colombo, the capital which has received international attention in recent months for a series of abductions and disappearances that happen despite of the many heavily guarded check points within the city. The crisis of the capital is just one more indication of the crisis within the country that is facing a situation that seems to have gone out of control.” [47c]

See also Section 4

- 8.39 On 6 November 2006 the *Daily Mirror* reported that “The Committee for the Investigation of the Disappeared said in a media release yesterday that according to evidence they had gathered, armed groups loyal to the government were responsible for abductions including those who were taken for ransom. It said that the movement had to build pressure both locally and internationally to change the undemocratic activities and the find [sic] the disappeared.” [11d]

- 8.40 As noted in the UNHCR Position on the International Protection Needs of asylum-seekers from Sri Lanka dated December 2006:

“Tamils in Colombo are especially vulnerable to abductions, disappearances and killings. Such actions are allegedly conducted by the paramilitary ‘white vans’ suspected to be associated with the security forces, as well as by the Karuna faction and the LTTE. According to press reports, some 25 Tamils were abducted in Colombo and its suburbs between 20 August and 2 September 2006, with only two of these people confirmed released. The whereabouts and fate of the rest remain unknown. Young Tamil professionals including several women, businessmen, as well as Tamil political figures and activists with a pro-Tamil stance can be specifically targeted.” [6b] (Paragraph 25)

- 8.41 The ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) reported in their Sri Lanka Bulletin No. 08, released on 20 December 2006 that “Families throughout the country continue to report abductions of relatives by persons unknown. The ICRC has been notified of 35 such cases in the past two weeks, and of 51 arrests.” [34a]

- 8.42 A statement issued by the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) on 13 December 2006 noted that:

“Despite of the one-man Commission [sic], to be followed by yet another commission consisting of eight persons, abductions and disappearances continue. Not one single case has been resolved by the law enforcement agencies within Sri Lanka. Nor has the one –man commission had any influence on the issue...The state does not seem to play a decisive role in controlling the situation...The state has failed in its obligation to investigate all crimes including abductions and disappearances in the manner required by the law. The comment here is not about the state directly engaging in such

crimes, but rather the state being complicit in these crimes by not discharging their basic duty to enforce the rule of law and ensuring the basic security of the people.” [47a]

8.43 An AI document issued on 20 December 2006 reported that:

“Professor Sivasubramaniam Raveendranath, the Vice-Chancellor of Eastern University, was reportedly abducted while at a conference in the capital, Colombo, on 15 December [2006]. Since he was in an area tightly controlled by the military, it seems likely that his captors are an armed group operating with the tacit support of the security forces. He is at risk of torture... In recent months in areas in the north and east of Sri Lanka, there have been reports of a number of people "disappearing" or being abducted by the security forces or armed groups. Such people are often called or taken in 'for questioning' and held incommunicado. No receipts or records of their detention are made available, and the official mechanisms for reporting such events, such as through the National Human Rights Commission, are often unable to find where the missing people are. Anyone held this way is in clear danger of torture or ill treatment.” [3a]

8.44 As recorded in a statement issued by the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) on 2 February 2007:

“The former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mangala Samaraweera was quoted in several news agencies stating that a disappearance takes place in Sri Lanka every five hours. ‘It has been reported by local and international human rights organisations that a person is abducted every five hours. Kidnappings, abductions and killings have become common incidents. No matter who does it, as a government we are responsible for it,’ (Sunday Leader, January 28, 2007). It is also reported that the minister refused to retract the charges despite of [sic] the pressure brought upon him to do so. These comments, which he wrote in a letter to the president, Mahinda Rajapakse do not come as much of a surprise to close observers of the human rights situation in Sri Lanka in recent months... Anyone might be a target of a disappearance including businessmen, journalists and anyone that may be suspected as having ‘terrorist links’. Even a vice chancellor of a university was a victim of a disappearance recently. People in Colombo, particularly the Tamils, who had made Colombo their home for generations, as well as businessmen, are those who are most scared when darkness falls. Everyone is aware that once a disappearance takes place there is hardly anything that can be done.” [47b]

8.45 The AHRC statement of 2 February 2007 continued:

“A disappearance, as it happens in Sri Lanka can be done in circumstances which are completely secretive. The perpetrators of such kidnappings and those who give commands for such an exercise can all take cover behind anonymity. A disappearance in Sri Lanka is a legal construct. Its basic concept is to remove all possibilities available within the law to attribute responsibility for arrest, detention, torture, killing and illegal disposal... A senior minister’s criticism on this issue has not lead to any constructive response on the part of the government. The remarks have been dismissed as having been made for political reasons of dissent with the line of the government. However, whatever is the motive of the minister concerned criticism of this grave nature should

have been taken seriously by the government if it wishes to counteract the present trend of the escalation of lawlessness. However, the government seems to be unwilling or incapable of dealing with this present situation.” [47b]

8.46 As reported by BBC News on 6 March 2007:

“A senior police officer has said that serving and former police and security force personnel have been arrested over abductions in Sri Lanka. His statement at a media briefing came on the same day as the bullet-riddled bodies of five people were found in a field in the north of the country. Their remains were burned beyond recognition, according to police in the north-central district of Anuradhapura. It follows the discovery of five other bodies near the capital on Saturday... At a media briefing attended by Sri Lanka's police chief, Deputy Inspector General of Police Ashoka Wijethileka said former soldiers, serving soldiers and police officers were among those arrested in connection with abductions... There have been an increasing number of kidnappings in Sri Lanka as the country has slid back towards a full-scale war. Correspondents say that some of these have been kidnappings for ransom, and others have been kidnappings carried out to commit politically motivated murders. According to the Civil Monitoring Commission, which campaigns for investigations, there have been 100 cases in the past 12 months in areas of the country controlled by the government - and far more in rebel-held areas. Most of the victims have been members of the minority Tamil community.” [9y]

8.47 The ACHR (Asian Commission for Human Rights) Weekly Review 157/07, Sri Lanka: Spectre of abductions by the security forces officially admitted, March 2007 reported that:

“On 6 March 2006 [sic, actually 2007], Sri Lanka's Inspector General of Police (IGP), Victor Perera stated that over 400 persons including ‘ex-soldiers, serving soldiers, police officers and underworld gangs and other organised elements’ had been arrested since September 2006 on charges of abduction. Mr Perera refused to divulge further details. But Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR) believes that majority of those abducted have been killed. The announcement of the IGP appears to be the first official admission about the role of the police and the army in abductions and enforced disappearances. Often, the Sri Lankan government dismissed such allegations and set up inquiry commissions which whitewashed the gross human rights violations... According to HRCSL, about 100 abductions and disappearances have been reported so far in 2007. The majority of these abductions have taken place in the capital Colombo, Batticaloa in the Eastern Province and Jaffna peninsula in the Northern Province. Over 1,000 cases of abductions were reported in 2006 and ethnic Tamil minorities were the main victims... Blanket impunity and the lack of systemic protections intensified human rights violations. Rather, laws were adopted which facilitate abductions and disappearances.” [64b]

8.48 An Amnesty International document of 29 March 2007 recorded that “A number of people have recently been reported as ‘disappearing’ or being abducted by the security forces or armed groups. Such people are often called or taken in ‘for questioning’ and held incommunicado. No receipts or records of their detention are made available, and the official mechanisms for reporting such events, such as through the National Human Rights Commission, are often unable to locate the missing people.” [3e]

- 8.49 A letter from the British High Commission in Colombo, dated 10 April 2007, noted that:

“According to victims families reports to the Civil Monitoring Committee since August 2006 there have been 84 disappearances in Colombo. Of these 80 are Tamil, 2 Muslim, 2 Sinhalese. 23 of the victims are business people and 61 appear to be political crimes. Victims are generally males and the political actors tend to be young – although there are exceptions. In addition about 50 other business people have been abducted for ransom and then released but have asked the Civil Monitoring Groups not to reveal their identities or consider them among the disappeared. There are three other hotspots of disappearance activity, Jaffna, Vavuniya and Batticaloa. A reliable NGO, who did not wish to be named thought that 584 people had disappeared in Jaffna in 2006, with 165 in the first three months of this year. A Senior Tamil MP thought that the countrywide figure was 900 since August 2006. However the SLMM warned that many NGOs are unable to draw a distinction between ‘Missing’ and ‘Disappeared’ so these [sic] sort of figures cannot be considered more than a general indication.” [15a]

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Torture

- 8.50 As noted in the USSD 2006:

“The law makes torture a punishable offense but does not implement several provisions of the UN Convention Against Torture. Human rights groups maintained that while torture is prohibited under specific circumstances, it was allowed under others. According to the HRC and other credible sources, the use of police torture to extract admissions and confessions was endemic and conducted with impunity. In addition, the Emergency regulations make confessions obtained under any circumstance, including by torture, sufficient to hold a person until the individual is brought to court; 528 arrests were made under the Emergency regulations during the year, although 288 of those arrested were released within 12 hours. The majority of those arrested were Tamil, although detainees included Sinhalese and Muslims as well. In addition to suspicion of terrorism, people were detained for lack of identification, narcotics, and outstanding warrants...Observers estimate that 200 persons remained in custody under detention orders at years end. The SLHRC reported that 433 individuals were tortured in police custody during the year... Methods of torture included beatings-often with sticks, iron bars or hose; electric shock; suspending individuals by the wrists or feet in contorted positions; burning; genital abuse; and near-drowning. Detainees reported broken bones and other serious injuries as a result of their mistreatment.” [2c] (Section 1c)

- 8.51 A statement by the Asian Human Rights Foundation issued on 26 June 2006 noted that:

“The International Day in Support of Victims of Torture is a sad reminder of Sri Lanka's complete failure to eliminate torture...It is now acknowledged that there is endemic torture practiced at all police stations as the routine method

of criminal investigation. This acknowledgment is made by UN agencies in international reports. The Sri Lankan government has also admitted the problem as do high ranking police officers, including the IGP himself... Furthermore, the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka has mentioned the increasing number of credible complaints of torture on many occasions. Despite of [sic] all such acknowledgment nothing has been done to eliminate the practice of torture.” [47m]

- 8.52 As noted in the Report on civil and political rights, including the question of disappearances and summary executions) of the UN Special Rapporteur, Philip Alston on his Mission to Sri Lanka (28 November to 6 December 2005), published on 27 March 2006:

“The other [in addition to the shooting of criminal suspects taken into custody] main cause of deaths in police custody is torture. (Deaths are an inevitable side-effect of the widespread use of torture.) Government officials were generally candid in recognizing that torture is widespread. While some officials said that the problem’s magnitude had been exaggerated, they did not dispute that in Sri Lanka’s police stations physical mistreatment is frequently used to extract confessions from suspects, sometimes resulting in death. However, this recognition of torture’s prevalence was often accompanied by a complacent and fundamentally tolerant attitude. One high-ranking official acknowledged to me that torture was widespread and problematic but then proceeded to note that while he could understand why police tortured ‘in the line of duty’, he felt it was completely inexcusable for police to torture in pursuit of private ends. This casual acceptance of torture is highly problematic. It also downplays the systemic nature of the problem. There is a nationwide pattern of custodial torture in Sri Lanka, and the Government has a legal responsibility to take measures to bring that pattern to an end. The vast majority of custodial deaths in Sri Lanka are caused not by rogue police but by ordinary officers taking part in an established routine. It is essential that government officials accept that disrupting this pattern of custodial torture is a necessary step not only in ensuring the human rights of those arrested but of retaining public trust and confidence.” [6x] (Paragraph 54)

- 8.53 The Amnesty International 2006 Annual Report on Sri Lanka (covering events from January – December 2005) noted that:

“Despite the announcement by the National Police Commission (NPC) in August 2004 that addressing torture by police would be its top priority, during 2005 there were numerous reports of torture in police custody, sometimes resulting in deaths. There was little attempt to prosecute police officers responsible for torture or to provide compensation for torture victims. Some torture victims who brought complaints were reportedly threatened by police. The terms of office of the current commissioners of the NPC expired at the end of November. In November [2005], the UN Committee against Torture considered Sri Lanka’s second periodic report and expressed concern about ‘continued well-documented allegations of widespread torture and ill-treatment as well as disappearances mainly committed by the State’s police forces’”. [3r]

Extra-judicial killings

- 8.54 As recorded in the USSD 2006 “There were no confirmed reports of politically motivated killings by the government; human rights organizations and other

credible sources reported an increase in encounter killings by police. Sources further alleged that paramilitary groups, sometimes with the aid of government security forces, engaged in targeted killings of political opponents and civilians. The government and the army denied the allegations.” [2c] (Section 1a)

- 8.55 The Human Rights Watch (HRW), World Report 2007, Sri Lanka, January 2007 noted that:

“Politically motivated killings and abductions drastically increased in 2006. Sri Lankan security forces are believed responsible for a number of serious incidents in 2006, including the summary execution of five Tamil students in Trincomalee on January 2 [2006], the ‘disappearance’ of eight young men from a Hindu temple in Jaffna on May 6, the 3 execution-style slaying of five Tamil fishermen on Mannar island on June 17, and the killing of 11 Muslims in Pottuvil on September 18. The pro-LTTE Tamil National Alliance blamed the government for the murder of parliamentarian Nadarajah Raviraj in Colombo on November 10. Father Jim Brown, a Sri Lankan Catholic priest who had reportedly been receiving threats from the military, ‘disappeared’ on Kayts Island near Jaffna in August after last being seen at a government checkpoint. Dozens of other abductions implicating the security forces, the Karuna group and other armed groups associated with the government were reported in the second half of the year.” [21b]

- 8.56 As noted in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office 2006 Annual Report on Human Rights, dated October 2006:

“There have been credible reports that members of the government security forces were involved in extra-judicial killings and repeated allegations that some civilians detained during large anti-terrorist operations have disappeared. Anti-LTTE paramilitary groups have also engaged in violence and intimidation. Despite promising to do so, the government has not succeeded in preventing these armed groups operating in government-controlled areas, and there are allegations of collusion by the security forces.” [15] (p212)

- 8.57 The Amnesty International 2006 Annual Report on Sri Lanka (covering events from January – December 2005) noted that “The security forces were reportedly responsible for a number of extrajudicial executions of civilians.” [3r]

- 8.58 As noted in the Report of the UN Special Rapporteur, on his Mission to Sri Lanka (28 November to 6 December 2005), published on 27 March 2006:

“The Special Rapporteur visited Sri Lanka from 28 November to 6 December 2005, at a time when the Ceasefire Agreement (CFA) of February 2002 between the Government and the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was under unprecedented stress. Extrajudicial executions are a singularly important element in the exacerbation of the conflict... Almost none of these extrajudicial executions has been effectively investigated. Police and military investigations into the killing of Tamils or the broader range of deaths in custody have too often been poorly handled and remarkably few convictions have resulted.” [6x] (Summary)

- 8.59 The UN Special Rapporteur further commented:

“The issue of killings, in many respects, provides an important window into many facets of the overall situation in Sri Lanka. They are symptomatic of the widespread use of police torture, of the failure to rein in abuses committed or tolerated by the military, and of the systematic efforts by various armed groups, and particularly the LTTE, to kill Tamils who refuse to support the LTTE and to provoke military retaliation.” [6x] (Paragraph 3)

- 8.60 “The police are now engaged in summary executions, which is an immensely troubling development. Reports, unchallenged by the Government, show that from November 2004 to October 2005 the police shot at least 22 criminal suspects after taking them into custody. It is alleged that the use of force became necessary when, after having been arrested, presumably searched, and (in most cases) handcuffed by the police, the suspects attempted either to escape or to attack the officers. In all cases the shooting was fatal, and in none was a police officer injured. The Government confirmed that in none of these cases had an internal police inquiry been opened. The reason proffered was that no complaints had been received. The pattern of summary executions that emerges demands a systematic official response that brings those responsible to justice and discourages future violations.” (UN Special Rapporteur, report dated 27 March 2006) [6x] (Paragraph 53)
- 8.61 The Human Rights Watch (HRW) report entitled ‘Improving Civilian Protection in Sri Lanka’, released on 19 September 2006 noted that “With the ceasefire all but officially collapsed, human rights abuses have dangerously increased. Sri Lankan security forces are believed to be responsible for a number of serious incidents in 2006, including the summary execution of five Tamil students in Trincomalee in January, the ‘disappearance’ of eight young men from a Hindu temple in Jaffna in May and the execution-style slaying of five Tamil fishermen on Mannar Island in June.” [21p] (Introduction)

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ARMED FORCES

- 8.62 “In August 2005 the armed forces totalled 151,000 (including recalled reservists): army 118,000, navy 15,000, air force 18,000. There were also paramilitary forces of around 88,600 (including 13,000 Home Guard, an estimated 15,000 National Guard and a 3,000-strong anti-guerrilla unit). Defence expenditure for 2005 was budgeted at Rs 56,200m. Military service is voluntary.” (Europa World Online, Defence) [1b]
- 8.63 As recorded in Jane’s Sentinel Security Assessments, Country profile - At a glance, Sri Lanka, 3 November 2006:
- “Certain factors have tended to act upon the army as constraints on maintaining motivation, commitment and efficiency among its cadres. Foremost among these is the stark reality that the overwhelming majority of personnel in the army’s lower ranks are from the lowest income strata of civilian society whose presence in the force is due largely to their inability to find other employment. There has never been an indoctrination of an ideological fervour comparable in intensity and effect to the ethno-nationalist indoctrination of its cadres by the Tamil Tiger leadership. There is certainly no impulse for the soldiers to die as martyrs, emulating the suicide bombers

among the Tigers. There has hardly ever been a risk of punishment for deserters. Instead, some of them reap enormous benefits by engaging in crime, often under the patronage and protection of politicians. There is, in addition, the sense of frustration and cynicism generated by the waywardness of military policy, and the corruption that is believed to prevail both at the higher levels of the army hierarchy as well as among the civilians who control policy matters...The role of the Sri Lankan Army is to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka and to assist (when called upon) to maintain law and order. ” [5a] (Army, 9 November 2006)

8.64 “Unlike in the early post-independence decades, the army, navy and the air force are now almost exclusively Sinhalese institutions. In consequence the army is regarded by most northern and eastern Tamils as a foreign force. Their excesses, especially in operations that have involved confrontations with guerrilla fighters who found shelter among civilians, have had the effect of reinforcing this perception. There have been attempts to improve civilian-military relations in the northeast, although these are yet to have a perceptible impact. In the past few years, however the government has cracked down hard on military personnel accused of crimes committed against the civilians.” (Jane’s Sentinel Security Assessments, Country profile - At a glance, Sri Lanka, 3 November 2006) [5a] (Armed Forces, 28 December 2005)

8.65 The Human Rights Watch (HRW) report entitled ‘Improving Civilian Protection in Sri Lanka’, released on 19 September 2006 noted that:

“In violation of this [international] law, the Sri Lankan armed forces have engaged in indiscriminate shelling and aerial bombing, attacking targets with disregard to the expected harm caused to civilians. At least 19 young women and girls (the LTTE have claimed 51) died in an August bombing raid in LTTE-controlled territory where the evidence indicates that there was no genuine military target. The security forces have summarily executed persons in their control and are believed responsible for a number of ‘disappearances’”. [21p] (Introduction)

Arbitrary arrest and detention

8.66 See Section on Police since many reports refer to ‘security forces’ in general

Torture

8.67 See Section on Police since many reports refer to ‘security forces’ in general

Extra-judicial killings

8.68 See Section on Police since many reports refer to ‘security forces’ in general

AVENUES OF COMPLAINT

8.69 As reported by the United Nations Office at Geneva on 5 September 2006:

“The United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions, Philip Alston, today welcomed the announcement by Sri Lanka’s President Mahendra Rajapakse of his intention to invite an international commission to inquire into recent killings, disappearances and abductions in Sri Lanka...The challenge

now, according to Alston, is to ensure that the commission is independent, credible, effective, and empowered to make a difference.” The following statement released by the Special Rapporteur was also reported: “The situation in Sri Lanka has deteriorated significantly since I visited Sri Lanka and met with Government officials, members of civil society, and representatives of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) at the end of 2005...International human rights monitoring is not, of course, an invariably effective response even to situations involving widespread human rights abuse, but there are specific factors indicating that such an approach would be extremely valuable in Sri Lanka. One of these is that civilians are not simply ‘caught in the crossfire’ of the conflict: Rather, civilians are intentionally targeted for strategic reasons. Such killings are quintessentially human rights violations demanding a human rights response.” [6aa]

8.70 As recorded in Keesing’s Records of World Events, November 2006 – Sri Lanka:

“President Rajapakse announced on Nov. 6 [2006] that he would establish a commission of inquiry, headed by a Supreme Court judge, to investigate incidents of serious human rights abuses blamed on government forces and the LTTE. The commission, in which international observers would participate, was given a year to conduct its investigations. The subjects of the inquiry would include: the August 2005 assassination of Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar...; a mine attack on a bus in June which killed at least 64 people...; an air strike in August [2006] that reportedly killed 61 Tamil schoolgirls...; the murder in August [2006] of 17 aid workers near Trincomalee...; and the massacre by suicide bombers in October [2006] of 99 sailors going on leave...” [23j]

8.71 As noted by Amnesty International on 17 November 2006:

“On 4 September 2006 the President of Sri Lanka announced that the government would invite an international independent commission to probe abductions, disappearances and extra-judicial killings in all areas of the country. Amnesty International welcomed the Government of Sri Lanka’s commitment to address past human rights violations. On 6 September 2006 the President, instead announced that he would invite an International Independent Group of Eminent Persons (IIGEP) to act as observers of the activities of the Commission which will investigate alleged abductions, disappearances and extra judicial killings. The eight Sri Lankan commissioners were formally announced on 6 November with a mandate to inquire into fifteen specific incidents that have occurred since August 2005 and the possibility of broadening their investigations to include cases arising during their inquiries and complaints received by the commission on other serious violations.” [3b]

8.72 The AI document of 17 November 2006 further noted:

“In light of decades of impunity for perpetrators of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in Sri Lanka, characterised by the failure of the authorities to investigate and prosecute such perpetrators effectively, only an international and independent Commission would have the credibility and confidence of all parties to the conflict and sections of society to be able to conduct meaningful investigations, obtain critical testimony or information

from witnesses and gain the acceptance of its recommendations by all relevant parties. To this end, members of the body conducting the inquiry should be international experts, chosen for their recognised impartiality, integrity and competence. Crucially, they should be, and be seen to be, independent of any institution, agency or individual that may be the subject of, or otherwise involved in, the inquiry, including the Government of Sri Lanka. Amnesty International does not believe that an independent group of eminent persons observing an essentially national inquiry can serve as a substitute for the independence, real and perceived, of the Commission of Inquiry itself.” [3b]

- 8.73 As announced on the the Official Government News Portal of Sri Lanka on 11 January 2007:

“The Commission of Inquiry to probe into the recent allegations of human rights violations has begun its hearing of evidence...The eight-member Commission is headed by former Supreme Court Judge Nissanka Udulagama. According to him the International Independent Group of Eminent Persons’ (IIGEP), will be monitoring the investigations of the commission as pre scheduled. Initially the commission has focused attention on fifteen major incidents... Apart from these specific cases the committee has a provision to broaden their investigations on cases arising during the inquiries and on complaints received to the commission from public on other serious violations of human rights, based on the opinion of the commission. The IIGEP headed by the former Chief Justice of India P.N. Bhagwathie will observe the investigations and inquiries conducted by this Commission of inquiry. The IIGEP is authorised to over see the mode of operation of the commission’s inquiries is in par with the international norms and standards.” [10e]

- 8.74 The ACHR (Asian Commission for Human Rights) Weekly Review 157/07, Sri Lanka: Spectre of abductions by the security forces officially admitted, March 2007 noted that:

“President Mahinda Rajapakse set up his own Presidential Commission of Inquiry headed by former High Court Judge Mahanama Tilakaratna to enquire into disappearances. This was nothing new considering that each new President of Sri Lanka had a penchant for setting up his/her own commissions of inquiry... Kidnappings and disappearances in Sri Lanka have intensified following the collapse of the Cease-Fire Agreement between the government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. With the government backing the Karuna faction, the abductions and disappearances at the hands of the armed opposition groups have also intensified. It is unlikely that that [sic] Justice Mahanama Tilakaratna Commission of Inquiry will establish accountability. All the eyes are presently on the inquiry to be conducted by International Independent Group of Eminent Persons headed by India's former Chief Justice, Justice P N Bhagawati. Given Sri Lankan government's track record of consistent failure to establish accountability, the eminent persons, who will make trips to Sri Lanka on rotational basis according to the Terms of Reference, have put their credibility at stake. The International Independent Group of Eminent Persons remains the last hope for the victims and their relatives, though the Terms of Reference belie any such hope.” [64b]

Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL)

8.75 “The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka commenced its work in 1997. The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka Act of August 1996 which established it gave it a mandate which combined the functions of two other institutions which preceded it - the Commission for Elimination of Discrimination and Monitoring of Human Rights (CEDMHR) and the Human Rights Task Force (HRTF). The mandate also vested it with additional powers and responsibilities. The Human Rights Commission took over the cases that were pending in both the CEDMHR and the HRTF...The CEDMHR had concerned itself with complaints of violations under Article 12 of the Constitution, while the HRTF dealt with arrests and detentions under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the Emergency Regulations. Consequently the responsibilities of the new Commission covered two different categories of violations. On one hand, it had to protect the fundamental rights of citizens and ensure the observance of human rights norms in situations in which there has been a lawful derogation of the rights normally enjoyed by citizens. On the other hand it has to deal with the violations of any of the fundamental rights coming under Chapter 3 of the Constitution. Each of these categories has its own order of urgency and importance and determines the way in which the Commission organizes its work and sets its priorities.” (Website of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, accessed on 4 July 2006) [59]

8.76 “[Its] Mandate [is] to investigate and inquire into violations of fundamental rights Intervene in court proceedings with the permission of the court Monitor the welfare of detainees through regular inspections of places of detention Undertake research on human rights issues and public education programs on human rights To summon persons before the Commission to procure evidence including documentary evidence and to examine witnesses.” (Website of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, accessed on 4 July 2006) [59]

“The Commission has many functions in addition to inquiring into fundamental rights violations:

- 1) To ensure that all State procedures comply with fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution of Sri Lanka
- 2) To advise and assist the government in drawing up legislation, administrative directives and procedures in compliance with fundamental rights
- 3) To make recommendations to the government regarding how national laws and administrative practices can be brought in line with international human rights obligations of Sri Lanka
- 4) To advise the government on acceding to international human rights treaties
- 5) To promote human rights awareness in the country. The HRCSL has the following divisions: Education; Monitoring and Review; Investigations and Enquiries.” (Website of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, accessed on 4 July 2006) [59]

8.77 The USSD 2006 noted that:

“By statute the SLHRC has wide powers and resources and may not be called as a witness in any court of law or be sued for matters relating to its official duties. However, according to many human rights organizations, the SLHRC

often was not as effective as it should have been. The SLHRC did not have enough staff or resources to process its caseload of pending complaints, and it did not enjoy the full cooperation of the government. The SLHRC had a tribunal-like approach to investigations and declined to undertake preliminary inquiries in the manner of a criminal investigator...Like in previous years, HRC was not able to function without interruptions.” [2c] (Section 4)

8.78 In a press release issued on 31 March 2006, Amnesty International stated:

“The [Human Rights] Commission carries out investigations into cases of torture, ‘disappearances’, political killings and other human rights violations. It also acts to promote and protect human rights. The important work of the Commission is likely to be severely disrupted as the current term of the Commissioners ends on Monday 3 April, with no new members selected to take their place... Appointments to the Human Rights Commission are to be made by the President on the recommendation of the Constitutional Council, which itself lapsed in March 2005 and has not been reconstituted due to political disagreements among parliamentary parties...The Human Rights Commission (HRC) of Sri Lanka was established under the Human Rights Commission Act of 1996. It started its work in 1997 as an independent statutory body to investigate reports of human rights violations. It has ten regional offices and five commissioners. The HRC set up a Torture Prevention and Monitoring Unit in 2004 and a Database on Disappearances Unit in January 2005. On 5 January 2006 the HRC appointed a team headed by a Special Rapporteur to advise the HRC on the measures to protect the human rights of civilians in the context of the use of emergency powers and of alleged violations of the ceasefire agreement between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.” [3n]

8.79 A AHRC statement issued on 23 June 2006 noted:

“The situation has become even worse now with the Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission being appointed in contravention of the Constitution and having no credible record of involvement in human rights. The HRCSL at the moment is a farce. One of the persons nominated to be a commissioner, a lawyer, Mr. S.G. Punchihewa refused to join and stated that he only learned about the appointment by seeing media reports. The commissioners for the National Police Commission have also been selected contrary to the Constitution and therefore will lack legitimacy and credibility. This is happening at a time when the country is slipping back into a zone of high violence...When the country’s commitments to human rights is nothing but a farce the only hope lies with civil society and those committed persons and organisations who will fight hard to put the improvement of human rights to the forefront.” [47m]

8.80 As mentioned in a letter from the British High Commission, Colombo to the Home Office dated 7 July 2006 “The Human Rights Commissioners were appointed directly by the President in May. Several donors have indicated they are considering withdrawing their assistance because they believe the HRC is illegally constituted. The HRC still officially functions, but independent NGOs we have spoken to say that the volume of reports coming in is significantly reducing the Commission’s effectiveness.” [15k]

8.81 As reported by the *Daily Mirror* on 9 January 2007:

“Up to 75 notifications have been received so far by a special hotline set up by the Human Rights Commission (HRC) on arrests and detentions made by the security forces from November 1 [2006] onwards under the existing Emergency Regulations...Just prior to the re-enactment of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), a Presidential order was gazetted notifying the security forces that details of detained persons not produced before a Magisterial inquiry within 24 hours, must be passed on to the HRC. Justice Jayawickrema [a commission member] told the Daily Mirror that in accordance with the order, such arrests and detentions had been brought to the notice of the Commission. Justice Jayawickrema further cited the non-cooperation of witnesses as the biggest barrier to the Commission’s effective functioning. ‘People, in general, are not willing to cooperate in our investigations due to the fear that their lives will be threatened if they speak up. We are trying our best to carry out our duties diligently, but the fact that people are scared to talk freely has proven to be the biggest obstacle to our investigations,’ he said.” [11f]

- 8.82 The USSD 2006 recorded that “In 2004 the HRC established a torture prevention monitoring unit to implement its ‘zero tolerance’ torture policy...The HRC provided extra training for officers assigned to this unit and established a policy of quick investigation for torture complaints. The HRC also assigned special teams to investigate deaths in police custody. By year’s [2006] end the HRC had opened cases on 433 torture complaints.” [2c] (Section 1c)

Other issues

- 8.83 The USSD 2006 reported that:

“The majority of the 44 allegations of police torture came from police stations outside the north and east. The government continued to investigate most cases of torture, according to the SLHRC, with 14 torture cases pending in courts at year’s [2006] end, with no convictions...Special sections of the attorney general’s office and the criminal investigation unit focused on torture complaints. During the year the units forwarded 218 cases for indictments against 139 police and security personnel, in which 65 resulted in an indictment, with 30 cases still pending. The interparliamentary permanent standing committee and its interministerial working group on human rights issues also continued to track criminal investigations of torture. In October the Appeals Court ruled that the Inspector General of Police (IGP) must invalidate promotions offered to officers accused of human rights violations.” [2c] (Section 1c)

- 8.84 “In the majority of cases in which security force personnel may have committed human rights abuses, the government had not identified those responsible or brought them to justice. Human rights organizations noted that some judges were hesitant to convict on cases of torture because of a seven-year mandatory sentence for committing torture. There was no witness protection program. According to human rights organizations, obtaining medical evidence was difficult, as there were only 25 forensic specialists, and medical practitioners untrained in the field of torture assessment examined most torture victims. In some cases doctors were intimidated by police, making accurate medical reporting on torture victims difficult.” (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 1c)

- 8.85 The Human Rights Watch (HRW), World Report 2007, Sri Lanka, January 2007 noted that:
- “Impunity for perpetrators of human rights abuses remained the greatest obstacle to ending the daily political killings in Sri Lanka’s north and east. The government has frequently initiated investigations into alleged rights violations by government security forces, but rarely have these investigations led to prosecutions, let alone convictions. A particular impediment has been the failure of the government to institute meaningful witness protection, which would encourage witnesses to politically motivated crimes to come forward. This was evident in the case of the killing of five students in Trincomalee in January 2006, in which the one witness willing to come forward and his family have been repeatedly subject to threats and harassment by government security forces. President Mahinda Rajapakse’s effective immobilization of the Sri Lankan Human Rights Commission and the Police Commission because of an ostensible constitutional dispute weakened two important arms for accountability.” [21b]
- 8.86 As noted in the Report of the UN Special Rapporteur, on his Mission to Sri Lanka (28 November to 6 December 2005), published on 27 March 2006:
- “The lack of investigative capacity is due to a lack of police training and resources, ineffective forensics, and an unwillingness to ensure the security of witnesses. The Judicial Medical Officers (JMOs) who carry out most autopsies typically lack the requisite vehicles, equipment and specialized training. The range of obstacles to a prompt and effective examination means that too much evidence simply bleeds out onto the floor. Investigations are also impeded by the lack of effective witness protection. This makes witnesses especially reluctant to provide evidence on crimes committed by police officers, and led several interlocutors to joke that it would be better to be a victim than a witness. Inadequate investigations result in evidence insufficient to sustain a conviction. Various police and forensic training programmes have been supported through development assistance initiatives. In the absence of any detailed evaluations, my impression is that they have been worthwhile but regrettably limited in scope.” [6x] (Paragraph 56)
- 8.87 “The frequent failure to prosecute police accused of responsibility for deaths in custody is due partly to deficiencies in internal investigation. Complaints about police misconduct are received by the Inspector General of Police (IGP), who selects either the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) or the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to carry out an internal investigation. Internal investigations into serious incidents typically last from two to four years, and it seems likely that by no means all such complaints are investigated at all. When grave misconduct, such as torture or murder, has been alleged, the investigation is generally conducted by CID. The primary role of CID is assisting local police, and for it to also conduct internal investigations undermines both their actual effectiveness and outside perceptions of impartiality. Reform is needed, and it may be hoped that this can be spearheaded by a strong National Police Commission.” (UN Special Rapporteur, report dated 27 March 2006) [6x] (Paragraph 57)
- 8.88 “Cases that are referred to the Attorney-General seldom lead to convictions. This is partly due to the lack of evidence gathered, and partly to a judiciary

that moves cases along slowly, sometimes tolerating years of delay preceding verdicts. One government official suggested that the judiciary was so overloaded that judges would seize on any plausible excuse to allow a postponement and cut the caseload. He pointed out that if indictments reliably resulted in interdiction, as the law requires, police officers and other government officials would be less likely to seek dilatory adjournments. I regret that I did not have the opportunity to meet with judges, but I note the widespread perception that the courts manage cases inefficiently. Prosecutors must also share the blame for the low conviction rates. The Attorney-General has become increasingly active in prosecuting police torture cases, and he informed me that there have been 64 indictments, 2 convictions, and 2 or 3 acquittals (most cases are pending). Time will tell whether this is the beginning of accountability or a further exercise in shadow boxing.” (UN Special Rapporteur, report dated 27 March 2006) [6x] (Paragraph 58)

- 8.89 As noted in a statement by the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) issued on 23 June 2006:

“It is now acknowledged that there is endemic torture practiced at all police stations as the routine method of criminal investigation...The former commissioners of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka lead [sic] by Dr. Radhika Coomaraswamy acknowledged the problem and declared a zero tolerance policy on torture, which unfortunately was not implemented due to a lack of cooperation from the police as well as other state agencies. The former commissioners of the National Police Commission also acknowledged the problem and interdicted 102 police officers in 2005 after they were indicted in courts for offenses under the CAT Act (Act No. 22 of 1994). Furthermore, the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka has mentioned the increasing number of credible complaints of torture on many occasions. Despite of [sic] all such acknowledgment nothing has been done to eliminate the practice of torture. The government talk about improving human rights does not go beyond mere words. The Sri Lanka human rights policy is a hypocritical one. Sri Lanka does not hesitate to state to the Human Rights Committee of the UN that the Committee’s findings against courts cannot be implemented by Sri Lanka despite of [sic] being a party to the Optional Protocol.” [47m]

- 8.90 The Human Rights Watch (HRW) report entitled ‘Improving Civilian Protection in Sri Lanka’, released on 19 September 2006 noted that:

“Impunity for perpetrators of human rights abuses remains the greatest obstacle to ending the vicious cycle of murder and reprisal in Sri Lanka. The government has frequently initiated investigations into alleged rights violations by government security forces, but rarely have these investigations led to prosecutions, let alone convictions. A particular impediment has been the failure of the government to institute meaningful witness protection, which would encourage witnesses to politically motivated crimes to come forward. President Mahinda Rajapakse’s effective immobilization of the Sri Lankan Human Rights Commission and the Police Commission because of an ostensible constitutional dispute weakens two important arms for accountability.” [21p] (Introduction)

- 8.91 On 29 September 2006, the AHRC noted in a statement that:

“The Sri Lankan government has consistently failed to respect or to take any measures to implement the view expressed by the Human Rights Committee although Sri Lanka became a signatory to the Optional Protocol in 1997. Since then there have been many communications filed by Sri Lanka’s [sic] before the Committee and the Committee has expressed its views and made recommendations in six cases...The government of Sri Lanka has paid no respect for [sic] any of these views of the Committee and has not done anything to implement the recommendations...The situation of the state party’s disregard of the Human Rights Committee’s views reached an even more critical level due to a case which came up before the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, Nallaratnam Singarasa vs. The Hon. Attorney General (S.C. Spl(LA) No. 182/99). An application was filed on behalf of Nallaratnam Singarasa [by way of review and/or revision of the earlier judgment of the court affirming the prison sentence against him on the basis of error in law. Lawyers on behalf of the prisoner requested the court to use the Human Rights Committee’s view as a persuasive authority and to revise the earlier judgment on that ground and several other grounds. A five bench judgment led by the Supreme Court without going into the issues of law raised instead decided that the accession of Sri Lanka to the ICCPR in 1980 has no internal implications for Sri Lanka and that the signing of the Optional Protocol in 1997 by the president is ultra vires and unconstitutional. This judgment of the Supreme Court virtually sealed off the possibility of implementation of any of the recommendations of the Human Rights Committee [sic] in the future in Sri Lanka...The failure of [the] state party to respect its international obligations and also the failure to implement the Human Rights Committees views and recommendations of UN human rights bodies has placed the citizens in an extremely helpless situation. It is commonly admitted even by the state authorities that the rule of law situation is at its lowest ebb at the moment.” [47n]

8.92 With regard to the case of Singarasa the AHRC reported that it “was the case of the sentencing of the author for 35 years of imprisonment without fair trial solely on the basis of a confession from the author without any collaboration, taken in a language that the author did not understand and without addressing that [sic] claim that the confession was taken under torture. The Human Rights Committee held that the facts disclosed violations of article 14 (1), para 1, 2, 3, (c) and 14, para (g) read together with article 2, para 3, and 7 of the Covenant. The Committee recommended release or retrial of the prisoner and compensation and to amend the Prevention of Terrorism Act to make it compatible with the provisions of the Covenant.” [47n]

8.93 The UNHCR Committee against torture (thirty fifth session 7-25 November 2005) in their ‘consideration of reports submitted by states parties under article 19 of the Convention’, dated 15 December 2005 stated:

“The Committee is concerned about the lack of a comprehensive definition of torture as set out in article 1 of the Convention in the domestic law [6w] (Paragraph 5). Acknowledging the important role of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka in the promotion and protection of human rights in Sri Lanka and its adoption of a zero tolerance policy against torture, the Committee is concerned about the frequent lack of implementation by the State party of the Commission’s recommendations. [6w] (Paragraph 6) The Committee is concerned about the absence in Sri Lankan law of provisions establishing universal jurisdiction for acts of torture. [6w] (Paragraph 10) The

Committee expresses its deep concern about continued well documented allegations of widespread torture and ill treatment as well as disappearances, mainly committed by the State's police forces. It is also concerned that such violations by law enforcement officials are not investigated promptly and impartially by the State party's competent authorities (art. 12). [6w] (Paragraph 12) The Committee is concerned about alleged reprisals, intimidation and threats against persons reporting acts of torture and ill treatment as well as the lack of effective witness and victim protection mechanisms (art. 13).” [6w] (Paragraph 15)

8.94 Information available from the website of the Institute of Human Rights (accessed on 4 July 2006) confirmed that specialised training programmes including intensive training in human rights for the Sri Lanka Army and paralegal training for Gramasevaka Nildaris (village-level government officers) and selected NGO personnel were available. [24]

8.95 On 16 June 2005, TamilNet reported that, as stated in a press release issued by the US Embassy in Colombo, American law enforcement instructors had completed two weeks of training Sri Lanka Police at the Police Higher Training Institute in Colombo on 'Interview and Interrogation Techniques, Human Dignity and Ethics, and Community-based Policing.' [38t]

8.96 As stated by the Asian Human Rights Commission in a press release issued on 7 January 2005:

“The Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) criticised Sri Lanka's attorney general on Friday [7 January] for undermining the dispensation of justice after deciding not to indict the police officers in charge involved in two torture cases. The Hong Kong-based regional human rights group said it was 'completely erroneous' and had 'no basis in law' for the attorney general to exclude the two officers from prosecution. Under the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment Act, No. 22 of 1994, in Sri Lanka, aiding and abetting of torture and conspiracy to commit the crime are much an offence as direct participation in torture. The two separate criminal cases of torture, in which victims Gerald Perera and Lalith Rajapakse were seriously injured in 2002, are pending in the Negombo High Court...The AHRC said the exclusions of the criminal liabilities of the officers in charge in these two torture cases would encourage other police officers to carry out abuses through their subordinates. If an act of torture is exposed, the blame will be placed on the subordinate officers, the rights group noted...The AHRC has sent letters to the attorney general's office arguing that the two police officers in charge should be held responsible criminally because Perera and Rajapakse were arrested, interrogated and tortured under their direct supervision.” [47j]

8.97 As noted in a written statement posted on the website of the Asian Legal Resource Centre on 17 February 2005:

“This murder [of Gerald Pereira] has raised serious concerns about the future of cases under the Convention against Torture Act of Sri Lanka (Act No. 22 of 1994). If a chief witness were killed before a trial takes place, then it would be virtually impossible to proceed with the criminal trial as required under this act. The result might be that more alleged perpetrators accused in criminal cases, particularly those involving torture, may resort to the killing of key witnesses in

the hope that trials against them will be withdrawn. Indeed, there have been other cases where there have been attempts at murder and serious torture of victims for a second time with the expectation that legal proceedings will be terminated due to a lack of evidence.” [49a]

8.98 The Asian Legal Resource Centre’s statement continued:

“Though the Convention against Torture Act of Sri Lanka was adopted in 1994, hardly any cases were filed until there was a serious civil society campaign and pressure from the international community to enforce it. As a result, according to statistics given by the Attorney General’s department, about 40 cases are now pending before various high courts. In two cases there have been convictions. These two convictions and the increasing number of investigations leading to the filing of more cases have had a chilling effect on the police in recent months. The use of torture, once accepted as the only mode of conducting criminal investigations, has now become a visible offence carrying a mandatory seven-years’ imprisonment and of a fine Rs. 10,000 (US0.00) [sic] ... Though serious representations have been made to the Inspector General of Police, Attorney General and other relevant state agencies to implement a witness protection programme, there has been no attempt to bring about such a programme through the law. Although regrets are expressed over deaths, no positive attempt has been taken to introduce a witness protection programme and to provide resources for it.... Under these circumstances victims of torture who take cases to trial are faced with serious danger. On the one hand they wish to have the perpetrators of torture punished. On the other hand they are afraid of jeopardising the life and freedom of their family members and also themselves. Many torture victims have relocated to other areas in search of security.” [49a]

8.99 As stated by the Asian Human Rights Commission in a press release issued on 20 May 2005:

“The attorney general of Sri Lanka has received praise for filing charges against the alleged torturers of Chamila Bandara in the high court... The attorney general had ensured ‘proper implementation of law’ by filing charges against the accused under the country’s Convention against Torture Act (No. 22 of 1994), the Hong Kong-based regional human rights group said... ‘The determination shown in this case to act strictly within the law and the international obligations of Sri Lanka as a state party to the ICCPR [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights] needs to be valued very greatly,’ Bijo Francis, programme officer of the AHRC said in the letter [to the AG]. ‘It is an indication that the impunity enjoyed by some state officers who flout the law is now being challenged,’ he said.” [47k]

8.100 On 27 May 2005, BBC News reported that four men had been freed from custody in Sri Lanka after the Supreme Court acquitted them of involvement in the killing of 27 Tamils five years ago.

“One of those freed, a policeman, was on duty on the night the young Tamil men died when locals stormed the detention centre where they were being held. Judges severely criticised the role of the police in the massacre.... The four acquitted on Friday – police officer Jayampathi Karunasenawere and three local men, DM Sepala Dissanayake, MA Samee and RM Premananda – were sentenced to death by the Colombo High Court in July 2003, but

appealed. Another policeman, Tyrone Roger Ratnayake, was sentenced to death at the same time. He was ordered freed last year by the Supreme Court for lack of evidence.” [9fg]

8.101 As noted by Human Rights Watch on 2 June 2005:

“Last week’s acquittal by the Sri Lankan Supreme Court of all defendants in the mob killing of 27 Tamil detainees at the Bindunuwewa detention facility in October 2000 demonstrates the failure of the Sri Lankan justice system to address crimes against alleged Tamil Tiger members, Human Rights Watch said today. Human Rights Watch called for a new investigation to be launched immediately to identify those, including senior police officials, responsible for the killings.... Though there were approximately 60 police officers stationed around the camp, not a single officer arrested any member of the attacking crowd. Subsequent independent investigations revealed that not only did the police not do anything to prevent or stop the killings, but some police officers also participated in the attack.” [21h]

8.102 As noted in a press release by the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) issued on 9 November 2006:

“The Attorney General yesterday (November 8, 2006) filed an appeal against the acquittal of Sub Inspector Kaluhandi Gervin Premalal Silva by the High Court judge of Kalutara on two counts of torture, one of assaulting Palitha Thissa Kumara with a cricket pole and hands causing serious physical injuries and the second of getting a tuberculosis patient to spit into his mouth. The High Court judge in his judgement stated that the police officer used unnecessary force and caused serious injuries, as mentioned in the medical report, but that it was not sufficient to prove a charge of torture under Sri Lankan law. He acquitted the accused on both charges on the basis that the prosecution had not proved their case beyond reasonable doubt. The Attorney General has filed the appeal on the basis that the High Court judge has erred in law and fact in coming to that conclusion. Earlier Palitha Thissa Kumara also filed papers seeking leave to appeal against the same judgement. His appeal gives twenty two counts on which the High Court judgement is being challenged. On the same incident the Supreme Court earlier held that the police officer had violated the rights of Palitha Thissa Kumara by torturing him and ordered the police officer to pay Rs. 5000= in compensation and the state to pay a further Rs. 20,000=.” [47d]

See also Section 8 on Police

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9. MILITARY SERVICE

9.01 Military service is voluntary. (**Europa World Online, Defence**) [1b] As recorded by War Resisters International in their document ‘Refusing to Bear Arms: A worldwide survey of conscription and conscientious objection to military service, 1998-2005 (Sri Lanka Country Report dated 27 July 1998, website accessed on 28 June 2005), conscription does not exist. The legal recruitment age for the armed forces is 18. There is no known legal provision for conscientious objection. [36]

9.02 War Resisters International also reported that desertion is punishable under article 103 of the Army Act by up to three years' imprisonment. Although desertion has been widespread, because of the paucity of recruits, the punishment of deserters rarely occurs. Amnesties for deserters have been announced several times, usually in the context of recruitment drives. According to these amnesties, deserters are allowed to return to their units without facing further penalties. Deadlines for amnesties are often extended as not all deserters apply in time to meet the initial deadline. [36]

9.03 As announced on the the Official Government News Portal of Sri Lanka on 11 January 2007:

“Government has declared another amnesty period for Army deserters from January 20 to January 31 of this year, Sri Lanka Army Headquarters stated in a media release. Accordingly the Army personnel who deserted the service after December 31, 2003 are requested to take this opportunity and re-join to the service by reporting for duty at their respective Regiment Centres... They will be reinstated in the same ranks they held and are assured that they will not be subjected to any punishment for absconding. The period of this amnesty will not be extended.” [10f]

See also Section 8 on Armed Forces

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10. ABUSES BY NON-GOVERNMENT ARMED FORCES

10.01 The US State Department Report 2006 (USSD), Sri Lanka, released on 6 March 2007 noted that “The LTTE routinely used excessive force in the war, including attacks targeting civilians. Since the peace process began in 2001, the LTTE has engaged in targeted killings, kidnapping, hijackings of truck shipments, and forcible recruitment, including of children.” (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 1g)

10.02 As noted in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office 2006 Annual Report on Human Rights, dated October 2006, “The LTTE continued to recruit children, extort ‘taxes’ and harass civilians in the north and east. In November 2005, the LTTE used violence and threats to prevent much of the Tamil population participating in the Sri Lankan presidential election. The LTTE exercise complete control in parts of Sri Lanka, preventing any form of rival political activity or freedom of expression.” [15I] (p212)

10.03 As noted in the Amnesty International report ‘Sri Lanka – A climate of fear in the East’, published on 3 February 2006:

“While the east has always been volatile, the relative calm that followed the CFA was broken when the LTTE’s eastern commander, known as Colonel Karuna, split from the LTTE in April 2004, taking with him thousands of cadres. Following the split, LTTE troops moved from the north into the east to engage Karuna and his cadres in battle, resulting in substantial casualties. Although Karuna disbanded his cadres and went into hiding after four days of fighting, this split has profoundly altered the political and military situation in the east. Since the split, the remaining elements of the Karuna group have

continually ambushed and attacked the LTTE and those affiliated with it, while the LTTE has sought to regain control of the east through a violent crackdown, not just on Karuna supporters, but on any dissent within the Tamil community. The LTTE has accused the Sri Lankan Army (SLA) of providing support to Karuna's group, in the same way as the SLA has reportedly supported other Tamil armed groups opposed to the LTTE." [3m] (Introduction)

10.04 "Initially following the breakaway of the Karuna faction in April 2004, the post-split violence was confined largely to the Batticaloa district. However, in 2005, it increasingly spread to Ampara and Trincomalee districts, where it has added to existing tension between ethnic communities. Tensions in the north and east escalated still further following the killing of Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar on 12 August and the state of emergency that was declared as a result. Towards the end of 2005 there was also a dramatic increase in violence in the north, with numerous killings and armed clashes between the LTTE and Sri Lankan security forces prompting fears of a return to war." (AI report of 3 February 2006) [3m] (Introduction)

10.05 The conclusions of the AI report of February 2006 noted that "It is clear that, as the situation in the east - and now also in the north - deteriorates and civilians are increasingly targeted and caught up in the violence, the improvements in the human rights situation made since the signing of the CFA are being rapidly reversed." [3m] (Conclusions)

10.06 As noted in the report of the UN Special Rapporteur, on his Mission to Sri Lanka (28 November to 6 December 2005), published on 27 March 2006:

"The LTTE's characterization of the Karuna group has evolved. When the split first occurred, the LTTE maintained that it was a purely internal matter. However, when I spoke with LTTE representatives, their position was that the Karuna group was a 'Tamil paramilitary' within the meaning of the CFA, that it received assistance from the Government, and that it must be disarmed by the Government. As evidence, the LTTE representatives pointed to statements made by alleged defectors from the Karuna group... Regardless of the veracity of these allegations, the LTTE's position on the Karuna group is untenable. Notwithstanding any support it may be providing, it is far from clear that the Government would be capable of disarming the Karuna group, and any future attempt at a comprehensive revised agreement would have to address the realities created by the Karuna group." [6x] (Paragraph 15)

10.07 The report of the UN Special Rapporteur continued:

"The Government's position on the Karuna group is also problematic. I was informed by a number of military personnel that ex-President Chandrika Kumaratunga had issued an order prohibiting any links with Karuna except by intelligence officers. I unsuccessfully requested a copy of that order. While I found no clear evidence of official collusion, there is strong circumstantial evidence of (at least) informal cooperation between Government forces and members of the Karuna group. I received credible reports from civil society groups of persons abducted by the Karuna group being released at military bases, a credible account of seeing a Karuna group member transporting an abductee in view of a Sri Lanka Army (SLA) commander, and equivocal denials from SLA personnel. Moreover, the stock line that members of both factions of the LTTE (Vanni or Karuna) were terrorists, between whom the

Government does not distinguish, is disingenuous. Many of the people I spoke with in the Army and the Police Special Task Force (STF) candidly noted that the split had been beneficial for the Government, because the Karuna group was undermining the LTTE. (There has been a notable increase in the number of LTTE cadres killed since the split.) The strategic logic is undeniable, but it imperils the ceasefire and shows a dangerous indifference to the many civilians in the East who have been killed as a consequence of the low-intensity conflict between the LTTE and the Karuna group.” [6x] (Paragraph 16)

- 10.08 As noted in the summary and recommendations of the HRW report entitled ‘Funding the “Final War” - LTTE Intimidation and Extortion in the Tamil Diaspora’, released on 15 March 2006:

“Between 1983 and 2002, the armed conflict between the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE or Tamil Tigers) cost an estimated 60,000 or more lives, and was marked by gross human rights abuses and violations of the laws of war on both sides. The war prompted nearly one-quarter of Sri Lanka’s Tamils to leave the country, many fleeing government abuses, creating a Tamil diaspora that now numbers approximately 600,000-800,000 worldwide. As Sri Lankan Tamils established themselves in Canada, the United Kingdom (U.K.) and other Western countries, the Tamil community became a significant source of financial and political support for the LTTE in its struggle to establish an independent state, ‘Tamil Eelam,’ for the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka’s North and East. While many members of the Tamil diaspora willingly and actively support the LTTE, others have been subject to intimidation, extortion, and physical violence as the LTTE seeks to suppress criticism of its human rights abuses and to ensure a steady flow of income. “ [21I] (Summary and Recommendations)

- 10.09 “Journalists and activists in the Tamil diaspora who openly criticize the LTTE or are perceived to be anti-LTTE have been subject to severe beatings, death threats, smear campaigns, and fabricated criminal charges. In 2005, the LTTE detained two British Tamils for several weeks in Sri Lanka in order to gain control over a Hindu temple in London. Such incidents have created a culture of fear within the Tamil community, stifling dissent and discouraging individuals from organizing activities that are not sanctioned by the LTTE. The LTTE has for many years pressured members of the Tamil community to provide financial support for its operations...Individuals who refused were sometimes threatened. Some were told that if they didn’t pay the requested sum, they would not be able to return to Sri Lanka to visit family members. Others were warned they would be ‘dealt with’ or ‘taught a lesson.’...The LTTE identifies Tamils from the West who return to Sri Lanka to visit family members, and systematically pressures them for funds when they arrive in LTTE-controlled territory in the North of Sri Lanka.” (HRW report of 15 March 2006) 21I] (Summary and Recommendations)

- 10.10 “The LTTE’s use of intimidation, harassment, extortion, and even physical violence against members of the Tamil diaspora is effectively stifling Tamil dissent regarding on-going LTTE human rights abuses in Sri Lanka. LTTE extortion is also forcing Tamils, including those who do not support the LTTE, to provide financial support for LTTE operations, including its continuing pattern of child recruitment and political killings. Both intimidation and extortion have significantly limited the ability of Tamils in the West who do not support

the LTTE's pattern of human rights abuses to effectively speak out and influence LTTE behavior." (HRW report of 15 March 2006) [21I] (Conclusions)

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ARBITRARY ARREST AND DETENTION

10.11 The USSD 2006 reported that "During the year the LTTE continued to detain civilians, often holding them for ransom...The SLMM reported that LTTE and Karuna Faction abductions increased significantly during the year." [2c] (Section 1b) The LTTE reportedly held a number of political prisoners; however, the number was impossible to determine because of the secretive nature of the organization, and the LTTE refused to allow the ICRC access to these prisoners..." [2c] (Section 1g)

10.12 As noted in the Amnesty International report 'Sri Lanka – A climate of fear in the East', published on 3 February 2006:

"Amnesty International has received regular reports of abductions of adults by the LTTE following the 2004 split. Most of those abducted have reportedly been Tamil civilians whom the LTTE suspects of working against it or whom it wishes to interrogate. Some victims of abductions, who have since been released, have told Amnesty International how they were taken to LTTE camps and subjected to torture and ill treatment. Local sources told Amnesty International that the actual number of abductions is far higher than reported, as many families do not report the abduction of a family member to any authority, but seek their release directly from the LTTE." (AI report of February 2006) [3m] (Abductions)

10.13 "It is reported that, in addition to abducting those that it suspects of opposing it, the LTTE also forcibly recruits adults into its forces, with young adults who were disbanded by Karuna following the split being particularly targeted. Local sources reported that young men demobilized by Karuna are leaving the east and many are attempting to travel abroad in order to escape harassment and forced re-recruitment by the LTTE. Local NGOs told Amnesty International that while previously only unmarried people had been recruited, married people are now being forcibly recruited and the LTTE is telling local populations that being married is no protection from recruitment. Amnesty International heard unconfirmed reports that Karuna's group has also been forcibly recruiting adults but no concrete evidence was available on this. Some agencies in Batticaloa reported that local people are being offered money, both by the LTTE and the Karuna group, to join their respective forces." (AI report of 3 February 2006) [3m] (Abductions)

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TORTURE

10.14 The USSD 2006 noted that the LTTE engaged in torture. [2c] (Introduction) The USSD 2004 reported that the LTTE used torture on a routine basis. [2d] (Section 1c) The USSD 2003 reported that "In the past, Tamil militants aligned with the former PA government engaged in torture; however, there were no such reports during the year [2003]." [2b] (p6)

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EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS

10.15 The USSD 2006 reported that:

“There were several reports of high profile killings by unknown actors during the year. For example, on April 7 [2006], unknown gunmen killed Tamil National Alliance parliamentary nominee V. Vigneswaran within sight of a navy checkpoint. Police had made no arrests at year's end...During the year the LTTE was implicated in attacks on high-profile political opponents and civilians. An April 17 suicide attack at Army Headquarters severely wounded Army Commander General Sarath Fonseka and killed eight others...In June a LTTE suicide bomber killed Army Third-in-Command General Kulatunga in a Colombo suburb...On August 13 [2006], presumed-LTTE gunmen killed Ketheshwaran Loganathan, Deputy Secretary of the Secretariat for Coordination of the Peace Process (SCOPP)...On August 14, Pakistan's High Commissioner escaped when a bomb hit his convoy; according to HRW at least seven people died in the incident. On September 17, authorities discovered the mutilated bodies of 10 Muslim construction workers in Pottuvil, near Arugam Bay. A survivor implicated the LTTE in the killings. A Presidential Commission of Inquiry to investigate serious violations of human rights, appointed in December, has a mandate to investigate this and a number of other cases.” [2c] (Section 1b)

10.16 “During the year [2006] there were credible reports that the LTTE killed 531 members of the police and military, more than 34 members of anti-LTTE Tamil paramilitary groups such as the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP), LTTE cadres loyal to the Karuna faction, alleged Tamil informants for the security forces, and civilians. The LTTE targeted both current and former members of anti-LTTE Tamil political parties. During the year 59 current and past anti-LTTE EPDP members were killed. Credible sources indicated that the LTTE killed 30 members of the breakaway military leader Karuna's group. There was also credible evidence that the LTTE killed 10 members of the military intelligence apparatus in a targeted campaign.” (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 1b)

10.17 “Gunmen from Karuna's paramilitary group allegedly killed 16 LTTE cadres, including (alias) Ramanan (Deputy Military Commander for Batticaloa) and Akbar (Artillery Division Director). Karuna's group was believed also to have killed several hundred civilians, including the 10 killings in conjunction with abductions...There were reports that the government provided protection and military aid to Karuna and his cadres to assist them in their fight against LTTE cadre. The government denied any connection to Karuna and his cadres.” (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 1g)

10.18 The Human Rights Watch (HRW), World Report 2007, Sri Lanka, January 2007 noted that:

“Since the beginning of the 2002 ceasefire, the LTTE has been implicated in more than 200 targeted killings, mostly of Tamils viewed as political opponents. Alleged LTTE cadres shot and killed eight Sinhalese men in April

[2006], including three sixteen year-old boys, while they worked in their paddy fields outside a village in Trincomalee. An LTTE car bombing on August 8 in Colombo injured a Tamil member of parliament and killed a bodyguard and a three-year-old child. On August 12, suspected LTTE gunmen shot and killed Kethesh Loganathan, the highly respected Tamil deputy head of the government's Peace Secretariat, at his home in Colombo." [21b]

- 10.19 The Amnesty International 2006 Annual Report on Sri Lanka (covering events from January – December 2005) noted that:

"There were large numbers of politically motivated killings, primarily in the east but increasingly also in the north. The majority were apparently committed by the LTTE, which assassinated civilians, members of rival paramilitary groups and security force personnel. Members of the breakaway Karuna faction also killed civilians and LTTE cadres. The LTTE accused the security forces of supporting the Karuna faction... In addition to targeted assassinations, there were numerous attacks on security force posts, LTTE offices and other sensitive targets. The high level of violence created an atmosphere of fear and insecurity for civilians." [3r]

- 10.20 As noted in the Amnesty International report 'Sri Lanka – A climate of fear in the East', published on 3 February 2006:

"Although the LTTE had reportedly continued to kill those it viewed as opponents since the signing of the CFA, the scale and scope of these killings has risen dramatically since the April 2004 split, with killings reported almost daily towards the end of 2005. According to the SLMM over 200 people were killed in 2005, although local organisations in the east believe that many killings go unreported and the actual figure is far higher. Given the nature of the struggle between the LTTE and Karuna group to control the Tamil community in the east, it is inevitable that most of the victims of killings have been Tamil, although there have been some killings of Muslims and Sinhalese. However, the range of people being targeted by both sides appears to be expanding. While most of those killed immediately following the split had clear links either to the LTTE or the Karuna faction, increasingly many of those killed are civilians with little or no evident connection to armed activity, including journalists, academics, teachers and farmers, as well as former members of Tamil armed groups who have not been involved in armed activities for a long time. As the killings escalate, civilians are increasingly trapped between the two sides. They are often forced to cooperate with one group and then seen as complicit with them and targeted by the other." [3m]
(Political killings)

- 10.21 "Not only is the number and range of people being killed expanding, but so also are the areas in which killings are taking place. Initially following the split [in April 2004] the killings were mainly in Batticaloa district, but in 2005 killings were reported from Ampara and Trincomalee districts, as well as from Jaffna and other areas in the north. People interviewed by Amnesty International in the east said that the widespread political violence is increasingly fusing with criminal violence, further confusing the situation and heightening the population's sense of insecurity... For the families of those killed by armed groups, there is no possibility of redress or reparation. Many of them are too afraid to report the killings and are themselves living in fear of further attacks... The one initiative taken by the authorities to address the killings was

the establishment of a Presidential Commission of inquiry into the alleged attacks on LTTE cadres in Batticaloa and Ampara districts...However, the scope of the inquiry was limited to a small number of killings of LTTE cadres and the only witnesses who gave evidence to the inquiry were members of the security forces and the SLMM. No civilians or civil society representatives appeared before the inquiry, partly due to security concerns. The findings of the inquiry have still not been made public.” (AI report of 3 February 2006) [3m] (Political killings)

10.22 As noted in the UNHCR Position on the International Protection Needs of asylum-seekers from Sri Lanka dated December 2006 “The LTTE has proven on numerous occasions that it can track down its opponents throughout the country, and kill them, as illustrated by the number of targeted killings and the increased number of claymore and other explosive devices discovered and detonated in Colombo and elsewhere in government-controlled areas.” [6b] (Paragraph 16)

10.23 The AI report of February 2006 also recorded that:

“There have been increasing numbers of armed clashes between the LTTE and Sri Lankan security forces and between the LTTE and the Karuna group. The LTTE have stated that the Karuna group is being supported by the Sri Lankan army, something which appears possible given the Sri Lankan army’s history of supporting rival Tamil armed groups. However, there is no information on exactly what form such support might take. Generally, little is known about the structure of the Karuna group and it is unclear whether it is a distinct group with its own camps or a more fluid network. Other Tamil armed groups continue to be active, although to a far lesser extent than the Karuna group. For example, some recent killings in the north and east have been attributed to the Eelam People’s Democratic Party (EPDP), including the killing of a Gramasevaka (local government official) on 19 October 2005 in Vavuniya district.” [3m] (Political killings)

10.24 As noted in the report of the UN Special Rapporteur, on his Mission to Sri Lanka (28 November to 6 December 2005), published on 27 March 2006:

“On the rebel side, the LTTE regularly issues unconvincing denials of responsibility for various killings but fails to denounce any of those which suit their purposes. The ‘Karuna group’, who split from the LTTE in the Eastern Province in March 2004, have killed and terrorized LTTE cadres and suspected supporters. Its efforts have succeeded in weakening the latter’s grip in the area. The Government insists that the group is an internal problem for the LTTE, while the latter now portray the Karuna group as a paramilitary formation acting in collusion with the Government which the Government is obligated to disarm under the CFA. Both positions are oversimplifications and neither is conducive to bringing an end to the conflict.” [6x] (Summary)

10.25 The UN Special Rapporteur commented that it was impossible to determine with precision the number of post-ceasefire killings. “Virtually no deaths have been effectively investigated, and it is not always possible to distinguish common murders from conflict-related political killings. The most credible estimates that I received placed the total number of such in 2005 at over 300.” (UN Special Rapporteur, Report dated 27 March 2006) [6x] (Paragraph 10) This figure is consistent with figures reported in the SATP (South Asia Terrorism Portal)

chart 'Fatalities District-Wise 2005' which quoted an overall figure of 330 for the year 2005. [37b]

10.26 "The Government has failed to effectively investigate most political killings. This is due both to the police force's general lack of investigative ability and to other impediments. When I asked police officers why a particular killing had not been resolved, I generally received the same answer: the suspect escaped into an LTTE-controlled area. While it is true that the police are unable to enter these areas, two observations are in order. First, in many cases the belief that the suspect was in an LTTE-controlled area was speculation inasmuch as no investigation had been carried out. Second, the police have lost much of their appetite for serious investigations of political killings. Many officers operate under the impression that investigating any crime presumed to involve the LTTE would imperil the ceasefire. These cases are simply too hot to handle. The Government should unambiguously instruct the police that, while they are obligated not to violate the CFA, they continue to be obligated to investigate crimes and apprehend suspects within the terms of the law, regardless of who those suspects might be." (UN Special Rapporteur, report dated 27 March 2006) [6x] (Paragraph 34) The police also lack sufficient linguistic ability and cultural sensitivity to interview witnesses and gather the information required to effectively investigate killings that occur within the Tamil and Muslim communities. The political killings have disproportionately affected these communities, both of which speak Tamil. The police force, however, is only 1.2 per cent Tamil and 1.5 per cent Muslim, and Sinhala officers seldom speak Tamil proficiently." [6x] (Paragraph 34)

10.27 The UN Special Rapporteur further noted that:

"CFA article 1.8 provides that 'Tamil paramilitary groups' shall be disarmed by the Government and that those of their members integrated into the armed forces be transferred away from the Northern and Eastern Province. Representatives of these groups - notably, EPDP, EPRLF, and PLOTE - informed me that they had been disarmed and now function solely as political parties. Compliance has not been perfect, however. One example, confirmed by a government official, is the continuing operation of armed EPDP cadres in the islands off the Jaffna peninsula. Various Government officials suggested to me that the CFA required only a one-time disarming of these groups by the Government with no obligation to prevent them from rearming." [6x] (Paragraph 11) While that position is untenable, there is little evidence that most members of these groups do other than non-military, political work. Thus, reflexive references to 'paramilitaries' rather than 'political parties' dangerously distort the facts. As long as these groups continue to be targeted, they will require protection from the military, which is facilitated by locating their residences and political offices near military posts. This protection unavoidably results in the appearance of cooperation with the military, but this cannot be generally assumed. Nor can particular allegations of cooperation be too readily discounted." [6x] (Paragraph 12) Post-ceasefire killings of members of these groups have continued, and most circumstantial evidence points to the LTTE. While some killings may have been motivated by the quest for military advantage, many appear to have been aimed only at upholding the LTTE's proclaimed role as the 'sole representative' of the Tamil people. Members of these groups are justifiably concerned that CFA article 2.1, prohibiting hostile acts against the civilian population, has not provided greater protection to them." [6x] (Paragraph 13)

- 10.28 “One of the most disturbing aspects of post-ceasefire violence has been the use of killing to control the Tamil population...the LTTE and, to a lesser extent, other groups have elected to reinforce their political and financial support from the Tamil population through the use of violence. The LTTE’s classification of its political opponents within the Tamil community as ‘traitors’ and its efforts to enforce obedience with killings constitute fundamental violations of human rights.” [6x] (Paragraphs 21- 22)
- 10.29 As noted in the UNHCR Position on the International Protection Needs of asylum-seekers from Sri Lanka dated December 2006, “Apart from alleged state-sponsored paramilitary groups, the army, the LTTE, armed elements of the Eelam People’s Democratic Party (EPDP, a Tamil opposition party with associations with the security forces), and the Karuna faction have also been implicated in abductions, disappearances, extrajudicial killings.” [6b] (Paragraph 16)
- 10.30 As mentioned in a letter from the British High Commission, Colombo to the Home Office dated 7 July 2006:
- “We have continued to track all media sources reporting political killings. Between 1 December 2005 and 30 June 2006 we recorded 872 political deaths. Although other sources, such as the BBC, differ on the precise figure most are reporting a cumulative death figure of a similar scale. The Foundation for Co-Existence monitors political violence as well and have extended their reporting to the north. Their assessment is slightly lower (it does not include those killed outside the north and east).” The figures provided were as follows: a total of 787, of which 401 were in the Eastern Province and 386 in the Northern Province. [15k]
- 10.31 The Human Rights Watch (HRW) report entitled ‘Improving Civilian Protection in Sri Lanka’, released on 19 September 2006, noted that:
- “The LTTE has directly targeted civilians with Claymore mines and suicide bombers, summarily executed persons in its custody, and in at least one instance used civilians as shields and blocked water to a civilian population. The LTTE’s landmine attack in June on a bus in Anuradhapura killed 67 civilians, including many children... Since the start of the ceasefire in 2002, the LTTE has been implicated in more than 200 targeted killings, mostly of Tamils viewed as being political opponents. Attackers believed to be LTTE cadres shot and killed eight Sinhalese men in April, including three sixteen-year-old boys, while they worked in their paddy fields outside of Kalyanapura village in Trincomalee district. An LTTE car bombing on August 8 in Colombo injured a Tamil member of parliament and killed a bodyguard and a three-year-old child. On August 12, suspected LTTE gunmen shot and killed Kethesh Loganathan, the highly respected Tamil deputy head of the government’s Peace Secretariat at his home in Colombo.” [21p] (Introduction)

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FORCED CONSCRIPTION

10.32 The UNICEF 'Monitoring and Reporting' of 31 March 2007) recorded that:

"At the Oslo round of Peace Talks in November 2002, UNICEF was given a mandate to monitor child rights violations of the ceasefire agreement. As part of this mandate UNICEF compiles and verifies data on child recruitment, as reported usually by family members, and makes this information available regularly to partners, working with them to advocate against child recruitment. According to UNICEF data-bases, as of 31 December, 2006, there are 1685 outstanding cases of under age recruitment by the LTTE. Of these, 683 are under the age of 18, and 1002 were recruited while under 18 but have now passed that age. UNICEF continuously checks its database on under age recruitment to ensure its accuracy. UNICEF only withdraws recruits from its database when it is able to verify their release through an official letter of release, or by establishing that the child is reunited with his or her parents. UNICEF estimates that its database only reflects a third of the actual number of children recruited. As of 31 March 2007 there are 194 outstanding cases of under age recruitment by the Karuna group." [53c]

10.33 As noted in the USSD 2006:

"The LTTE forcibly recruited 451 children during the year [2006]...However, the LTTE also released 80 children, at least 52 of whom were again recruited. There were intermittent reports of children as young as eight years escaping from LTTE camps." [2c] (Section 1g)

"The LTTE used child soldiers and recruited children, sometimes forcibly, for use in battlefield support functions and in combat. LTTE recruits, some as young as eight years of age, escaped LTTE camps and surrendered to the military or the SLMM. Credible reports indicated that in February [2006] the LTTE and Karuna faction increased recruiting efforts, particularly in the east...Credible sources reported that there were more than 450 cases of forcible child recruitment by the LTTE. The Karuna faction of the LTTE forcibly recruited an estimated 200 children. These sources also reported that more than 1,000 children remained in LTTE custody at year's [2006] end. Several sources reported that the LTTE continued to obstruct the 2003 action plan between UNICEF and the LTTE on the demobilization and rehabilitation of child soldiers. Several sources reported that the LTTE used intimidation or bribes to facilitate recruitment. Some senior LTTE officials claimed that all child soldiers were volunteers." [2c] (Section 5)

The USSD 2006 further noted that the LTTE used children as young as 13 were in battle. [2c] (Section 6d)

10.34 The United Nations Security Council 'Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Sri Lanka (covering the period from 1 November 2005 to 31 October 2006), dated 20 December 2006 (and released on 16 January 2007) noted that:

"During the reporting period [1 November 2005 to 31 October 2006], UNICEF received reports of 541 children recruited, of which 66 were re-recruited by LTTE. [6f] (Paragraph 13)

As of 31 October 2006, out of the 5,794 total cases of child recruitment verified by UNICEF since April 2001, 1,598 recruited children are believed to remain with LTTE. Of those 649 children are currently under the age of 18,

and 949 are individuals who were recruited when they were under the age of 18 years, but are now 18 years of age or older. The above figures represent only the number of cases reported to UNICEF, and there are indications that the prevailing security situation might be deterring families from reporting cases. The overlap between children recorded on the UNICEF database and children who left LTTE (released, ran away or returned home) is approximately 37 per cent, suggesting that the UNICEF figures reflect approximately one third of the total cases of recruitment... During the reporting period, the majority of reports of recruitment of children came from Kilinochchi District, with 26 per cent of documented child recruitment or re-recruitment occurring in the district... The data also reflect that [overall] the number of boys recruited was higher than the number of girls (68 per cent of recruits were boys and 32 per cent of recruits were girls)... On the basis of cases reported to UNICEF, the average age of underage recruits during the reporting period was 16 years..." [6f] (Paragraph 16-19)

"During the reporting period, LTTE notified UNICEF that 362 children had been 'released' from its ranks, including the recent release of 79 children in September 2006... During the same period, UNICEF verified the release of 90 children from LTTE ranks, including 69 children on the LTTE release list. UNICEF was not able to verify the alleged release of the remaining children included on the list, as some of the children were allegedly residing at the educational skills development centre, where UNICEF access is limited. [6f] (Paragraph 20)

10.35 The UN Security Council document of December 2006 further noted that:

"A particularly disconcerting development during the reporting period was the increase in the abduction and recruitment of children in the east of Sri Lanka by the Karuna faction since May 2006. As of 31 October 2006, UNICEF had received 164 reports of children being recruited by the Karuna faction. Fourteen of the recruited children have been released, 15 other children are known to have run away and 7 children have been re-recruited; therefore, as of 31 October 2006, there is a residual caseload of 142 children who are believed to remain in the ranks of the Karuna faction. [6f] (Paragraph 24)

To date, UNICEF received reports of abduction and recruitment only of boys by the Karuna faction. Children have been abducted from the streets, temples and their homes, mainly in Government-controlled areas. Reports were also received that children were recruited and abducted in areas in close proximity to government security offices and checkpoints." [6f] (Paragraph 27)

10.36 As noted in the HRW document entitled 'Complicit in Crime - State Collusion in Abductions and Child Recruitment by the Karuna Group, January 2007' (released on 23 January 2007):

"Throughout the two-decade long civil war in Sri Lanka, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), an ethnic Tamil armed separatist group, has consistently recruited and used children in armed combat. The LTTE has deployed children in mass attacks during major battles. It has used them as infantry soldiers, security and intelligence officers, medics, and even suicide bombers. Now the Sri Lankan government through a proxy force is implicated in some of the same abuse. The perpetrator is the so-called Karuna group, an armed faction under the command of a former LTTE senior commander known as Colonel Karuna, who split from the LTTE with his forces in March 2004. In the past year, reports have increasingly linked Sri Lankan security

forces with the Karuna group in their common fight against the LTTE. Throughout 2006, but especially since June, the Karuna group has abducted and forcibly recruited at least 200 Tamil children in Sri Lanka's eastern districts, where the group is active — the real number is up to three times higher due to underreporting.” [21c] (Summary)

10.37 The HRW document of January 2007 continued:

“Children are not the only targets. The Karuna group has also abducted and forcibly recruited hundreds of young men between ages 18 and 30. The pattern and intensity of the abductions reveal a coordinated effort to increase the numbers of Karuna's force. At least since June, and probably before, the Sri Lankan government has known about the abductions. The areas where they have taken place are firmly under government control, with myriad military and police checkpoints and security force camps. No armed group could engage in such large-scale abductions, and then hold and train the abductees for combat in established camps, without government knowledge and at least tacit support.” [21c] (Summary)

10.38 “Throughout 2006, Karuna forces abducted boys and young men from their homes, work places, temples, playgrounds, public roads, camps for the internally displaced, and even a wedding. While the group primarily targeted males between 15 and 30, the youngest confirmed abduction was of an 11-year-old boy. In only two known cases did the Karuna group abduct a girl. It generally targeted poor families, and often those who had already had a child recruited by the LTTE...After abducting boys and young men, the Karuna group often holds them temporarily in the nearest office of its political party, the Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (Tamil Peoples Liberation Tigers or TMVP). As with other political party offices in Sri Lanka, their offices are frequently guarded by the Sri Lankan army and police. Parents in Ampara and Batticaloa districts told Human Rights Watch that they either saw their abducted sons in these offices in the days after abduction, or TMVP officials confirmed to families that they had been there. After a few days, the Karuna group usually transferred abducted children and young adults to one of its camps in the area northwest of Welikanda town in the Polonnaruwa district, about 50 kilometers northwest of Batticaloa town...According to parents who visited the camps and humanitarian workers familiar with the area, the Karuna group maintains four or five camps about ten kilometers west of Welikanda (see map). That area is firmly under government control, as is the main A11 road from the eastern districts to the Welikanda area. Transporting several hundred abducted youth during the year to the Karuna camps would have been impossible without the complicity of government security forces: travel through the area necessitates passing through numerous checkpoints of the army and police.” (Human Rights Watch, ‘Complicit in Crime - State Collusion in Abductions and Child Recruitment by the Karuna Group, January 2007) [21c] (Summary)

10.39 “The government and the Karuna group have repeatedly denied any coordination between them...But for residents of Sri Lanka's eastern districts, government complicity in Karuna abductions is an obvious fact. Tamil and Muslim civilians in Ampara, Batticaloa, and Trincomalee districts say they have seen Karuna members working with the army and police at checkpoints to check IDs, and that armed Karuna cadre walk freely through villages and towns in areas under government control...The Sri Lankan police are also complicit due to their unwillingness to seriously investigate complaints filed by

the parents of abducted boys and young men. In some cases the police reportedly refused to register a parent's complaint. In other cases the police registered the complaint but failed to undertake what the family considered a proper investigation. In no known case did the police secure the child's release. Some families did not report the abduction to the police, either out of fear or because they doubted the police would do anything to help their case...The Sri Lankan government has promised to take some steps. When Allan Rock, the special advisor to the UN special representative for children and armed conflict raised allegations about Karuna group abductions and use of children as soldiers in November 2006, President Rajapakse said he would order an investigation to determine whether any security forces were complicit in the crimes. According to the special advisor, the president promised to hold accountable those who violated the law." (Human Rights Watch, 'Complicit in Crime - State Collusion in Abductions and Child Recruitment by the Karuna Group, January 2007) [21c] (Summary)

- 10.40 As noted in a HRW document entitled 'Sri Lanka: Karuna Group and LTTE Continue Abducting and Recruiting Children', dated 29 March 2007:

"Despite promises to investigate abductions of children by the pro-government Karuna group, Sri Lankan authorities have taken no effective action and abductions continue, Human Rights Watch said today. The armed opposition Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) also continue to recruit children in Sri Lanka and use them as soldiers... President Mahinda Rajapakse and other Sri Lankan officials have repeatedly said that the government would investigate the allegations of state complicity in Karuna abductions and hold accountable any member of the security forces found to have violated the law. To date, however, the government has taken no effective steps. According to UNICEF, there were 45 reported cases of Karuna child abductions in three months – 10 in December, 24 in January, and 11 in February. Among these were three children abducted by Karuna cadre from camps for internally displaced persons in Batticaloa district. The actual number is likely to be higher because many parents are afraid to report cases, and these numbers do not reflect the forced recruitment by the Karuna group of young men over 17. The Karuna group has released at least a dozen children since December. According to UNICEF, however, at least three of the released children were subsequently re-recruited." [21a]

- 10.41 "At the same time, the LTTE has continued to abduct and forcibly recruit children and young adults, including women and girls, Human Rights Watch said. UNICEF documented 19 cases of LTTE child recruitment in January and nine in February. The LTTE has also abducted at least four people from camps for the internally displaced. Access to LTTE-controlled areas remains difficult, but credible reports indicate that the group is increasingly recruiting and deploying girls as frontline soldiers in the East. In the recent fighting in the Thoppigala region of Batticaloa district, at least three girls fighting with the LTTE were reportedly killed." (Human Rights Watch, 'Sri Lanka: Karuna Group and LTTE Continue Abducting and Recruiting Children', 29 March 2007) [21a]
- 10.42 "There is strong evidence that government forces are now openly cooperating with the Karuna group despite its illegal activities, Human Rights Watch said. Armed Karuna members regularly walk or ride throughout Batticaloa district in plain view of government forces. In February, Human Rights Watch saw a Karuna commander named Jeyam riding atop a Sri Lankan armored

personnel vehicle outside Valaichchenai. In Batticaloa town, residents have seen Karuna cadre patrolling jointly with the police. The Karuna group maintains at least five camps in the jungle about 10 kilometers northwest of Welikanda town in the Polonnaruwa district, about 50 kilometers northwest of Batticaloa town. Welikanda is where the Sri Lankan Army's 23rd division has its base. The area is firmly under government control, as is the main A11 road from the eastern districts to the Welikanda area. The Karuna camp at Mutugalla village is near a Sri Lankan army post. Independent sources have provided detailed information on abductions and recruitment of children by the Karuna group and the LTTE. In February [2007] the UN special advisor on children and armed conflict, Allan Rock, reported to the Security Council on Karuna abductions of children with state complicity and on child recruitment by the LTTE, based on his visit to Sri Lanka in November [2006]...Karuna has denied allegations that his forces are abducting or recruiting children. He told Human Rights Watch in a telephone communication on February 9 that his forces had no members under age 18, and that they would discipline any commander who tried to recruit a person under that age. In January the TMVP released regulations for its military wing, stating that 18 was the minimum age for recruitment, and specifying penalties for members who conscript children. Karuna said he was willing to discuss ways that the regulations could be improved, but said that unscheduled visits to his camps were not possible due to security concerns." (Human Rights Watch, 'Sri Lanka: Karuna Group and LTTE Continue Abducting and Recruiting Children', 29 March 2007) [21a]

- 10.43 As noted in the UNHCR Position on the International Protection Needs of asylum-seekers from Sri Lanka dated December 2006:

"Young Tamil men and women continue to be at risk of forced recruitment by the LTTE and/or Karuna faction in the North and East of the country... Although both the LTTE and the Karuna faction deny allegations of forced recruitment, there is considerable pressure on every family to contribute at least one fighter. Since the escalation of hostilities in the East, there has been an increase in open recruitment by the Karuna faction, including in displacement sites. Families of those forcibly recruited are often afraid to report these abductions for fear of reprisals. Many people have fled the North and East to escape competing pressures from both the LTTE and the Karuna faction and in fear of retaliation if they do not comply. Retaliation could be of a severe nature, which may include torture and other forms of human rights abuses of sufficient severity as to amount to persecution...Children, in particular, are at risk of violation of their human rights through military recruitment. Underage recruitment is reported to take place in both LTTE and government-controlled areas, the latter allegedly by the Karuna faction." [6b] (Paragraph 17&18)

- 10.44 On 21 December 2006 BBC News reported that seven boys who had been abducted by the Tamil Tigers a few days earlier had finally been released and reunited with their families and that fifteen girls kidnapped at the same time had been released earlier. The Tigers were quoted as admitting that taking the children was a serious mistake' and saying that they had taken action against those involved in the incident. [9i]

- 10.45 On 14 November 2006 the UN News Service reported that:

“Elements of Sri Lanka’s security forces are helping a breakaway rebel group abduct children to fight the separatist Tamil Tigers, while the rebels themselves continue to use child soldiers in their conflict against the Government, a United Nations adviser has said after a 10-day assessment mission to the strife-torn country. ‘It is increasingly clear that children are at risk from all sides,’ Allan Rock, the Special Adviser to the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict on Sri Lanka said yesterday. The so-called Karuna faction continues to abduct children in Government-controlled areas of the East, particularly Batticaloa district, the mission said in a statement. Since May of this year, 135 cases of under-age recruitment by abduction have been reported to the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), ‘with evidence that this trend is accelerating,’ it added ...The mission also found that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have “not complied” with their commitments under the Action Plan to stop child recruitment and release all the children within their ranks.” [6d]

- 10.46 As highlighted in the United Nations, General Assembly Security Council, Children and armed conflict, Report of the Secretary-General, 26 October 2006:

“From 1 November 2005 to 30 September 2006, UNICEF received reports of 513 children recruited or re-recruited by LTTE. These figures only represent the number of cases reported to UNICEF, and there were indications that the prevailing security situation might be deterring families from reporting cases...On the basis of cases reported to UNICEF, the average age of child recruits during this period was 16 years. Some 68 per cent of recruits were boys and 32 per cent were girls. From 1 November 2005 to 30 September 2006, most cases were reported from Kilinochchi district, with 26 per cent of the total number of children recruited or re-recruited occurring in the district; Batticaloa reported the second highest number of cases, with 23 per cent. During the same period, LTTE officially released 91 children and another 25 children are known to have escaped or run away. In most cases, LTTE did not follow the agreed release procedures as children were often transferred to a residential vocational training facility in Kilinochchi, or to the human rights body of LTTE, the Northeast Secretariat for Human Rights. UNICEF expressed concerns at this practice as children were placed in the institutions without parental consent, and there were verification difficulties owing to limitations in accessing the institutions.” [6e] (Paragraph 99)

- 10.47 “As at 30 September 2006, UNICEF had received 128 reports of children being recruited by the Karuna faction. In the space of one week in mid-June, UNICEF received 30 reports alleging that children had been abducted by the Karuna faction in the areas of Santhiveli, Kiran, Mankerni, Valachchenai and Iruthayapuram (Manmunai North). Only boys were taken. All of the cases involved forced recruitment and abduction, in some cases by armed men who openly identified themselves as members of the Karuna faction...Both the Karuna faction and the LTTE were included as responsible for abducting children in the reporting period (November 2005 – September 2006) in the ‘List of parties that recruit or use children in situations of armed conflict not on the agenda of the Security Council, or in other situations of concern, bearing in mind other violations and abuses committed against children’. (United Nations, General Assembly Security Council, Children and armed conflict, Report of the Secretary-General, 26 October 2006) [6e] (Paragraph 101-102 & Annex II)

- 10.48 On 26 October 2006 Times online reported that according to international and local aid workers the Karuna group had abducted between 300 and 900 children (some as young as 12) since March 2006.

“Now Karuna is implicating the Government in the kidnap and exploitation of hundreds of children, according to aid workers, truce monitors, witnesses and relatives. ‘There is some sort of complicity by the Government in what is happening to children here,’ said one aid worker who asked not to be identified. ‘Most people feel there is no difference between the Government and Karuna.’...The Government denies co-operating with Karuna and last month [September 2006] appointed a judge to investigate reported abductions... However, Batticaloa residents and Norwegian-led truce monitors say that they regularly see Karuna members — armed and in black uniforms or civilian dress — working alongside troops and police. They say that government forces allow Karuna to transport children through dozens of checkpoints on the way to a training camp near the town of Welikande. Karuna’s political wing, the TMVP, has opened several offices around eastern Sri Lanka recently, many beside military camps... E. Prethip, an official in the TMVP’s Batticaloa office, denied recruiting minors and said that the Tigers were carrying out the abductions and blaming Karuna. He also denied working with government forces. Analysts say that Karuna is at the heart of the Government’s strategy to divide and conquer the Tigers by exploiting tensions between northern and eastern Tamils.” [18a]

- 10.49 The Human Rights Watch (HRW) report entitled ‘Improving Civilian Protection in Sri Lanka’, released on 19 September 2006, noted that:

“The LTTE imposes mandatory military and civil defense training on a large scale to civilians in areas it controls, and arms civilians to fill checkpoints and sentry posts, dangerously blurring the line between combatants and civilians. Despite widespread international criticism, the LTTE still recruits children to be soldiers in its forces. So has the breakaway faction of the LTTE under Colonel Karuna, which is increasingly linked to the government forces; since June [2006] the Karuna group has abducted more than 100 children in Batticaloa district for its forces.” [21p] (Introduction)

- 10.50 As reported by the Sri Lanka Department of Government Information on 31 July 2006:

“Credible evidence has emerged that the LTTE are holding about 5,000 children in combat camps. In 2004 alone, the LTTE recruited 1,000 children. According to the latest human rights reports, children abducted from schools and homes are held in LTTE camps where they undergo training in guerilla [sic] combat and prepare for deadly missions such as suicide bombings. The escalation of tension between the LTTE and security forces in recent months has led to an intensified drive by the Tigers to recruit children, which in turn is forcing hundreds of families to flee their homes, the reports say.” [10b]

- 10.51 The Amnesty International report Sri Lanka – A climate of fear in the East’, dated 3 February 2006, recorded that:

“In Batticaloa district, parents told Amnesty International that child recruitment by the LTTE is widespread in government controlled areas and that it is mostly children over 14 years old who are being taken. Local people and agencies

working with children believe that less recruitment is taking place in LTTE controlled areas, even allowing for the fact that it is more difficult for families living in LTTE areas to report incidents to UNICEF or other human rights organizations. Parents described how children are being recruited at particular roadside junctions and named the LTTE cadres they believe are responsible. They also reported that the Karuna group is forcibly recruiting children, although there is little concrete information available on this and people appeared afraid to talk about it...In Trincomalee district, organisations working with children informed Amnesty International that most recent reports of child recruitment were from Trincomalee town, with fewer reports from LTTE controlled areas. As in Batticaloa, it was reported that most children being recruited are in their mid to late teens...There is little recourse for families whose children have been recruited. Complaints directly to the LTTE do not usually produce results and where families report to external agencies, such as UNICEF or the SLMM, these agencies can raise the case with the LTTE but are unable to compel the LTTE to release the children.” [3m] (Recruitment of child soldiers)

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11. JUDICIARY

- 11.01 “Sri Lanka's legal system is based upon a combination of English criminal law and Roman-Dutch civil law. Civil law relating to inheritance, marriage and divorce in certain parts of the country and among certain communities also bear the strong imprint of indigenous legal traditions...The Supreme Court, headed by the chief justice, constitutes the apex of the court hierarchy. In addition to being the highest appellate court in the country, the Supreme Court has exclusive jurisdiction in litigation on fundamental rights.” (Jane's Sentinel Security Assessments, Country profile - At a glance, Sri Lanka, 3 November 2006, Internal Affairs, 14 July 2006)

ORGANISATION

- 11.02 As noted in the USSD 2006, “The president appoints judges to the Supreme Court, the high court, and the courts of appeal. A judicial service commission, composed of the chief justice and two Supreme Court judges, appoints and transfers lower court judges. Judges may be removed for misbehavior or incapacity but only after an investigation followed by joint action of the president and the parliament.” [2c] (Section 1e)
- 11.03 As recorded in Europa the judicial system consists of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, the High Court, District Courts, Magistrates' Courts and Primary Courts. The last four are Courts of the First Instance. Appeals lie from them to the Court of Appeal and from there, on questions of law, or by special leave, to the Supreme Court. The High Court deals with all criminal cases, and the District Courts with civil cases. There are also Labour Tribunals to decide labour-based disputes. [1a] (p3953)
- 11.04 Europa records that the Judicial Service Commission comprises the Chief Justice and two judges of the Supreme Court, nominated by the President. All judges of the Courts of First Instance (except High Court judges), and the staff of all courts are appointed and controlled by the Judicial Service Commission.

The Supreme Court consists of the Chief Justice and not fewer than 6 and not more than 10 other judges. The Court of Appeal consists of the President, and not fewer than 6 and not more than 11 judges. [1a] (p3953)

LTTE courts

11.05 As reported by the USSD 2006:

“During the year the LTTE continued to operate its own court system. The LTTE demanded that all Tamil civilians stop using the government's judicial system and rely only on the LTTE's alternative legal system. Credible reports indicated that the LTTE used the threat of force to back its demands. The LTTE's legal system is composed of judges with little or no legal training. LTTE courts operated without codified or defined legal authority and essentially as agents of the LTTE rather than as an independent judiciary.” [2c] (Section 1e)

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INDEPENDENCE

11.06 The USSD 2006 reported that “The law provides for an independent judiciary, and the government generally respected this provision in practice.” [2c] (Section 1e)

11.07 As noted in Countries at the Crossroads 2006:

“Judges in the lower courts (primary courts, magistrate's courts, the district courts, and the high courts) are appointed by the Judicial Service Commission (JSC), which also dismisses and disciplines them. The JSC is composed of the chief justice and two associate justices of the Supreme Court. Because the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal justices are appointed by the president, they are often close to the president and respond to pressure. Thus, the president may have an undue amount of influence over the judges. Since 1985, all new judges have been trained by the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute. The institute has also provided in-service training for sitting judges. Although the institute receives relatively limited funding, judges are reasonably well prepared for the bench...Prosecutors, on paper, are independent of political pressure, although in reality the process is highly politicized. It is common for politicians to face criminal prosecution only when their party is out of power. This phenomenon has led to a profusion of political cases, some justified, some not, whenever there is a change of government.”
Freedom House's rating for Rule of Law in Sri Lanka was 4.15 (on a scale of 0 to 7, with 0 representing weakest and 7 representing strongest performance). [46f] (Rule of Law)

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FAIR TRIAL

11.08 The USSD 2006 noted that:

“In criminal cases, juries try defendants in public. Defendants are informed of the charges and evidence against them, and they have the right to counsel and the right to appeal. The government provides counsel for indigent persons tried on criminal charges in the high court and the courts of appeal, but it does not provide counsel in other cases. Private legal aid organizations assisted some defendants. The legal aid commission offered legal aid to assist those who could not afford representation; however, some sources reported that its representatives extorted money from beneficiaries. There are no jury trials in cases brought under the PTA. Defendants are presumed innocent, and confessions obtained by various coercive means, including torture, are inadmissible in all criminal proceedings except PTA cases. Defendants bear the burden of proof to show that their confessions were obtained by coercion. Defendants in PTA cases have the right to appeal. Subject to judicial review in certain cases, defendants may spend up to 18 months in prison on administrative order waiting for their cases to be heard. Once their cases came to trial, decisions were made relatively quickly.” [2c] (Section 1e)

11.09 “Despite the law calling for court proceedings and other legislation to be available in English, Sinhala, and Tamil, most court proceedings outside of Jaffna and the northern parts of the country were conducted in English or Sinhala, which, due to a shortage of court-appointed interpreters, restricted the ability of Tamil-speaking defendants to get a fair hearing. Trials and hearings in the north were in Tamil and English. While Tamil-speaking judges existed at the magistrate level, only four high court judges, one appeals court judge, and one Supreme Court justice spoke fluent Tamil. Few legal textbooks existed in Tamil, and the government had not complied with legislation requiring that all laws be published in English, Sinhala, and Tamil.” (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 1e)

11.10 As noted in Countries at the Crossroads 2006:

“The Sri Lankan legal system is based on a combination of English common law, Roman-Dutch law, and local Sinhalese and Muslim law. It provides adequate protection to suspects who are deemed innocent until proven guilty...The judicial system has struggled to deliver justice in a reasonable length of time. It is not unusual for cases, especially civil cases, to extend well beyond 10 years. The cost of maintaining legal counsel over the years of periodic hearings places litigation beyond the means of all but the richest of Sri Lankans. Thus, although the judicial system is open to all, the rich and the politically connected have undue influence over the process. One factor helping counteract this imbalance in Sri Lankan society is the Legal Aid Commission. The commission is a statutory body created in 1978 that provides free legal assistance to suspects facing criminal charges. Suspects who earn less than 2,500 rupees per month (roughly US\$25) are eligible. However, the commission is sorely under-funded, with a yearly budget of only 1.2 million rupees (US\$12,000) to cover the approximately 25,000 cases it handles a year.” [46f] (Rule of Law)

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12. ARREST AND DETENTION – LEGAL RIGHTS

- 12.01 The US State Department Report 2006 (USSD), Sri Lanka, released on 6 March 2007 noted that:

“Under the [ordinary] law authorities must inform an arrested person of the reason for arrest and bring that person before a magistrate within 24 hours, but in practice, detained persons generally appeared within a few days before a magistrate. A magistrate may authorize bail for bailable and many non-bailable offences or may order continued pretrial detention for up to three months or longer. Police do not need an arrest warrant for certain offenses, such as murder, theft, robbery, and rape. In the case of murder, the magistrate must remand the suspect, and only the high court may grant bail. In all cases, suspects have the right to legal representation. Counsel is provided for indigent defendants in criminal cases before the high court and the courts of appeal, but not in other cases. In August 2005 following the assassination of the foreign minister, parliament approved emergency regulations, giving power of arrest to members of the armed forces, who were required to turn suspects over to the police within 24 hours. Individuals arrested under the emergency regulations may be detained for up to a year without trial.” [2c] (Section 1d)

- 12.02 As noted in the Amnesty International report ‘Sri Lanka – A climate of fear in the East’, published on 3 February 2006:

“The climate of fear [in the East] was further increased by the declaration of a State of Emergency on 13 August 2005, in response to the killing of the Foreign Minister, Lakshman Kadirgamar, on 12 August [2005]. Tamil communities in all three eastern districts told Amnesty International that they had experienced increased harassment by the security forces following the declaration of the state of emergency, while local NGOs reported that increased roadblocks were causing delays in transporting aid and hindering access to LTTE controlled areas. In Karaitivu, Ampara district, representatives from an IDP camp for Tamils displaced by the tsunami told Amnesty International delegates that they had faced heightened security problems following the declaration of the State of Emergency.” [3m] (Climate of fear)

- 12.03 On 5 July 2006 SCOPP (the Sri Lankan Government’s Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process) reported on the human rights guidelines issued by the president:

“I, Mahinda Rajapaksa, President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and Minister of Defence, Public Security, Law and Order being of opinion that it is necessary to issue directions to the Heads of the Armed Forces and the Police Force to enable the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (herein after referred to as ‘the HRC’) to exercise and perform its powers, functions and the duties and for the purpose of ensuring that fundamental rights of persons arrested or detained are respected and such persons are treated humanely, do hereby, direct the Heads of the Armed Forces and of the Police as follows:

1. Every member of the Armed Forces and of the Police Force shall assist and facilitate the HRC and any person authorized by the HRC in the exercise of its powers, duties and functions and also ensure that the fundamental rights of persons arrested or detained are respected.

2. No person shall be arrested or detained under any Emergency Regulation or the Prevention of Terrorism Act No. 48 of 1979 except in accordance with the law and proper procedures and by a person who is authorized by law to make such arrest or order such detention.
3. At or about the time of the arrest or if it is not possible in the circumstances, immediately thereafter as circumstances permit:
 - (i) the person making the arrest or detention shall identify himself to the person arrested or any relative or friend of such person upon inquiry being made by name and rank.
 - (ii) every person arrested or detained shall be informed of the reason for the arrest.
 - (iii) the person making the arrest or detention shall issue, to the spouse, father, mother or any other close relation as the case may be a document in such form as specified by the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister in charge of the subject of Defence, acknowledging the fact of arrest. The name and rank of the arresting officer, the time and date of arrest and the place at which the person will be detained, shall also be specified. It shall be the duty of the holder of such document to return the same to, or produce the same before, the appropriate authority when the person so arrested or detained is released from custody.
 Provided that, where any person is taken into custody and it is not possible to issue a document as set out above, it shall be the duty of the arresting officer, if such officer is a police officer, to make an entry in the Information Book giving reasons as to why it is not possible to so issue a document, and if the arresting officer is a member of the Armed Forces to report the reasons why it is not possible to issue a document to the officer in charge of the police station, whose duty it shall be to make an entry of such fact along with the reasons therefore in the Information Book.
 - (iv) the person arrested shall be afforded reasonable means of communicating with a relative or friend to enable his whereabouts being [sic] known to his family.
4. When a child under 12 years or a woman is sought to be arrested or detained a person of their choice should be allowed to accompany such child or woman to the place of questioning. As far as possible, any such child or woman so sought to be arrested or detained should be placed in the custody of a Women's Unit of the Armed Forces or the Police Force or in the custody of another woman military or police officer.
5. A statement of a person arrested or detained should be recorded in the language of that person's choice who should, thereafter, be asked to sign the statement. A person who desires to make a statement in his or her own handwriting should be permitted to do so.
6. (i) The members of the HRC or any person authorized by it should be permitted access to the person arrested or detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act No. 48 of 1979 under a Regulation made under the Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40), and should be permitted to enter at any time any place of detention, police station or any other place in which such person is detained in custody or confined.
 (ii) Every officer who makes an arrest or order of detention as the case may be, shall forthwith, and in any case not later than forty eight hours from the time of such arrest or detention inform the HRC or any person specially authorized by the HRC of such arrest or detention as the case may be and the place at which the persons so arrested or detained is [sic] being held in custody or detention." [41k]

12.04 On 6 December 2006 the government announced the introduction of revised though emergency regulations [the Emergency (Prevention and Prohibition of Terrorism and Specified Terrorist Activities) Regulations, No. 7 of 2006] giving the security forces 'wide-ranging powers to search, arrest and question'. (BBC News, 6 December 2006) [9o] (New Regulations to Combat Terrorism, SCOPP Report, 6 December 2006) [41n]

12.05 As recorded on the website of the Sri Lankan Government's Secretariat for Co-ordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP) on 6 December 2006:

"The Government has promulgated Regulations as of December 6, 2006, to combat acts of terrorism in the country...Terrorism has been defined as unlawful conduct which

1. involves the use of violence, force, coercion, intimidation, threats, duress, or
2. threatens or endangers national security, or
3. intimidates a civilian population or a group thereof, or
4. disrupts or threatens public order, the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the life of the community, or
5. causing destruction or damage to property, or
6. endangering a person's life, other than that of the person committing the act, or
7. creating a serious risk to the health or safety of the public or a section of the public, or
8. is designed to interfere with or disrupt an electronic system and which unlawful conduct is aimed at or is committed with the object of threatening or endangering the sovereignty or territorial integrity of Sri Lanka.

Any person who acts in contravention of these Regulations shall be guilty of an offense and shall on conviction by a High Court be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 10 years and not exceeding 20 years." The SCOPP website provided a link to "The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 1474/5 – Wednesday, December 06, 2006" which published the full text of these regulations officially known as 'the Emergency (Prevention and Prohibition of Terrorism and Specified Terrorist Activities) Regulations No. 07 of 2006.' [41n]

12.06 On 6 December 2006, the pro-LTTE website TamilNet noted that:

"Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Rathnasiri Wickramanayake, announcing a cabinet decision, Wednesday said the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) would be implemented in full force. The PTA, introduced in 1979 as a temporary measure, and permanently enacted in 1982, was not applied following the February 2002 Cease Fire Agreement (CFA) between the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The cabinet decision, viewed as a major breach of the CFA, gives excessive powers of arrest and detention to the Sri Lankan armed forces. 'The Government decision pushes for strong curbs on terrorist activities, which will involve LTTE activities and all persons who in anyway help them,' Mr. Rathnasiri Wickramanayake said, announcing the decision... Thousands of Tamil men, women and children were indiscriminately arrested, tortured and detained for indefinite periods under the PTA until [sic] Colombo agreed to temporarily suspend the application of the act under the provisions of the CFA. Clause 60

of the Emergency Regulations (ER) and Clause 18 of the PTA Act allow the Police to use confessions of the suspects against them...Several Tamil youths were indicted under Section 5 of the PTA on their own confession made to the Police, for 'failing to provide information' about the movements of LTTE cadres in their respective areas had been indicted under Section 5 of the PTA, liable for minimum five years imprisonment if found guilty after trial or on pleading guilty." [38k]

- 12.07 As reported by the Sri Lanka Department of Government Information on 7 December 2006

"They [the far-reaching measures introduced to curb terrorism and terrorist activities] prohibit the wearing, display, hoisting, or possessing of any uniform, dress, symbol, emblem relating to terrorism or terrorist activities; the summoning, convening, conduct or participation in a meeting relating to terrorism and terrorist activities; harbouring, concealing or assisting a member or cadre of an organisation engaged in terrorism, or terrorist activities; or participating in any activity even relating to terrorism or terrorism related activities...The prohibitions under the new regulations also extend to any transaction including contributions, providing, donating, selling, buying, hiring, leasing, receiving, making available, funding, distributing or lending materially or otherwise to any person, group, associate or cadre engaged in terrorism or any terrorism related activities...The prohibitions under these regulations also extended to the providing of any information detrimental of prejudicial to national security to any person or group of persons engaged in or known to be engaged in terrorism or terrorism related activities. The implementation of these regulations will come under a Competent Authority appointed by the President. There is provision in the regulations for any person aggrieved by a decision of the Competent Authority to appeal against such decision to a special tribunal appointed for the purpose. Contravention of these regulations carries penalties imposed by a High Court, varying from imprisonment from 10 to 20 years and of five to 10 years, depending on the nature of the offence. Those responsible for causing offenses under these regulations, other than individuals and groups of individuals, include corporate bodies, partnerships, and unincorporated bodies." [10c]

- 12.08 A letter from the British High Commission in Colombo, dated 10 April 2007, noted that "The implementation [of the Emergency Regulations] has been patchy. The courts have remained willing to get involved in some individual cases of people being arrested to force their release." [15a]

See also Sections 4 and 8

BAIL/REPORTING CONDITIONS

- 12.09 As noted in a letter from the British High Commission in Colombo dated 22 November 2006:

"It is common practice to be released on bail without being charged. Reporting conditions are usually issued when bail is granted. Anyone flouting reporting conditions is liable to be served with a warrant for arrest. As far as we have been able to establish Immigration officers are notified only when court decides to impound the suspect's passport or an arrest warrant is issued. This

apart there is no other mechanism to make sure that the Immigration Officers are aware of such instances. The other method which is rare and case specific is that the NIB (National Investigation Bureau) informing the Immigration officers of individuals suspected of terrorist activity and those on the wanted list. Without court sanction the Immigration officers are powerless to put an individual in detention if they are otherwise satisfied that they have a right to enter or live in Sri Lanka.” [15m]

ARREST WARRANTS

- 12.10 As noted in a letter from the British High Commission in Colombo dated 21 January 2007:

“Formally it is difficult for the accused to be able to obtain a copy of his/her own arrest warrant. When an arrest warrant is issued, a copy is kept on the legal file and the original is handed to the police. An accused cannot apply for copies of the arrest warrant to the relevant court. However in practice forged documents are easily obtainable throughout Sri Lanka. Additionally given ongoing and well documented concerns over corruption in the police it would probably not prove difficult to obtain a copy of an arrest warrant, although it would probably require prior contacts within the police service.” [15n]

- 12.11 The USSD 2006 reported that “The HRC investigated the legality of detention in cases referred to it by the Supreme Court and by private citizens.” [2c] (Section 1d) “Police generally obtained proper warrants for arrests and searches conducted under ordinary law. In response to frequent claymore bomb attacks on security forces in the north and east during the year [2006], and the discovery of several claymore bombs in Colombo, cordon and search operations were conducted regularly on nearby houses.” [2c] (Section 1f)

See also Sections 8 and 28

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13. PRISON CONDITIONS

- 13.01 The US State Department Report 2006 (USSD), Sri Lanka, released on 6 March 2007 noted that:

“Prison conditions did not meet international standards due to acute overcrowding and lack of sanitary facilities. In some cases juveniles were not held separately from adults. Pretrial detainees were not held separately from those convicted. The government permitted visits by independent human rights observers, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which reported unrestricted access during its 15 visits to government and LTTE-controlled prison facilities and detention centers. Credible observers reported that conditions in prisons were on par with local standards.” [2c] (Section 1c)

- 13.02 As recorded in the ICRC Annual Report 2005, Sri Lanka published on 1 June 2006:

“Emergency regulations imposed in August [2005] increased the period of time people could be held in temporary places of detention. In visits to both prisons and police stations, the ICRC monitored the treatment and conditions of nearly 300 people detained by the government in connection with the conflict. It also helped pay the transport costs of relatives coming to visit them. As the mail service in prisons worked relatively well, there was little need for RCMs [Red Cross messages]. To help the authorities improve overall conditions and deal with the effects of overcrowding, the ICRC continued to visit all prisons in the country.” [34f]

- 13.03 “The ICRC made regular visits to police stations and some prisons where detainees were held by the LTTE for common crimes. The LTTE had not yet authorized the ICRC to visit people detained for reasons of security. The only exception was the case of three Sri Lankan police officers held by the LTTE in Kilinochchi, for whom the ICRC organized the first visit of family members from Colombo. The ICRC approached the Karuna faction in order to gain access to detainees in its hands. In November, it visited a detainee it had been seeking pursuant to a tracing request. Upon her release, the ICRC helped reunite her with her family.” (ICRC Annual Report 2005, Sri Lanka) [34f]
- 13.04 The ICRC Annual Report 2005 recorded that “22,105 detainees [were] visited, of whom 328 [were] followed individually (including 18 women and 14 minors; 223 newly registered); 199 visits [were] carried out to 66 places of detention; 21 RCMs [Red Cross Messages] [were] collected from detainees and [were] 6 delivered to detainees. The families of 124 detainees received help in covering the cost of transport to visit their detained relatives... 325 detainees held by the LTTE [were] visited of whom 107 followed individually (including 12 women and 6 minors; 63 newly registered); 76 visits [were] carried out to 21 places of detention run by the LTTE; 22 RCMs [were] collected from detainees and 3 [were] delivered to detainees the families of 14 detainees received help in covering the cost of transport to visit their detained relatives.” [34f]
- 13.05 The UNHCR Committee against torture in their considerations dated 15 December 2005 stated that “The Committee is concerned about allegations that fundamental legal safeguards for persons detained by the police, including habeas corpus rights, are not being observed. [6w] (Paragraph 8) The Committee is concerned about the lack of an effective systematic review of all places of detention, including regular and unannounced visits to such places (art. 11), by the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka and other monitoring mechanisms.” [6w] (paragraph 11)
- 13.06 The Prison Brief for Sri Lanka of The International Centre for Prison Studies (last updated on 10 December 2006, website accessed on 2 April 2007) recorded a total prison population of 23,163 at mid-2005 (including pre-trial detainees/remand prisoners amounting to 49.3 per cent of total) against an official capacity of prison system of 7,641 (in 2000). The prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population) was 114 (based on an estimated national population of 20.7 million at mid-2005). In 2003 there were 62 establishments/institutions “comprising 3 closed prisons, 16 remand prisons, 6 work camps, 2 open prison camps, 1 work release centre, 1 training school for young offenders, 2 correctional centres for young offenders, 2 rehabilitation centres for drug addicts, 1 centre for research and training in corrections and 28 prison lock-ups.” [65]

- 13.07 In the year 2004 the direct admissions of unconvicted prisoners totalled 87,456 (65.4 per cent Sinhalese; 18.2 per cent Sri Lankan Tamils). In the same year the total figure for direct admissions of convicted prisoners was 26,898 (59.9 per cent Sinhalese; 16.5 per cent Sri Lankan Tamils). The figures for the year 2003 were respectively 88,535 for unconvicted prisoners (60.1 per cent Sinhalese; 23.5 per cent Sri Lankan Tamils) and 27,681 (63.7 per cent Sinhalese; 19.1 per cent Sri Lankan Tamils). In 2004 out of a total 114,354 admissions of prisoners there were 541 escapes (99 recaptured; 442 at large). The number of deaths in custody recorded was 59 for 2004 and 71 for 2003. (Website of the Sri Lanka Department of Prisons, accessed on 31 March 2006) [14]
- 13.08 Figures obtained from the website of the Ministry of Justice and Law Reforms of Sri Lanka (accessed on 31 March and 14 September 2006) put at 22,904 the number of convicted prisoners and at 60,484 that of those unconvicted, giving a total of 83,388 for the period January – August 2005. [43a]

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14. DEATH PENALTY

- 14.01 The Amnesty International 2006 Annual Report on Sri Lanka (covering events from January – December 2005) noted that:
- “There were no executions, despite an announcement in 2004 that the death penalty would be reactivated for certain crimes. However, in July [2005], the Justice Ministry and Attorney General recommended that the death penalty be implemented in the case of three men convicted of the rape and murder of Rita John. These death sentences were not carried out by the end of the year. In July [2005], the Commissioner General of Prisons reported that there were approximately 100 prisoners on death row.” AI considers Sri Lanka “abolitionist in practice.” [3r]
- 14.02 As recorded in the Amnesty International Death Penalty News of December 2004:
- “The Office of the President of Sri Lanka announced on 20 November [2004] that ‘the death penalty will be effective from today for rape, murder and narcotics dealings’. The statement followed the murder of a High Court judge, Honourable Sarath Ambepitiya, and a police officer who was providing security for him, both of whom were shot on 19 November. A moratorium on executions has been in effect in Sri Lanka since June 1976 when the last execution took place. Successive presidents since then have automatically commuted all death sentences.” [3j]
- 14.03 The ACHR (Asian Centre for Human Rights) review entitled ‘Sri Lanka: The return to the gallows’ issued on 1 December 2004 noted:
- “The declaration of Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga that executions of death sentences shall be effective from 20 November 2004 for rape, murder and narcotic crimes represents a serious setback for Sri Lanka.... Although, death penalty has not been enforced since 1976, the courts in Sri Lanka regularly award death sentences for murder and narcotic crimes. In July 2003, the Colombo High Court sentenced two police officers

and three local residents of Bindunuwewa in the central district of Bandarawela in Sri Lanka for their involvement in the massacre of 27 young Tamil men held in Bindunuwewa detention centre in October 2000. The mainstream political parties and the state-controlled and private media and the Buddhist clergies have been lobbying for tough laws to curb the rise of crime, including reactivating the death penalty.... Article 8 of the Sri Lankan Constitution provides that 'Every person has an inherent right to life and a person shall not be arbitrarily deprived of life. Any restriction shall not be placed on the rights declared and recognized by this Article.' The reactivation of the death penalty violates the constitutional guarantee on the right to life and Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Sri Lanka is a party." [64a]

14.04 The ACHR review continued:

"The death penalty also raises many questions about the administration of criminal justice system. Starting with the lodging of a complaint to the final judgement in the form of conviction, the police and investigating agencies play a critical role. Police is an integral part of the prosecution and routinely disregard evidence that may favour acquittal and prefer to document evidence that may support conviction. The use of torture in custody to extract confessions is well known in Sri Lanka and the chances of innocent people being executed for rape, murder and narcotic crimes are high.... With the reactivation of the death penalty, the procedure embodied in the 1999 Presidential Proclamation would be enforced. As per this procedure, death sentences imposed in cases of murder and drug trafficking can be carried out and would not be commuted to life imprisonment if the judge who heard the case, the Attorney General and the Minister of Justice unanimously recommend the execution. If the reports of the trial judge, the Attorney General and the Justice Minister are adverse, the Presidential signing of the death warrant will take place and '... he (she) will be hanged by the neck until he (she) is dead.'" The power of the President to grant pardons, respites and remissions that has been earlier availed for commutation of the death penalty to life imprisonment pursuant to Article 34 of the Sri Lankan Constitution will have little meaning. The President has to sign the death warrant when the trial judge, the Attorney General and the Justice Minister unanimously provide adverse opinions against the condemned. This procedure is inherently unfair. The Attorney General and the Justice Minister represent the interest of the State and cannot be considered impartial." [64a]

14.05 As reported by the *Daily Mirror* on 13 December 2006 "Since June 23, 1976, there had been no hanging in Sri Lanka, although death sentences were handed down continuously by the High and Supreme Courts for murder and drug trafficking convictions...At present there are about 100 prisoners on death row in Sri Lanka." [11a]

14.06 On 8 December 2006 the *Daily Mirror* reported that the Kalutara High Court had imposed the death sentence on three brothers who were convicted of murder after a unanimous jury decision. [11b] On 14 December 2006 BBC News reported that a Sri Lankan judge had sentenced two men to death for murdering a tsunami victim in the coastal town of Galle. [9]

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15. POLITICAL AFFILIATION

FREEDOM OF POLITICAL EXPRESSION

- 15.01 The US State Department Report 2006 (USSD) stated that “The law provides citizens with the right to change their government peacefully, and citizens exercised this right in practice through periodic, multiparty, free, and fair elections held on the basis of universal suffrage. However, recent elections were marred by violence and some irregularities.” [2c] (Section 3)
- 15.02 “The EUEOM described the November 2005 presidential election as generally satisfactory. The LTTE-enforced boycott of the polls and seven grenade attacks in the north and east marred the election, however, and allowed less than 1 percent of voters in the north to exercise their right to vote. Unlike previous years, there were no deaths or serious injuries on election day, although the inspector general of police refused to release any data on election violence. The EUEOM cited the occurrence of state media bias and misuse of public resources for campaigning.” (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 3)
- 15.03 “The EUEOM described the 2004 general election as having been conducted in a democratic matter, with the exception of irregularities in the north and east, where widespread voter impersonation and multiple voting occurred. Several sources cited the LTTE as responsible for the irregularities. The EUEOM reported that more than 2,000 incidents of election violence, resulting in the deaths of five persons and the serious injuring of another 15. Voter turnout was 75 percent. Unlike in previous elections, the government allowed persons living in LTTE-controlled areas to vote in cluster polling booths in government-controlled areas.” (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 3)
- 15.04 As noted in the Freedom House document, ‘Freedom in the World 2006: Sri Lanka’, “Elections are open to multiple parties, and fair electoral laws and equal campaigning opportunities ensure a competitive political process. While elections are generally free and fair, they continue to be marred by some irregularities, violence, and intimidation and the LTTE generally refuses to allow free elections in the areas under its control.” [46e] (Political Rights and Civil Liberties section)

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FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND ASSEMBLY

- 15.05 As noted in the USSD 2006:
- “The law provides for freedom of assembly, and the government generally respected this right in practice; however, some restrictions existed. For example, the August 2005 Emergency regulations give the president the power to restrict meetings, assemblies and processions. The law states that rallies and demonstrations of a political nature cannot be held when a referendum is scheduled; however, the government generally granted permits for demonstrations, including those by opposition parties and minority groups.” [2c] (Section 2b)

- 15.06 “The law provides for freedom of association, and the government generally respected this right in practice; however, some restrictions existed, such as those under the Emergency regulations. The LTTE did not allow freedom of association in the areas it controlled and reportedly used coercion to make persons attend its rallies.” (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 2b)
- 15.07 As noted in the Freedom House document, ‘Freedom in the World 2006: Sri Lanka, “Freedom of assembly is generally respected, although both main political parties occasionally disrupt each other’s rallies and political events... Except in conflict-affected areas, human rights and social welfare nongovernmental organizations generally operate freely. However, the LTTE does not allow for freedom of association in the regions under its control and reportedly uses coercion to force civilians to attend pro-LTTE rallies.” [46e] (Section on Political Rights and Civil Liberties)

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OPPOSITION GROUPS AND POLITICAL ACTIVISTS

- 15.08 As reported by the USSD 2006, “There were no reports of government-held political prisoners. The LTTE reportedly held a number of political prisoners; however, the number was impossible to determine because of the secretive nature of the organization, and the LTTE refused to allow the ICRC access to these prisoners.” [2c] (Section 1e)
- 15.09 On 23 October 2006 it was announced that President Mahinda Rajapakse, had signed an agreement with the main opposition United National Party (UNP) for a common policy in relation to the Tamil Tigers and agreed to work together on key issues. (BBC News, 23 October 2006) [23h]
- 15.10 However, as reported by the pro-LTTE website on 6 February 2007:
- “Addressing the new session of Parliament, leader of the opposition United National Party (UNP), Ranil Wickremesinghe, slammed President Mahinda Rajapakse for accepting the cross over of 19 UNP lawmakers to government ranks. Mr. Wickremesinghe said the move had led to the ‘dissolution’ of the Memorandum of Understanding between the ruling Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and the UNP...The defections reduced the UNP to just 43 seats, five more than Sri Lanka’s third largest party, the ultra-nationalist JVP. Last month’s crossovers coincided with those by a key UNP ally, the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC), whose six MPs also joined the government. The hardline monks party, the JHU, later also joined the government adding nine seats. The SLFP-led government now has 122 seats, with 108 [104 according to a BBC Sinhala report of 28 January 2007 [9z]] holding cabinet posts. The Parliamentary opposition comprises the rump of the UNP, the JVP and the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) - which has 22 seats.” [38b]
- 15.11 On 9 February 2007, BBC News reported that:
- Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse has sacked three ministers. They include former foreign minister Mangala Samaraweera who was ports minister in 54-member cabinet. National heritage minister Anura Bandaranaike and non-cabinet ports minister Sripathi Sooriarachchi were also sacked.

Correspondents say the three had opposed moves to accommodate 18 opposition legislators within government ranks late last month. The opposition members were needed to secure a majority in parliament.” [9aa]

See also section 4

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16. FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND MEDIA

16.01 As noted in the US State Department Report 2006 (USSD), Sri Lanka:

“The law provides for freedom of speech and of the press, and the government generally respected these rights in practice. Individuals could criticize the government generally without fear of reprisal. The August 2005 Emergency regulations allow the government to stop the publication, distribution, showing, performance or broadcast of any book, magazine, newspaper, poster, movie, play, song, radio or television program that it finds likely to cause public disorder; however, it did not enact any of these provisions during the year [2006]. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), on December 6, the government enacted the Prevention and Prohibition of Terrorism and Specified Terrorist Activities Regulations. The regulations attempt to define terrorism and allow the government to take any necessary actions to imprison suspected terrorists. As reported by CPJ, one journalist was detained under these provisions.” [2c] (Section 2a)

16.02 “Although the government owned the country's largest newspaper chain, two major television stations, and a radio station, private owners operated a variety of independent, privately owned newspapers, journals, and radio and television stations. Several foreign media outlets operated in the country. Most independent media houses freely criticized the government and its policies. The government imposed no political restrictions on the establishment of new media enterprises. There were reports that journalists, especially those in the eastern part of the country, practiced self-censorship due to pressure from both the security forces and the LTTE. In September [2006] the Ministry of Defense announced it must clear all defense-related stories in the interest of national security. In Jaffna the security forces commander reportedly asked the staff of the Tamil newspaper group Uthayan Publications not to report on military operations on any basis other than information provided to them by the government.” (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 2a)

16.03 “The LTTE tightly restricted the print and broadcast media in areas under its control. There were reports of LTTE intimidation of Colombo-based Tamil journalists, and self-censorship was common for journalists covering LTTE-controlled areas.” (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 2a)

16.04 As noted in the Freedom House document, ‘Freedom in the World 2006: Sri Lanka’:

“Freedom of expression is provided for in the constitution, and independent media outlets can generally express their views openly. However, the Colombo-based Free Media Movement (FMM) has noted that state-run media-including Sri Lanka's largest newspaper chain, two major television stations,

and a radio station-have been used by the government for political ends, including pressure on editors and biased election coverage. The LTTE does not permit free expression in the areas under its control and continues to terrorize a number of Tamil journalists and other critics. Increasing tension and violence during 2005, both between the government and LTTE and between the LTTE and other Tamil factions, negatively affected journalists' ability to cover the news freely, particularly in the troubled north and east. A number of journalists and media outlets faced intimidation (including death threats) during the year, two Tamil journalists were killed, and distributors and Tamil media outlets were also attacked. “[46e] (Section on Political Rights and Civil Liberties)

- 16.05 A letter from the British High Commission in Colombo, dated 10 April 2007, noted that:

“The most immediate impact [of the revised Emergency Regulations] has been on the media which has become less likely to criticise the government and feels under pressure to submit its stories to the Media Centre for National Security to have the facts substantiated – this has encouraged a fairly clear self censorship. The government has used the Emergency Regulations to search the property of those who oppose the regime, in particular Young Asia TV and the Secretary to a dissident former minister.” [15a]

JOURNALISTS

- 16.06 An Amnesty International document of 29 March 2007 recorded that:

“Journalist Munusamy Parameshawary was released on 22 March following a Supreme Court ruling that there was insufficient evidence against her and she should therefore be released. A number of other journalists are still in custody, as is Dushyantha Basnayake, director of the Sinhalese-language weekly newspaper Mawbima. He has not had access to his lawyer since he was arrested on 26 February. He is in danger of torture or ill-treatment. The government froze Mawbima's bank accounts on 13 March. Munusamy Parameshawary had been held without charge for four months by the police Terrorist Investigation Division (TID). On 26 January she filed a Fundamental Rights application in the Supreme Court against her arrest and detention under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) stating that her arrest was illegal and a violation of her fundamental rights. In response, the Supreme Court ruled on 21 March that she should be released... Amnesty International has a number of concerns about the use of the Emergency Regulations as they are incompatible with basic international human rights law, and were used to intimidate and harass political opponents, thus fostering a culture of impunity. Since early 2006 there has been a clampdown on press freedom in Sri Lanka. The newspaper Mawbima had reported on human rights violations. The arrest of its staff, and the freezing of its bank accounts, is one example of this.” [3e]

- 16.07 The Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF) Sri Lanka – Annual Report 2007, issued on 1 February 2007, recorded that:

“The resumption of the civil war had dramatic consequences for Sri Lankan journalists and in particular the Tamils. Seven media workers were killed in 2006. Pro-government militia (predators of press freedom) and occasionally

the army have attacked the press which they accuse of supporting Tamil nationalism. On the other side, the Tiger Tamils threatened those who oppose their political position. The escalation of the conflict pitting the army against the Tiger Tamils (LTTE) forced scores of Tamil journalists into silence or hiding...Three journalists and four media assistants were killed in 2006. No suspects have so far been arrested...There is total impunity for these killers in Sri Lanka. Investigations into murders of journalists, including that of Dharmaratnam Sivaram, editor of the news website Tamilnet and editorialist on the Daily Mirror, killed in 2005, have been blocked by the authorities...The army attacked media accused of relaying Tiger Tamil propaganda, which they termed terrorist...The military imposed new restrictions on the movements of the press reporting from the field...Tamil media also suffered serious interference with distribution in the east of the country. Distributors on several occasions were forced to stop selling some papers in the face of death threats from pro-government militia headed by Colonel Karuna... Under strong press criticism, President Mahinda Rajapakse and his government stepped up their control over state-run media.” [27a]

16.08 As noted in a statement issued on 8 December 2006:

“The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) is disturbed by Sri Lankan journalists' continued suffering at the hands of authorities, after two journalists were detained by the military and police assaulted a photojournalist, while another journalist remains in detention under anti-terrorist legislation... According to an IFJ affiliate, the Free Media Movement (FMM), two journalists from the weekly Sathdina Sinhala [Saman Janaka and Jayasiri Wikramasingha] were taken into custody on November 5 [2006] by military personnel, while meeting with union leaders of Sri Lanka Telecom HQ, which is situated in a high security zone...A week earlier, Asoka Fernando, the deputy photo editor of The Sunday Leader, was assaulted and had his camera smashed by police officers at a temple in Pannipitiya on November 28 [2006].” [45b]

16.09 As noted in a further statement issued on 12 December 2006:

“The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) is deeply concerned that last week's introduction of new public security and anti-terrorism measures in Sri Lanka is a further indication that the country's steady retreat from a free and open society is continuing. According to IFJ affiliate, the Free Media Movement (FMM), the new measures, which build on those already in operation and were enacted on December 6 under the Emergency (Prevention and Prohibition of Terrorism and Specified Terrorist Activities) Regulations, have the potential to compromise freedom of expression as well as fundamental human rights.” [45a]

16.10 As noted in a press release issued on 9 November 2006:

“Reporters Without Borders has condemned a campaign of harassment by Sri Lankan security forces in a bid to force Tamil journalists into self-censorship, since the resumption of conflict between the army and Tamil Tigers (LTTE) rebels. Scores of Tamil journalists have been forced into hiding or silence since then and for fear of reprisals, most correspondents for Tamil media in the east of the country no longer by-line their articles...The organisation

considers Sri Lanka to be one of the world's most dangerous countries for journalists." [27c]

- 16.11 On 11 October 2006 Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF) reported the Mission Statement of the International Fact-Finding and Advocacy Mission to Sri Lanka:

"From 9 to 11 October 2006 a high-level five member delegation representing the International Press Freedom and Freedom of Expression Mission (also referred to as the International Mission), which is comprised of international press freedom and media development organisations, undertook a fact-finding and advocacy mission to Sri Lanka. The objectives of the mission were to assess the current media situation in the country and the impact of the escalation in fighting between the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on the media... The International Mission found that there has been a serious deterioration in the security situation for the Sri Lankan media with threats, abductions and attacks committed by all parties in the conflict, and particularly paramilitary and militia groups. Eight media workers have been killed since August 2005 and there have been numerous death threats and incidents of harassment, including violent attempts to stop the distribution of newspapers. Moreover, even in cases where evidence exists of the identity of the alleged killers little or no action has apparently been taken by the relevant authorities. Those supporting a negotiated settlement are often labelled as 'traitors' and supporters of one or the other combatant parties and there appears to be a widespread acceptance of hate speech. As a consequence, many media workers are in hiding, some for up to six months, while in other cases threats have been made to the families of media workers." [27b]

- 16.12 "The mission found that censorship exists, although it is applied largely through indirect means. The Government in June approved, but has not yet enforced, the reintroduction of state-controlled regulation of the media through the Sri Lanka Press Council and in August the President reportedly told editors that the military were keen to censor the media... The decision by the authorities to close satellite television services has hindered public access to foreign news programmes... Emergency regulations established on 18 August 2005 give the Government wide powers of prior restraint against the media, although these are yet to be applied... The Government has yet to enact a Freedom of Information Act, despite having approved a draft version of the law at a cabinet meeting in 2003." (**Mission Statement, International Fact-Finding and Advocacy Mission to Sri Lanka**) [27b]

- 16.13 The IFJ (International Federation of Journalists) report, 'Fourth Annual South Asia Press Freedom Report: Journalism in troubled times: The struggle for press freedom in South Asia 2005-2006', released on 3 May 2006, noted:

"In the past 12 months Sri Lanka has failed to improve it's [sic] media industry, particularly in the areas of freedom of expression, journalists' safety, censorship and government control of stateowned [sic] media. Sri Lanka has seen a general erosion of the due process of law, democratic governance and peace. Basic freedoms, such as the right to life, are being severely curtailed in certain parts of Sri Lanka. The overarching loss of security, coupled with the anxiety of another outbreak of war and pressure from the government not to report critically on their approach to the peace process has resulted in media

self-censorship. Though the past year was pivotal in energising provincial media to support holistic media reform, it was nevertheless also one in which the continuing erosion of media freedoms on account of violence and conflict severely mitigated any progress.” [45d]

INTERNET FREEDOM

- 16.14 The USSD 2006 reported that “There were no government restrictions on access to the Internet or reports that the government monitored e-mail or Internet chatrooms. Individuals and groups could engage in the peaceful expression of views via the Internet, including by electronic mail. For example, Tamilnet, an LTTE Web site, is accessible throughout the country. There are also hate Web sites that call for the killing of ‘traitors to the Sinhala nation.” [2c] (Section 2a)

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17. HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS, ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVISTS

- 17.02 As noted in the US State Department Report 2006 (USSD), Sri Lanka:

“A number of domestic and international human rights groups generally operated without government restriction, investigating and publishing their findings on human rights cases. Government officials were cooperative and responsive to their views. Many domestic human rights NGOs, including the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies; Home for Human Rights; the University Teachers for Human Rights, Jaffna; the Civil Rights Movement; and the Law and Society Trust monitored civil and political liberties. The government officially required NGOs to include action plans and detailed descriptions of funding sources as part of the initial registration process, and every five years thereafter. In August [2006] the government required that NGOs working in the north and east register with the Ministry of Defense but did not enforce this requirement with all agencies. NGO workers viewed the renewal requirement as an attempt by the government to exert greater control over the NGO sector after previous human rights groups' criticisms. Most NGOs complied with these reporting requirements. After August the government did not renew work permits for international NGO staff working in LTTE-controlled areas.” [2c] (Section 4)

- 17.03 A letter from the British High Commission in Colombo, dated 10 April 2007, noted that “The regulations and the atmosphere they [the revised Emergency Regulations] generate has added to the pressure on International NGOs and NGO staff who are being compelled to get clearance from the Defence Ministry to employ local staff. Foreign Staff are subject to stringent checks from the Defence Ministry before being given work permits.” [15a]

- 17.04 The Human Rights Watch (HRW), World Report 2007, Sri Lanka, January 2007 noted that “Aid workers were the targets of threats, harassment, and sometimes armed attack.” [21b] The HRW report entitled ‘Improving Civilian Protection in Sri Lanka’, released on 19 September 2006, highlighted that:

“Local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) face increasing hazards in their work. Harassment, threats and violence are

becoming a common occurrence for aid workers in the north and east, threatening the delivery of much needed aid. The execution-style killings in August [2006] of 17 Sri Lankan aid workers from the international organization Action Contre la Faim (Action Against Hunger, ACF) has forced many international NGOs to reconsider their Sri Lankan operations, now needed as much as ever.” [21p] (Introduction)

- 17.05 The killing of 17 local employees of the French organisation ACF happened on 4 August 2006 in Muttur. “All 17, 14 men and 3 women were killed execution style in the compound of the ACF office. All but one was [sic] Tamils.” (Geneva Report 29 May – 31 August) [22h] (Section 2) On 30 August 2006 BBC News reported that “Truce monitors in Sri Lanka have accused the military of killing 17 local employees of a French charity. The deaths this month of the Action Against Hunger workers were ‘a gross violation of the ceasefire accord by the security forces’, monitors said. They were ‘convinced’ no other armed group could have been behind the killings near Muttur in the north-east...The monitors said that after interviews with officials and witnesses they were ‘convinced that there cannot be any other armed groups than the security forces who could actually have been behind the act’. The statement called the incident a ‘committed act of assassination’ that was ‘one of the most serious recent crimes against humanitarian aid workers worldwide’.” [9fr]
- 17.06 As noted in the Amnesty International report ‘Sri Lanka – A climate of fear in the East’, published on 3 February 2006:

“None of the established human rights mechanisms have been able to effectively investigate human rights abuses, let alone facilitate justice or redress for victims of human rights abuses. The Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission (SLMM), established to monitor the CFA...has been unable to effectively address the worsening human rights situation in eastern Sri Lanka. The SLMM is mandated to receive and enquire into complaints about breaches of the CFA, including killings and abductions, with [sic] parties to the CFA. However it does not have a mandate to independently investigate these breaches and can therefore do little more than raise the complaint with the allegedly responsible party. Likewise, international agencies with monitoring or protection mandates, including The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) receive complaints of human rights abuses in relation to their areas of competence, but are also in practice restricted to raising these concerns with the allegedly responsible party. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is mandated to monitor and investigate violations by state actors only, although it does register complaints about abuses by the LTTE.” [3m] (Introduction)

- 17.07 The USSD 2006 reported that “In August [2006] Sweden, Finland, and Denmark announced their withdrawal from the SLMM in response to LTTE demands that European Union (EU) countries withdraw following the EU’s designation of the LTTE as a terrorist organization. Subsequently, 37 monitors departed, leaving about 30 civilian monitors in the country.” [2c] (Section 4)

See also section 3

- 17.08 The USSD 2006 noted that “In July 2004 the LTTE set up the Northeast Secretariat of Human Rights (NESOHR). Since its inception, NESOHR

received hundreds of complaints ranging from land disputes to child recruitment complaints. Some groups questioned NESOHR's credibility because of its close ties to the LTTE." [2c] (Section 4)

17.09 As noted on the website of the ICRC:

"The ICRC has maintained a constant presence in Sri Lanka since 1989, acting as a neutral intermediary in the conflict between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and providing assistance to those affected by fighting and natural disaster. A ceasefire in February 2002 led to hopes for peace in Sri Lanka. Since the end of 2005, however, the situation has deteriorated and renewed fighting has claimed hundreds of lives and resulted in the displacement of tens of thousands of people. The ICRC has therefore increased the level of its operations and, in July 2006, called for an extra CHF 5.94 million for its activities in Sri Lanka in 2006, bringing the total budget for the year to CHF 21.6 million. The ICRC, in coordination with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, is distributing shelter material and other emergency relief items to the newly displaced, improving water and sanitation facilities and providing support for medical services. At the same time, the ICRC continues to call on both parties to the conflict to respect the rules and principles of international humanitarian law. Presence (2006): 524 staff including 55 expatriates." [34c]

17.10 As noted in the USSD 2006 "The government continued to allow the ICRC unrestricted access to detention facilities...The ICRC provided international humanitarian law training materials and training to the security forces. During the year the ICRC also delivered health education programs in LTTE-controlled areas in the north and east." [2c] (Section 4)

See Also Section 8 on Avenues of complaint

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18. CORRUPTION

18.01 As noted in the US State Department Report 2006 (USSD), Sri Lanka:

"There was corruption in the executive and legislative branches. Transparency International (TI) identified nepotism and cronyism in the appointment of officials to government and state-owned institutions. The tendering and procurement process for government contracts was not transparent, leading to frequent allegations of corruption by the losing bidders. TI also noted that corruption was a problem in high value tender processes, including the establishment of business operations. The Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) received 3,212 complaints, of which 943 were under investigation at year's end. According to the Deputy Director General of the CIABOC, the trial was still in progress at year's [2006] end. The focus of the prosecution was the questionable acquisition of assets by former Deputy Defense Minister Ratwatte. There was no law providing for public access to government information." [2c] (Section 3)

18.02 As noted in the Freedom House document, Countries at the Crossroads 2006:

“Three significant types of corruption prevail in the Sri Lankan political system: efforts to circumvent bureaucratic red tape, personal bribe solicitation by government officials, and nepotism and cronyism...Sri Lanka has long had anticorruption laws in place, but enforcement of the laws has been a serious problem. Enforcement of anti-bribery laws is the responsibility of the Bribery Commission, which was established in 1994. It has been largely ineffective... Transparency International-Sri Lanka has noted the poor enforcement of anticorruption laws, a task that currently is divided among agencies including the Bribery Commission. Whistle-blower protection legislation, a freedom-of-information act, and laws for public disclosure of assets by public officials are lacking.” Freedom House’s rating for anticorruption and transparency in Sri Lanka was 3.71 (on a scale of 0 to 7, with 0 representing weakest and 7 representing strongest performance. [46f] (**Anticorruption and Transparency**)

- 18.03 A press release issued by Transparency International Sri Lanka on 6 November 2006 noted that:

“Sri Lanka’s declining rank on the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2006 of Transparency International reflects the continuous deterioration of the corruption situation in the country. Sri Lanka’s rank has dipped a considerable 6 notches bringing it from 78 in 2005 to 84 in 2006, in the Index which covers 163 countries...The CPI score relates to perceptions of the degree of corruption as seen by business people and country analysts and ranges between 10 (highly clean) and 0 (highly corrupt).” [63a]

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19. FREEDOM OF RELIGION

INTRODUCTION

- 19.01 “Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and Christianity all are practiced. Approximately 70 percent of the population is Buddhist, 15 percent Hindu, 8 percent Christian, and 7 percent Muslim. Christians tended to be concentrated in the west, with much of the east populated by Muslims and north almost exclusively by Hindus. Most members of the majority Sinhala community were Theravada Buddhists. Most Tamils, who made up the largest ethnic minority, were Hindu. Almost all Muslims were Sunnis; there was also a small minority of Shi’a, including members of the Borah community. Almost 80 percent of Christians were Catholics, with Anglican and other mainstream Protestant churches also present in the cities. Seventh-day Adventists, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Methodists, Baptists, Dutch Reformed, Pentecostal, and the Assemblies of God were also present. Evangelical Christian groups have grown in recent years, although membership was still small.” (USSD, **International Religious Freedom Report 2006**) [2a] (**Section I**)
- 19.02 As noted in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office 2006 Annual Report on Human Rights, dated October 2006:

“While followers of the country’s four main faiths are mainly able to worship freely, there have been consistent and credible reports of harassment, intimidation, destruction of property and occasional violence against Christians

over the last three years. While the incidents appear to be localised rather than nationally orchestrated, they highlight the Sri Lankan authorities' lack of capacity to protect Christians and members of other faiths, and their failure to prosecute those responsible for inciting and committing violent acts. Occasionally, the wider conflict, which is mainly fought along ethnic lines, finds expression through religious symbols as the main ethnic groups follow differing faiths." [15] (p259)

- 19.03 As recorded in the US State Department Report for 2006 on Religious Freedom in Sri Lanka, published on 15 September 2006:

"The Constitution accords Buddhism the 'foremost place,' but Buddhism is not recognized as the state religion. The Constitution also provides for the right of members of other faiths to practice their religion freely. While the Government publicly endorses this right, in practice there were problems in some areas. There was no change in the status of respect for religious freedom during the period covered by this report...Despite generally amicable relations among persons of different faiths, there has been an increase in violent resistance by some Buddhists to Christian church activity, in particular against evangelical groups." [2a] (Introduction)

- 19.04 "Prior to the November 2005 presidential election, each religion had a ministry to oversee its affairs; however, after President Mahinda Rajapaksa took office, he replaced them with a single Ministry of Religious Affairs with four departments, one each to deal with Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, and Christian affairs. According to the legislation defining the mandates, each department should formulate and implement programs that inculcate religious values and promote a virtuous society. Despite the constitutional preference for Buddhism, a number of major religious festivals of other faiths were celebrated as national holidays. These included the Hindu Thai Pongal, New Year, and Deepawali festivals; the Muslim Hadji and Ramzan festivals and the Prophet Muhammad's birthday; and Christian Good Friday and Christmas...Religion is a mandatory subject in the public school curriculum. Parents and children may choose whether a child studies Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, or Christianity. Students of other religious groups can pursue religious instruction outside of the public school system, since no instruction is provided for other religions. Schools teach religion from an academic point of view. Most private schools followed curricula similar to public schools because all students had to take national exams administered by the government. The Government placed renewed emphasis on the work of national councils for interfaith understanding in the wake of the attacks on Christian churches and evangelical groups' property. Matters related to family law, including divorce, child custody, and inheritance, were adjudicated according to the customary law of the concerned ethnic or religious group... During the reporting period, some human rights abuses were committed against individuals at places of worship in the north and east. While these incidents had an impact on religious freedom, they were not religiously motivated; instead, they were a product of the conflict situation." (USSD, International Religious Freedom Report 2006) [2a] (Section II)
- "Discrimination based on religious differences is much less common than discrimination based on ethnicity. In general, the members of the various faiths tend to be tolerant of each other's religious beliefs." (USSD, International Religious Freedom Report 2006) [2a] (Section III)

BUDDHISTS

- 19.05 “The Constitution accords Buddhism the ‘foremost place,’ but Buddhism is not recognized as the state religion.” (USSD, *International Religious Freedom Report 2006*) [2a] (Introduction) Most members of the majority Sinhala community are Theravada Buddhists.” (USSD, *International Religious Freedom Report 2006*) [2a] (Section I)
- 19.06 “Anti-conversion legislation first introduced in 2004 remained under consideration. In May 2004, the [Buddhist] Jathika Hela Urumaya Party (JHU) presented to parliament a bill that would criminalize ‘unethical’ conversions and on May 6, 2005, despite a supreme court ruling that some sections of the bill were unconstitutional, the JHU presented the bill for a second reading. Subsequently, the proposed bill was referred to a special parliamentary committee, which in April 2006, met for the first time. The bill remained under consideration within the committee at the end of the period covered by this report. In June 2004, the then-minister of Buddhist affairs presented a separate draft anti-conversion bill to the cabinet. It was not formally approved; however, it was sent to the attorney general for review. In April 2005, the cabinet approved a revised version of the bill and in June 2005, the bill was formally ‘gazetted,’ the first step toward introducing it in parliament. By the end of the reporting period, it had not been introduced. In October 2004, the Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU) Party formally proposed a constitutional amendment that would declare Buddhism the state religion. While the amendment remained on parliament’s ‘order paper’, the bill never reached parliament’s formal agenda and made no progress over the reporting period.” (USSD, *International Religious Freedom Report 2006*) [2a] (Introduction)

HINDUS

- 19.07 As recorded in Europa World Year Book 2004 [1a] (p3953) and confirmed by the US State Department Report for 2006 on Religious Freedom in Sri Lanka the majority of Tamil population are Hindu. [2a] (Section I)
- 19.08 On 11 November 2004 the official website of the government of Sri Lanka reported the president’s message to the Hindus of Sri Lanka in the occasion of the ‘Deepawali Festival. “Hinduism and Buddhism two of the four main religions of this country have co-existed for centuries in our land. Our peoples have over the years maintained and respected the core values, philosophies and cultures, unique to each religion. This is the basis for peaceful co-existence and national integration.” It was also recorded in the website that “Hinduism is the religion practiced by around 15% of the country’s population and most the followers belong to the Tamil speaking community. There are Hindu temples in all parts of the country; some of them centuries old, such temples are revered by both the Hindus and Buddhists of Sri Lanka.” [44g]
- 19.09 The USSD 2006 International Report on Religious Freedom reported that in conflict areas in the north, the Government occasionally was accused of bombing and shelling Hindu temples and that “On May 6, 2006, eight Tamil men were abducted from a Hindu temple in the north; this incident was...likely politically motivated. The men had been decorating the temple for a religious festival; they were reported missing on May 7, 2006, and their whereabouts were unknown at the end of the period covered by this report. NGOs remained concerned for the men’s safety...On April 24 [2005], the chief priest of

Annapani Hindu temple at Ariyampathi in Batticaloa was shot, allegedly by an LTTE pistol gang, while attending to religious activities in the temple. The priest and two others who were also injured were admitted to Batticaloa hospital with serious injuries. The police continued their investigation during the period of this report, but because the area was controlled by the LTTE, no other action was taken.” [2a] (Section II)

MUSLIMS

- 19.10 The UNHCR Background Paper on Refugees and Asylum Seekers from Sri Lanka, dated April 2004 (but published in June 2004), noted:

“The Muslims in Sri Lanka view themselves as an ethnic minority, and are seeking to be included in the peace process as an own entity. In many sectors of the society there is a latent hostility against the Muslims, based on the perception that they are not willing to quietly subside into the ‘main-stream’ Sinhala society. However, there are many Muslim MPs, which are involved in several issues that are not strictly related to their religious and ethnic background.” [6j] (p47-48)

- 19.11 As stated in the USSD Religious Freedom Report 2006:

“Almost all Muslims are Sunnis, with a small minority of Shi’a, including members of the Borah community.” [2a] (Section II)
 “In 1990, the LTTE expelled some 46,000 Muslim inhabitants — virtually the entire Muslim population — from their homes in the northern part of the island. Most of these persons remain displaced and live in or near welfare centers. Although some Muslims returned to the northern town of Jaffna in 1997, they did not remain there due to the continuing threat posed by the LTTE. There are credible reports that the LTTE warned thousands of Muslims displaced from the Mannar area not to return to their homes until the conflict is over. It appears that the LTTE’s actions against Muslims were not due to Muslims’ religious beliefs but rather that they were part of an overall strategy to clear the north and east of persons unsympathetic to the LTTE. The LTTE has made some conciliatory statements to the Muslim community, but many Muslims viewed the statements with skepticism. The LTTE continued to encourage Muslim Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in some areas to return home, asserting they would not be harmed. Although some Muslim IDPs returned home, the vast majority did not and was waiting for a Government guarantee of safety in LTTE-controlled areas. Since the 2002 Ceasefire Agreement, the LTTE also carried out a number of attacks in the east in which Muslims have been killed. No arrests were made in these cases by the end of the period covered by this report. In 2003 four Muslims were killed; while the LTTE denied any involvement, this incident fueled tensions between the Hindu and Muslim communities in the area.” [2a] (Section II)

- 19.12 The Amnesty International report ‘Sri Lanka – A climate of fear in the East’, published on 3 February 2006, recorded that:

“There is a long history of distrust between the Tamil and Muslim communities living in the east of Sri Lanka. There has been a partial improvement in the relationship since the CFA as the LTTE has sought to assure the Muslim community that it does not pose a threat to them. As tensions in the east have escalated Muslims have faced serious violence. For example, a grenade

attack on a mosque in Akkaraippattu, Batticaloa district, on 18 November 2005 killed four people and injured more than twenty. It is not clear who was responsible for this attack. The Muslim communities that Amnesty International delegates met with in Ampara and Batticaloa districts all reported incidents of harassment by the LTTE and expressed concern that the insecure security environment following the LTTE split and the deterioration in the peace process have increased their vulnerability. Some Muslims reported feeling threatened by both the government and the LTTE...Muslim leaders alleged that their communities face a variety of threats and abuses, primarily from the LTTE... They reported widespread extortion by the LTTE, for example being forced to pay 'taxes' on any timber that they cut. However, Muslim communities allege discrimination also by the local government authorities." [3m] (**The Muslim Community**)

- 19.13 As noted in the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on his Mission to Sri Lanka (28 November to 6 December 2005), published on 27 March 2006:

"The 18 November 2005 attack on a mosque in Akkairapattu exemplifies the manner in which civilians are being caught in the crossfire. During morning prayers, two people rolled grenades to the front of the mosque, where they exploded, killing 6 persons and seriously wounding 29 others...While accounts differ widely, the conflict between the LTTE and the Karuna group figure in almost all [of them]...Without an effective investigation, it is impossible to assign definitive responsibility for the attack." [6x] (**Paragraphs 17-19**)

- 19.14 As noted in the AI report 'Sri Lanka. Waiting to go home – the plight of the internally displaced', released on 29 June 2006:

"Muslim people displaced by [the] tsunami in the east told Amnesty International delegates that they felt particularly at risk of violence and harassment, primarily by the LTTE, and that the local authorities were not protecting them or their property due to fear of the LTTE. Muslim IDPs in Ampara and Batticaloa reported incidents of harassment by the LTTE and expressed concern that the poor security environment following the LTTE split had been further increased [sic] by the tsunami and resulting conflicts over land. In particular they claimed that they were being threatened and harassed to move from their land as part of an LTTE strategy to claim more land for Tamil communities in the post-tsunami relocation. [3t] (**Insecurity in IDP camps**) Representatives of Muslim communities told Amnesty International delegates that they have been the most excluded in relief and rehabilitation efforts as, while the government focuses on the Sinhalese community and the Tamils have the LTTE to speak for them, the Muslims do not wield sufficient power to ensure that they receive their share of tsunami aid." [3t] (**Allegations of discrimination and "land grabbing" in the context of return, reintegration and resettlement**)

- 19.15 As noted in the UNHCR Position on the International Protection Needs of asylum-seekers from Sri Lanka dated December 2006:

"Muslims are particularly vulnerable to human rights abuses from parties to the conflict. For example, certain Muslims are targeted by the LTTE, such as those suspected of being government informers and those who are perceived as opposed to the LTTE. Furthermore, Muslims residing near LTTE-controlled areas, or areas contested by the LTTE, in Eastern Sri Lanka are at risk of

forced displacement, threats and killings due, in particular, to being caught in the cross-fire during armed hostilities. Those who flee generalized violence in LTTE-controlled areas have the possibility to move to government-controlled areas, however, there may be difficulties encountered in finding means of transport and safe routes.” [6b] (Paragraph 27)

See also Section 20 and 29

CHRISTIANS

- 19.16 As stated in the USSD Religious Freedom Report 2006, 8 per cent of the population is Christian and Christians tend to be concentrated in the west of the country. “Almost 80 percent of Christians were Catholics, with Anglican and other mainstream Protestant churches also present in the cities. Seventh-day Adventists, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Methodists, Baptists, Dutch Reformed, Pentecostal, and the Assemblies of God were also present. Evangelical Christian groups have grown in recent years, although membership was still small.” [2a] (Section I)
- 19.17 “There was some harassment of Christians and attacks on their property and places of worship by Buddhist extremists opposed to conversion. The police investigated many of these incidents when complaints were made, but were occasionally reluctant to pursue criminal charges against the suspected perpetrators, some of whom were Buddhist monks. Law enforcement officials believed that a majority of the attacks were conducted by a small number of extremist Buddhists. By early 2005, several alleged attackers had been arrested. At the height of the attacks on Christian churches in 2005, several government leaders, including then-President Kumaratunga and then-minister of Christian affairs, publicly denounced the attacks.” (USSD, International Religious Freedom Report 2006) [2a] (Section II)
- 19.18 “During the period covered by this report, Christians, both of mainstream denominations and evangelical groups, sometimes encountered harassment and physical attacks by some local Buddhists who believed they were threatened by these groups. Some Christian groups occasionally complained that the Government tacitly condoned harassment and violence aimed at them. In some cases, the police response was inadequate, and local police officials reportedly were reluctant to take legal action against individuals involved in the attacks.” (USSD, International Religious Freedom Report 2006) [2a] (Section III)
- 19.19 “The National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka stated that during the reporting period, there were approximately seventy-five attacks on Christian churches, organizations, religious leaders, or congregants, 90 percent of which were reported to the police. The U.S. Embassy confirmed some of these attacks. Allegations by Buddhist extremists of Christian involvement in ‘unethical’ or forced conversions continued to be a source of tension between the two communities. Christians denied this charge, responding that people undergo conversion of their own free will. There were reports that members of some evangelical groups made disparaging comments about Buddhism while evangelizing. Some groups also alleged that Christians engaged in aggressive proselytism and took advantage of societal ills such as general poverty, war, and lack of education. Christians countered that their relief efforts were in

earnest and were not targeted at converting aid beneficiaries.” (USSD, **International Religious Freedom Report 2006**) [2a] (Section III)

- 19.20 The CSW (Christian Solidarity Worldwide) Sri Lanka Visit Report - May 2006 Friday 26 May - Friday 2 June 2006 (dated 26 May 2006) noted:

“Hopes that proposed anti-conversion legislation in Sri Lanka had been shelved and that anti-Christian violence had dissipated have unfortunately proven false. A revised anti-conversion bill has passed its second reading and is currently being considered by a Standing Committee in Parliament, before a final reading and vote. In the first half of 2006, a total of 30 incidents of violence against Christians have been reported by the National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka. In recent months, pastors in southern Sri Lanka, in the area around Galle, have received death threats. There are also allegations that there is a hit list containing the names of several pastors as targets, although the evidence for this is anecdotal and verbal, and no copy of such a list has been made available.” [12] (Executive Summary)

- 19.21 “In 2005, the number of incidents of violence against Christians fell significantly. However, this year there has been a rise in violence, with a total of 30 reported incidents in the first five months, and an increasing number of threats made. In a meeting with approximately 50-60 pastors of different denominations, including Anglican, Methodist, Dutch Reformed, Assemblies of God, Foursquare Gospel Church and other evangelical groups, including pastors from LTTE-controlled areas, 20-25 pastors said that they or their church members had suffered physical persecution, including arson, assault and destruction of homes and church buildings.” [12] (CSW Sri Lanka visit report dated 26 May 2006) (Violence, Threats and Intimidation: Interviews with Victims)

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20. ETHNIC GROUPS

- 20.01 The CIA World Factbook, Sri Lanka records that the population can be divided into the majority Sinhalese (73.8 per cent), Sri Lankan Moors 7.2 per cent, Indian Tamil 4.6 per cent, Sri Lankan Tamil 3.9 per cent, other 0.5 per cent, unspecified 10 per cent (2001 census provisional data). [30] However, as recorded by the Sri Lankan Department of Census and Statistic (Statistical Abstract 2005, Chapter II, tables 2.10 - 2.11), based on a total population of 18,797,257 the population comprises: Sinhalese (82 per cent), Sri Lankan Tamil (4.3 per cent), Indian Tamil (5.1 per cent), Moor (7.9 per cent), Burgher (0.2 per cent), Malay (0.3 per cent), Sri Lankan Chetty (0.1 per cent) and other (0.1 per cent). However, data from Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts in which the 2001 census enumeration was not completed were not included. [58a]
- 20.02 “There were 34 Tamils and 24 Muslims in the 225-member parliament. There was no provision for or allocation of a set number or percentage of political party positions for women or minorities.” (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 3)
- 20.03 As recorded in Jane’s Sentinel Security Assessments, Country profile - At a glance, Sri Lanka, 3 November 2006, “...the tension in relations between the

Sinhalese and Sri Lankan Tamils has been the most prominent political trend in Sri Lanka since independence (1948). In contrast to the confrontational strategies of Sri Lankan Tamils, the Muslims and Indian Tamils adopted political stances of 'qualified collaboration' with one or the other of the main Sinhalese-dominated political parties." [5a] (Internal Affairs, 14 July 2006, Post-Independence ethnic tension)

- 20.04 As noted in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office 2006 Annual Report on Human Rights, dated October 2006:

"Since the 1980s, Sri Lanka has been the site of significant ethnic violence between the majority Sinhalese Buddhist community and the minority Hindu Tamil community, which is concentrated in the north and east of the island. Full-scale fighting began in 1983 and ended with a ceasefire between the government and the LTTE in 2002. By then, over 60,000 people had been killed." [15i] (p212)

- 20.05 As recorded in Keesing's Records of World Events, October 2006 – Sri Lanka:

"The Supreme Court ruled on Oct. 16 [2006] that the merger of Sri Lanka's northern and eastern provinces, where most Tamils lived, was illegal and unconstitutional. The two provinces were merged under the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement of 1987, paving the way for the deployment of an Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) on the island...However, the merger was intended to be temporary and subject to a local referendum within a year on whether to make it permanent. Although the population in the Northern Province was almost wholly Tamil, the Eastern Province was mixed, with significant Muslim and Sinhalese minorities. The judgment was significant because the current North-East Province was the geographical basis of the LTTE's claim to a Tamil homeland, whether independent or autonomous. The ruling came in response to a petition from two legislators of the Sinhala-nationalist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) party, until recently a partner in government with the ruling Sri Lankan Freedom Party (SLFP)." [23i]

- 20.06 As reported by BBC News on 17 October 2006:

"What is perhaps a highly significant judgement of the Sri Lankan Supreme Court on Monday was overshadowed when the country's bloodiest suicide bombing killed nearly 100 sailors. At the same time as the bloodshed, the Supreme Court ruled that a merger of the northern and eastern provinces of the island was not acceptable in law. The two events at first glance may appear to be wholly unconnected, but in reality the question of what happens to the north and east of Sri Lanka is crucial to finding a peaceful end to the seemingly endless cycle of violence...The merger of the two provinces, claimed by the Tamils as an historic homeland for Tamil-speaking people, was a key demand of most Tamil parties...The referendum was deemed necessary as the east was a more multi-ethnic region when compared to the north...Whereas most hardline Sinhalese politicians are likely to welcome the ruling [of the Supreme Court], many Tamil people are worried about it... Meanwhile Muslims of the east, who have always had a difficult relationship with the Tamil Tigers, have been uneasily trying to reconcile themselves to living under a unified administrative structure that would ensure a dominant role for Tamil parties." [9m]

- 20.07 On 2 January 2007 the *Daily Mirror* reported that the eastern governor (and acting Governor for Northern Province) had said that the administrative operations of the newly de-merged northern and eastern provinces had started in separate offices in Trincomalee town. [11e]
- 20.08 The UNHCR Position on the International Protection Needs of asylum-seekers from Sri Lanka dated December 2006 noted that:
- “Given the prevailing situation of widespread hostilities, insecurity and human rights violations in the North and East of Sri Lanka, it is UNHCR’s view that the situation there can be characterized as one of generalized violence and events seriously disturbing public order. All three ethnic groups, Sinhalese, Muslims and Tamils are affected by the situation of generalized violence and armed conflict.” [6b] (Paragraph 33)

SINHALESE

- 20.09 With between 73.8 and 82 per cent, the Sinhalese ethnic group constitutes the majority of the Sri Lankan population. (The CIA World Factbook) [30] (Sri Lankan Department of Census and Statistic - Statistical Abstract 2005, Chapter II, tables 2.10 - 2.11) [58a] Sinhalese represent the majority in seven out of the nine provinces into which the country is divided; their mother tongue is Sinhala and 93 per cent of their total are Buddhists. (Jane’s Sentinel Security Assessments, Country profile - At a glance, Sri Lanka, 3 November 2006: Demography, 3 March 2006)
- 20.10 The State of the World’s Minorities 2007 (Events of 2006), published by Minority Rights Group International in March 2007, Sri Lanka Flash Point, (dated November 2006) reported that “The Sinhalese Buddhists, who make up 70 per cent of Sri Lanka’s population, control the state machinery – the military as well as the government.” [62a] (p21)

TAMILS

- 20.11 The State of the World’s Minorities 2007 noted that “The Tamils – the majority of whom are Hindus – are ethnically distinct and speak their own language. The rebel movement, the Tamil Tigers, want to carve out a separate state for minority Tamils in the north and east of the country. [62a] (p21) During the conflict, Tamil moderates have found themselves doubly victimized. Vulnerable to rebel reprisals, they are also attacked by government forces, who believe them to be rebels or supportive of the Tamil Tigers. Under the terrorism laws, the ill-treatment of Tamils, subjected to illegal detention and torture, is well-documented. Moreover, Tamils in lower-class groups face routine harassment – something that has become more pronounced over the past few months.” [62a] (p23-24)
- 20.10 “The ethnic conflict [between Sinhalese and Tamils] in Sri Lanka has been going on for over 20 years as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fight for an independent homeland.” (FCO Sri Lanka country profile) [15] (The Internal Conflict)
- 20.11 As recorded by the Sri Lankan Department of Census and Statistics (Statistical Abstract 2005, Chapter II, tables 2.10 - 2.11), in Colombo district there were 247,739 Sri Lanka Tamils and 24,821 Indian Tamils out of a total population of 2,251,274. The districts of Ampara, Gampaha, Kandy, Puttalam

and Nuwara Eliya also have a high concentration of Tamils. However, data from Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts in which the 2001 census enumeration was not completed were not included. [58a]

- 20.12 As recorded in Jane's Sentinel Security Assessments, Country profile - At a glance, Sri Lanka, 3 November 2006:

“Until the early 1980s this process [the tension in relations between the Sinhalese and Sri Lankan Tamils] was primarily political and was defined by sustained agitation by parties and groups representing the interests of the Sri Lankan Tamils against successive Sinhalese-dominated governments, interspersed with periodic outbursts of communal violence in areas of mixed ethnicity at which Tamils suffered at the hands of rampaging Sinhalese mobs...Tamil grievances at this stage were focused mainly on the theme of economic deprivation and political alienation and focused upon campaigning for a due share of political power, access to resources and economic opportunities, and entitlement to the benefits of development. Over time, there emerged within the Tamil community the idea that it constitutes a distinct 'national group', primarily in response to state alienation and exclusion, and that the Tamil community had been arbitrarily unified with the 'Sinhalese nation' in the creation of 'British Ceylon'. This notion formed the ideological and political basis of a secessionist movement committed to the objective of establishing an independent Tamil state ('Eelam') encompassing the northern and eastern parts of the island of Sri Lanka....Several factors contributed to the supremacy acquired by the LTTE over other Tamil groups. The most basic among these has been their success in mobilising disgruntled Tamil youth and their capacity to command absolute obedience from among the ranks. The ferocity with which the LTTE has dealt with renegades, its rivals or any other force that stood in its way was another factor that contributed to its meteoric rise.” [5a] (Internal Affairs, 14 July 2006, Post-Independence ethnic tension & Secessionist campaign)

- 20.13 As noted in the UNHCR Position on the International Protection Needs of asylum-seekers from Sri Lanka dated December 2006:

“In addition to the situation of widespread insecurity and the impact of the armed conflict in the North and East, Tamils in and from these regions are at risk of targeted violations of their human rights from all parties to the armed conflict. Harassment, intimidation, arrest, detention, torture, abduction and killing at the hands of government forces, the LTTE and paramilitary or armed groups are frequently reported to be inflicted on Tamils from the North and East. Individuals suspected of having LTTE affiliations are at risk of human rights abuses by the authorities or allegedly government sponsored paramilitary groups. In the same manner, those who refuse to support the LTTE and those who are perceived as supporters or sympathizers of the Government, risk serious violations of human rights from the LTTE.” [6b] (Paragraph 14&15)

- 20.14 On 12 April 2006 Human Rights Watch reported that the Sri Lankan government had failed to respond adequately to recent attacks by armed groups on ethnic Tamils and their homes and businesses in the eastern Trincomalee district.

“Police and other security forces reportedly stood by as Tamils were attacked on April 12 after an alleged Tamil Tiger bomb at a Trincomalee market killed five persons. Witnesses said that within 15 minutes approximately 100-150 ethnic Sinhalese men armed with clubs and long knives attacked Tamil businesses and homes in Trincomalee town and district. Sri Lankan human rights organizations reported that attacks from April 12 to 16 left at least 20 civilians dead (including seven women), among them Tamils, Muslims and Sinhalese. Some 75 persons needed hospital attention for injuries... The attacks destroyed some 100 homes and left more than 3,000 people homeless. According to the Trincomalee chamber of commerce, 32 businesses and shops were damaged, destroyed or looted. Police and armed forces stood by while the burning and killing occurred, waiting from 45 to 90 minutes before taking action... President Mahinda Rajapakse’s response to the violence has been grossly inadequate. According to media reports, President Rajapakse sent high-ranking security officials and other senior officials to Trincomalee in the days following the reprisal attacks. However, Human Rights Watch is unaware of any strong public statements by the president or direct steps to increase security in the district. Some persons displaced by the violence reportedly did not receive emergency government assistance for four days.” [21k]

- 20.15 As noted in a press statement by the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs and National Integration posted on the official website of the Sri Lankan Government’s Secretariat for Co-ordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP) on 30 June 2006:

“Even though Tamil was made the second official language in 1987 through the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka, benefits of these constitutional provisions never reached the Tamil-speaking people. Hon. Dew Gunasekara, the present Minister of Constitutional Affairs and National Integration submitted a Memo to the Cabinet of His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa, at the first meeting in November, 2005, on the need for bilingualization of the Public Service soon after the new Cabinet was sworn in. The subject of the official languages had been transferred to the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs and National Integration from the Ministry of Public Administration under the new Government....This decision [on the bilingualisation of public services] caters to the needs of the Tamil-speaking people outside the North/East Provinces and also the Sinhala-speaking people in the North/East...It is noted that 52% of the Tamil people and 61% of the Tamil-speaking people in Sri Lanka live outside the Northern and Eastern Provinces.” [41l]

See also Sections 3, 4, 7 and Annex C

UP-COUNTRY TAMILS

- 20.16 As noted in the US State Department Report 2006 (USSD), Sri Lanka:

“There were approximately one million Tamils of Indian origin, the so-called Hill, Tea Estate, or Indian Tamils, whose ancestors originally were brought to the country in the 19th century to work on plantations. In the past approximately 300,000 of these persons did not qualify for citizenship in any country and faced discrimination, especially in the allocation of government funds for education. In 2003 parliament passed a bill granting full citizenship to

more than 460,000 tea estate Tamils. In August 2004 UNHCR began awareness campaigns to alert Tamils to the new legislation and by the end of 2005 had registered approximately 276,000 persons. UNHCR confirmed registration for an additional 75,000 persons during the year. At year's [2006] end 117,000 registrations remained unconfirmed. Both local and Hill Tamils maintained that they suffered longstanding systematic discrimination in university education, government employment, and in other matters controlled by the government. According to the SLHRC, Tamils also experienced discrimination in housing." [2c] (Section 5)

MUSLIMS

20.17 As noted in the UNHCR Background Paper on Refugees and Asylum Seekers from Sri Lanka, dated April 2004 (but published in June 2004), the Muslims in Sri Lanka view themselves as an ethnic minority. [6j] (p47-48)

20.18 The State of theWorld's Minorities 2007, reported that:

"After Tamils, Muslims are the second largest minority in Sri Lanka – numbering nearly a million. They have suffered tremendously in the conflict but they are often the 'forgotten minority' and their plight is rarely acknowledged. Sri Lankan Muslims are scattered across the country, but a majority live in the coastal areas...Their dominance in eastern Sri Lanka – in some small towns they form the majority – and their insistence on their separate and unique identity has brought them into conflict with the Tamil Tigers, who see the Muslim presence as a hindrance to their homeland claim". [62a] (p23-24)

See also Sections 19 and 29

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

20.19 The USSD 2006 recorded that "The country's indigenous people, known as Veddas, numbered fewer than 1,000. Some preferred to maintain their traditional way of life and are protected by the law. There are no legal restrictions on their participation in the political or economic life of the nation. Some Veddas complained that they were being pushed off their land in protected forest areas." [2c] (Section 5)

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21. LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PERSONS

LEGAL RIGHTS

21.01 As noted in the US State Department Report 2006 (USSD), Sri Lanka, "The law criminalizes homosexual activity between men and between women, but the law was not enforced." [2c] (Section 5)

21.02 The Amnesty International 'Sexual Minorities and the Law: A World Survey' (last pdated July 2006) recorded that in Sri Lanka homosexuality is illegal for males (while females are not mentioned in law) and that it imprisonable for ten

years. As for transgender the document mentioned that the situation was unclear since there were no data or information on the legal situation. [3d]

- 21.03 Sodomy Laws, 'Laws around the world', Sri Lanka (last edited 16 July 2004) quoted Section 365a of the Penal Code:

"365A. Any person who in public or in private, commits, or is a party to the commission of, or procures or attempts to procure the commission by any person of, any act of gross indecency with another person, shall be guilty of an offense, and shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years or with fine or with both and where the offense is committed by a person over 18 years of age in respect of any person under 16 years of age shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term not less than ten years and not exceeding twenty years and with a fine and shall also be ordered to pay compensation of an amount determined by court to the person in respect of whom the offense was committed for the injuries caused to such person." [50]

- 21.04 As recorded in the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) World Legal Survey website "Homosexual acts between men, regardless of age, are prohibited under Section 365a of the Penal Code with a penalty of up to 10 years imprisonment." [29]

GOVERNMENT ATTITUDES

- 21.05 The website Utopia-Asia.com, Country Listings, Sri Lanka, recorded that the law prohibiting homosexuality is not being currently enforced. [72a] The USSD 2006 noted that the law which criminalises homosexual activity between men and between women was not enforced. [2c] (Section 5)

- 21.06 The USSD 2006 further noted that "NGOs working on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues did not register with the government. As in recent years human rights organizations reported that police harassed, extorted money or sexual favors from, and assaulted gay men in Colombo and other areas." [2c] (Section 5)

- 21.07 As noted in 'Human Rights?' a publication by the Sri Lankan organisation Equal Ground:

"For too long now, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community of Sri Lanka has suffered silently, denied their basic human rights. Under Section 365A of the Sri Lanka Penal Code, homosexuality is condemned as a criminal offence. Although this law, a relic of Colonisation has not been enforced in many, many years, it still serves as a reminder that in this country, not everyone is equal. Its vicious shadow is the threat of blackmail and continuing Police harassment." [73a] (p16)

SOCIETAL ILL-TREATMENT OR DISCRIMINATION

- 21.08 As recorded on the website Utopia-Asia.com, Country Listings, Sri Lanka, "While the law [prohibiting homosexuality] is not being currently enforced, its existence has allowed for official discrimination and societal stigma towards homosexuals. Local gay activists are working to bring the law into the 21st century." [72a]

- 21.09 As noted on the website of the Sri Lankan gay organisation Women's Support Group:

"The Women's Support Group has worked since 1999 for the rights of lesbians, bisexual women and transgendered persons (LBT). Our work has been diverse and at times very difficult. The stigma and discrimination that the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) community faces is validated by section 365 of the Penal Code of Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan legal system makes it extremely difficult for our community to live openly. The Penal Code, based on 19th [sic] century British law, states that homosexual sexual activity is a crime. Up till 1995, the subject of this law was only men. However, the 1995 amendment to the Penal Code made it 'gender-neutral' and now the Penal Code criminalizes both male and female homosexual sexual activity. This law and a homophobic social environment create a smothering atmosphere for the LGBT people. They are subject to discrimination on many fronts. They face blackmail by others, they face threats to their family, career, and their life. Some have been thrown out of their homes and others have lost their jobs. The legal system and the stigma associated with being homosexual, bisexual or transgendered in our society makes it difficult for members of the LGBT community to live their lives fully and openly. Around you there are many people who hide their sexual and gender identity from those around them due to the fear of what may happen to them if their identity is known." [74a]

- 21.10 As reported on 23 July 2005 on the website of Equal Ground, the first ever Gay Pride event in Sri Lanka was held on 20 July 2005 with over 300 people gathering in a discoteque in Colombo. [73b]

- 21.12 As reported in one BBC News article dated 20 May 2005:

"Companions on a Journey is a drop-in centre in Colombo that's become a lifeline for Sri Lanka's gay community.... When he [Sherman de Rose, the founder of Companions on a Journey] started the group last year, he used to receive death threats. It got so bad, he says, he had to leave the country for a while until religious groups, political leaders, and some sections of the media, the most vehement opponents to his organisation, calmed down. 'But attitudes have begun to change,' he says.... One of the most difficult things for gay men and women in Sri Lanka is simply coming to terms with their homosexuality. Given the social intolerance, it is very difficult, Sherman says.... Companions now have two more drop-in centres in Sri Lanka, one in Kandy and one in Anuradhapura. They put out a monthly newsletter and every full moon they organise a big party... Working with a network of lawyers, they are trying to persuade lawmakers to change Sri Lanka's criminal code, which outlaws homosexuality. 'There is still a lot of opposition,' he says, 'and we still aren't even close to Europe or the United States when it comes to gay rights.'" [9fi]

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22. DISABILITY

- 22.01 As noted in the US State Department Report 2006 (USSD), Sri Lanka:

“The law forbids discrimination against any person on the grounds of disability; however, there were instances of discrimination against the disabled in the areas of employment, education, and provision of state services. The law does not mandate access to buildings for persons with disabilities, and such facilities were rare. The Department of Social Services operated eight vocational training schools for persons with physical and mental disabilities and sponsored a program of job training and placement for graduates. The government also provided financial support to NGOs that assisted persons with disabilities. Such assistance included subsidizing prosthetic devices, making purchases from suppliers with disabilities, and registering 74 NGO-run schools and training institutions for persons with disabilities. The Department of Social Services selected job placement officers to help the estimated 200,000 work-eligible persons with disabilities find jobs. Despite these efforts, persons with disabilities faced difficulties because of negative attitudes and societal discrimination.” [2c] (Section 5)

- 22.02 As noted on the website of Disability Information Resources (DINF) of the Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (JSRPD) (website accessed on 5 July 2005):

“The government has introduced a policy of in every workforce, 3% of the employees must be people with disabilities. Although all major companies have been made aware of this the policy is not enforced and as a result it is largely ignored.... The building of separate schools for children with special needs was stopped over 20 years ago. The Ministry of Education hopes to build special units into all schools so children with special needs can be integrated into mainstream education with the help of specially trained teachers (also underway). The Government of Sri Lanka has no formal policy on accessibility to buildings for those who have mobility problems.... In Sri Lanka the Ministry of Social Services has used the data obtained from ongoing programmes and estimates that between 4 and 5% of the population as a whole have some kind of disability. The government has no official policy on disability and rehabilitation but sectional policies attempt to keep up with international developments...The causes of the disabilities in Sri Lanka are varied but conflict related disabilities seem disproportionately high. These come from landmines, attacks on border villages, fighting or being caught in the crossfire during fighting and, in areas such as Colombo, injuries from the explosions detonated by suicide bombers. Further causes include problems at birth or prior to birth, especially among older women or those suffering from poor health or malnutrition combined with an overstretched [sic] Health Service. Poor health and malnutrition in children can cause disabilities as they get older. Another factor is Polio although the government has now taken steps to eliminate the problem leading to a negligible number of (occurrence) Polio victims.” [70]

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23. WOMEN

- 23.01 The United Nations, in its 2002 report on Sri Lanka on the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women stated that:

“The Committee commends the efforts to implement the Convention despite the difficult socio-political situation. It welcomes efforts to strengthen the national machinery on women, the introduction of gender mainstreaming and the adoption of a range of policies and programmes to eliminate discrimination against women, including the Women’s Charter, the establishment of the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, although short-lived as a separate Ministry, the National Committee on Women and the formulation of a National Plan of Action for Women. The Committee commends the introduction of legal reforms that have been adopted since 1995, in particular the amendments to the Penal Code, which introduced new offences and more severe punishments with regard to violence against women, as well as the revision of the marriage laws, which increased the age of marriage, except in the case of Muslims, to 18 for both women and men. The Committee commends the educational achievements and improved literacy rate of women, as well as the curriculum reforms and teacher training programmes to eliminate gender role stereotypes. The Committee also commends the easy access to family planning for women and men and the well-developed maternal and child health care system, which has contributed to a decline in maternal mortality.... The Committee is concerned that abortion is allowed only when the mother’s life is in danger and is strictly prohibited otherwise, even in extreme circumstances, which results in women resorting to illegal abortions.... The Committee expresses its concern about the high incidence of violence against women, including domestic violence. The Committee is concerned that no specific legislation has been enacted to combat domestic violence and that there is a lack of systematic data collection on violence against women, in particular domestic violence. The Committee, while appreciating the many amendments to the Penal Code, notes with concern that marital rape is recognized only in the case of judicial separation. The Committee is also concerned that the police fail to respond to complaints of violence against women in a gender sensitive and effective manner.” [6c]

LEGAL RIGHTS

22.02 As noted in the US State Department Report 2006 (USSD), Sri Lanka:

“Women have equal rights under national, civil, and criminal law; however, questions related to family law, including divorce, child custody, and inheritance, were adjudicated by the customary law of each ethnic or religious group. The minimum age of marriage for women is 18 years, and there was no provision for marriage at an earlier age with parental consent except in the case of Muslims, who may follow their customary marriage practices and marry at the age of 15. Women were denied equal rights to land in government-assisted settlements, as the law does not institutionalize the rights of female heirs. Different religious and ethnic practices often resulted in uneven treatment of women, including discrimination.” [2c] (Section 5)

23.03 “The 1948 Citizenship Act is the primary central legislation on citizenship. The act was amended in 2003 to allow both parents to confer citizenship upon their children. Prior to the amendment, only a father could pass Sri Lankan citizenship to his children...Changes to regulations under the act have also been recently approved by the Cabinet of Ministers; these changes permit foreign spouses of Sri Lankan women to obtain citizenship on the same basis as foreign spouses of Sri Lankan men.” (Centre for Reproductive Rights, Women of

the World: South Asia, Sri Lanka chapter, undated, website accessed on 19 September 2006) [32] (p220)

23.04 “The body of law relating to marriage consists of the general law, customary law and personal law. Tamils are governed by the general law in most marriage-related matters, whereas Kandyan Sinhalese can choose to be governed by the general law or their customary laws. Muslims are governed by Muslim personal law... The Marriage Registration Ordinance and the Civil Procedure Code constitute the general law on divorce. The provisions of the ordinance firmly establish divorce as faultbased [sic] and case law has reaffirmed this concept. Grounds for divorce under the ordinance are the following:

- adultery;
- malicious desertion; and
- incurable impotence at the time of marriage.

Cruelty is not a ground for divorce, although it may be a factor in determining malicious desertion. Physical illtreatment [sic] per se is also not a ground for divorce under the general law, but it is a cause for legal separation... The Civil Procedure Code constitutes the general law on judicial separation. The code provides that either party may petition for separation ‘on any ground on which by the law applicable to Sri Lanka such separation may be granted.’... The 1999 Maintenance Act is the general law on maintenance during marriage... The act requires any spouse with sufficient means to maintain the other spouse, if such individual is unable to maintain him or herself... The principles of custody are thus governed by the residuary Roman-Dutch law. The predominant feature of the common law is the preferential custodial right given to the father, which may be denied only in instances of danger to the ‘life, health and morals’ of the children. A mother who seeks custody therefore has the onus of displacing the father’s right.” On most of these matters there are also more specific laws governing in particular, Muslims, Tamils and Kandyan Sinhalese. (Centre for Reproductive Rights, Women of the World: South Asia, Sri Lanka chapter, undated, website accessed on 19 September 2006) [32] (p220-225)

23.05 As recorded in the UNICEF document ‘The state of the world’s children 2007, South Asia edition’ published in December 2006, “Sri Lanka represents an exception in the region to this trend of child marriage, with an average age of first marriage for women of 25. This dramatic shift was led by legislative reforms that require that all marriages are registered and the consent of both marriage partners is recorded.” [53b] (p6)

POLITICAL RIGHTS

23.06 The USSD 2006 reported that “There were 11 women in the 225-member parliament, three women in the cabinet, and two women on the Supreme Court... There was no provision for or allocation of a set number or percentage of political party positions for women or minorities.” (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 3)

23.07 The UNICEF document ‘The state of the world’s children 2007, South Asia edition’, published in December 2006, noted that, “Despite having low rates of child marriage, high level of girls’ education and a record of elected women leaders in the highest seats of political power, Sri Lanka continues to have

very few women in its national legislature, the proportion of women never having been higher than 5 per cent.” [53b] (p24)

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

23.08 As noted in the USSD 2006:

“The law provides for equal employment opportunities in the public sector; however, women had no legal protection against discrimination in the private sector, where they sometimes were paid less than men for equal work. They often experienced difficulty in rising to supervisory positions, and faced sexual harassment. Even though women constituted approximately half of the formal workforce, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the quality of employment available to women was less than that available to men, as the demand for female labor was mainly for casual and low-paid, low-skill jobs in the formal and informal sectors.” [2c] (Section 5)

23.09 “There are no laws or policies that require individuals to accept family planning measures...The National Health Policy calls for the government to ensure the right of men and women to be informed about and have access to their choice of safe, effective, affordable, and acceptable methods of family planning...The Women’s Charter issues several directives to the state with regard to women’s right to family planning. It enjoins the state to ensure:

- women’s right to control their reproduction and their equal access to information, education, counselling [sic], and services in family planning, including the provision of safe family planning devices and the introduction and enforcement of regulations relating to their safety; and
- family planning policies are equally focused on men and women.

There are currently some 14,000–15,000 women who undergo sterilization per year...The government does not regulate sterilization through any laws...Abortion, which is illegal in Sri Lanka, is the single most important reproductive health problem in the country...Abortion is a criminal offense under the penal code, except to save the woman’s life...Legal abortions are usually performed in the government sector...Abortions are carried out in the informal and private sector by private physicians or by clandestine abortion providers.” (Centre for Reproductive Rights, *Women of the World: South Asia, Sri Lanka chapter*, undated, website accessed on 19 September 2006) [32] (p 212-213 & 216-217)

23.10 “Roman-Dutch law forms the bedrock of the general law on property in Sri Lanka. The 1923 Married Women’s Property Ordinance constitutes the general law on matrimonial property rights. Under the ordinance, a married woman is capable of holding, acquiring and disposing of any movable or immovable property or of contracting as if she were a femme sole, without the consent or intervention of her husband. This applies to all property belonging to her at the time of marriage and property acquired or devolved to her after marriage. She also has the same remedies and redress by way of criminal proceedings for the protection and security of her separate property. The 1876 Matrimonial Rights and Inheritance Ordinance constitutes the general law on inheritance rights. The ordinance provides for equal rights to inheritance for male and female spouses: upon the death of either spouse, the surviving spouse inherits half of the deceased spouse’s property. The extent of the general law’s application has been limited by legislation, judicial decisions and

the system of customary laws that are operative in the island. The matrimonial property and inheritance rights of Kandyan Sinhalese and Tamils are governed by their own systems. Muslims are governed by Muslim personal law.” (Centre for Reproductive Rights, Women of the World: South Asia, Sri Lanka chapter, undated, website accessed on 19 September 2006) [32] (p225)

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

23.11 As outlined in the USSD 2006:

“The law prohibits domestic violence, but it was not strictly enforced. Sexual assault, rape, and spousal abuse continued to be serious and pervasive problems. The law specifically addresses sexual abuse and exploitation and contains provisions in rape cases for an equitable burden of proof and stringent punishments. Marital rape is considered an offense only in cases of spouses living under judicial separation. While the law may ease some of the problems faced by victims of sexual assault, many women's organizations believed that greater sensitization of police and the judiciary was necessary. The Bureau for the Protection of Children and Women received 876 complaints of violent crimes against women in the first half of the year [2006]... According to the Bureau for the Protection of Children and Women, there were 481 reported incidents of rape. The bureau indicated that 11 of the victims were below the age of 18. Services to assist victims of rape and domestic violence, such as crisis centers, legal aid, and counseling, were generally limited... Sexual harassment is a criminal offense carrying a maximum sentence of five years in prison; however, these laws were not enforced.” [2c] (Section 5)

23.12 As recorded on the website of the Ministry of Justice and Law reforms of Sri Lanka (Legislation passed by Parliament in 2005, Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, No. 34 of 2005):

“Violence against women and particularly violence within the domestic environment has become a serious social issue. The above Act provides for the issue of Protection Orders by court. The objective of the Act is not to create new offences but to provide for the issue of Protection Orders by a Magistrate’s Court to prevent an aggressor from inflicting harm to persons within the home environment. The Act makes provision for the issue of Protection Orders against acts of physical violence which constitute offences already recognized in Chapter XVI of the Penal Code, of Extortion and Intimidation and of Emotional Abuse having the effect of causing severe traumatic emotional pain. Protection Orders can be sought against persons in specified degrees of relationships. A Protection Order may prohibit the aggressor from committing acts of domestic violence and entering the victim’s residence and may impose other prohibitions. In imposing prohibitions the court is required to take into account the accommodation needs of the victim and of the children and any hardship that may be caused to the aggressor thereby. The Act provides a civil remedy. The issue of a Protection Order will have no bearing on the normal criminal law jurisdiction. Thus where an offence has been committed, the normal criminal justice process of investigation, prosecution and punishment will follow.” [43b]

23.13 “Under the penal code, provisions relating to murder, miscarriage, hurt, wrongful confinement, assault, sexual harassment, rape or grave sexual

abuse, and criminal intimidation may be invoked to prosecute acts of domestic violence...The penal code criminalizes sexual harassment, defined as assault or the use of criminal force, words or actions to cause 'sexual annoyance or harassment' to another person. The offense is punishable with imprisonment and a fine, and a defendant may additionally be ordered to pay compensation to the victim. The burden of proof rests on the prosecution, which must prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt... The practice of female circumcision on newborns is fairly widespread among the Muslim community in Sri Lanka; the practice is not prohibited or regulated by law." (Centre for Reproductive Rights, *Women of the World: South Asia, Sri Lanka chapter*, undated, website accessed on 19 September 2006) [32] (p230-231)

- 23.14 As stated on the website of the Sri Lankan NGO Home for Human Rights (HHR) (undated, website accessed on 20 September 2006):

"HHR created its Women [sic] Desk to oversee HHR's work with women and ensure that we never ignore the needs of this often vulnerable population... HHR's Documentation Desk is active in collecting, coding, and reporting violations of women's human rights. In addition, we also study special issues relating to women... HHR provides several legal services that cater to the specific needs of women and children. These services include representation for victims of domestic or sexual abuse, displaced women and children, and children forced into illegal labour. While our Legal Department provides most direct services, the Women's Desk maintains community networks to ensure that women around the country are aware of our services and can avail of [sic] them when required... HHR's Women's Desk provides several critical community-based services geared towards women. We provide social services and counseling [sic] for survivors of sexual and domestic violence. We have also organized self-help groups for single mothers in the Northern and Eastern provinces where women gather monthly to discuss their unique problems and share ideas on how to address them. HHR also provides counseling [sic] services and moral support to women affected by human rights violations, such as visiting hospitalized victims of assault, rape, or domestic violence and accompanying them back to their communities. The Women's Desk has also helped displaced women and children return home or adapt to their new surroundings." [26]

- 23.15 According to an undated list on the website of the online forum South Asian Women's Network (SAWNET) (last accessed on 20 September 2006), several organisations dealing with women's issues exist in Sri Lanka. [17]

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24. CHILDREN

GENERAL INFORMATION

- 24.01 As outlined in the US State Department Report 2006 (USSD), Sri Lanka:

"Many NGOs attributed the problem of exploitation of children to the lack of law enforcement rather than inadequate legislation. Many law enforcement resources were diverted to the conflict with the LTTE, although the police's Bureau for the Protection of Children and Women conducted investigations

into crimes against children and women. Under the law the definition of child abuse includes all acts of sexual violence against, trafficking in, and cruelty to children. The law also prohibits the use of children in exploitative labor or illegal activities or in any act contrary to compulsory education regulations. It also broadens the definition of child abuse to include the involvement of children in war. The NCPA included representatives from the education, medical, police, and legal professions and reported directly to the president. During the year the Bureau for the Protection of Children and Women received 1,278 complaints of violent crimes against children.” [2c] (Section 5)

- 24.02 “The government pushed for greater international cooperation to bring those guilty of pedophilia to justice. The penalties for pedophilia range from five to 20 years’ imprisonment and an unspecified fine. During the year [2006] the government opened 1,692 files; of which 700 indictments were served for pedophilia, including statutory rape; 134 were discharged; and 992 concluded; 158 files were under further investigation and the remainder was pending at the end of the year. Following the 2004 tsunami, the NCPA launched a successful awareness campaign to protect orphaned or displaced children from pedophiles.” (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 5)
- 24.03 “Child prostitution was a problem in coastal resort areas. The government estimated that there were more than 2,000 child prostitutes in the country, but private groups claimed that the number was as high as 6,000. Citizens committed much of the child sexual abuse in the form of child prostitution; however, some child prostitutes were boys who catered to foreign tourists. Some of these children were forced into prostitution...The Department of Probation and Child Care Services provided protection to child victims of abuse and sexual exploitation and worked with local NGOs that provided shelter. The tourist bureau conducted awareness-raising programs for at-risk children in resort regions prone to sex tourism...’Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere, a domestic NGO, estimated that 6,000 male children between the ages of eight and 15 years were sexually exploited at beach and mountain resorts. Some of these children were forced into commercial sexual prostitution by their parents or by organized crime.” (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 5)
- 24.04 According to an undated report from the NGO ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes):
- “Child prostitution is rampant in Sri Lanka. The availability of child sex is publicised in magazines, web sites and chat rooms. According to a study conducted by Peace [Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere, a domestic NGO] there are 15,000 children engaged in the sex trade. The government itself estimates there are approximately 30,000 children involved. Sex tourism is easily seen and widely known to occur in the south and southwestern coast. Boys victimised here are known as Beach Boys. They operate in gangs or independently.” [51]
- 24.05 As outlined in a *Daily Mirror* article of 8 October 2003, reported in the website of the Sri Lankan National Child Protection Authority (NCPA):
- “According to UNICEF and ILO statistics, there are nearly 40,000 child prostitutes in the country while 5,000 to 30,000 Sri Lankan boys are used by Western paedophile sex tourists in Sri Lanka. Nearly 10,000 to 12,000 children from rural areas are trafficked and prostituted to paedophiles by

organised crime groups...Although the government estimates that there are 2,000 active child prostitutes in the country private groups claim the number is as high as 40,000." [52]

24.06 As reported by the *Daily News* on 24 May 2004:

"The special police unit of the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) has bared an international racket where the services of Sri Lankan children are being sold to foreigners through the Internet. Following reports that the Internet is widely used by local child traffickers, the police unit launched investigations which resulted in the arrest of several foreigners and their being convicted in Sri Lankan courts, official sources told the *Daily News*...The number of child abuse cases reported to the NCPA last year [2003] was 386. In 2001, it was only 276 cases and the number of child abuse incidents increased by 86 cases. Out of 386 child abuse cases reported in 2002, 194 were sexual abuse incidents, while 84 were physical abuse cases." [16bn]

24.07 On 15 June 2004 the *Daily News* reported that, addressing an Interpol meeting, the secretary of the Ministry of Public Security, Law and Order had said that the Sri Lankan Police Department too had a separate Bureau for the prevention of Abuse of Children, Young Persons and Women.

"This Bureau has made several good detections and also by various Police Stations in the country, that includes the detection of foreign child sex offenders. The Secretary emphasised that about 1500 cases of child abuse had been reported in Sri Lanka for 2003. A special investigation unit comprising police officers was set up at the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) in 2002. This unit in addition to the conducting of investigations into the child abuse cases has also been successful in detecting, foreign child sex offenders (paedophiles) operating in Sri Lanka." [16bo]

24.08 The USSD 2006 reported that:

"The minimum age for employment is 14, although the law permits the employment of younger children by their parents or guardians in limited family agriculture work or to engage in technical training. An amendment to the Employment of Women and Youth Act prohibits all other forms of family employment of children below 14. A child activity survey, carried out in 1998 and 1999 by the Department of Census and Statistics, found almost 11,000 children between the ages of five and 14 working full time and another 15,000 engaged in both economic activity and housekeeping. The survey found 450,000 children employed by their families in seasonal agricultural work throughout the country...Sources indicated many thousands of children were employed in domestic service, although this situation was not regulated or documented. Many child domestics reportedly were subjected to physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. Regular employment of children also occurred in family enterprises such as family farms, crafts, small trade establishments, restaurants, and repair shops." [2c] (Section 6d)

24.09 "The NCPA [National Child Protection Authority] is the central agency for coordinating and monitoring action on the protection of children. The Department of Labor, the Department of Probation and Child Care Services, and the police are responsible for the enforcement of child labor laws. The Bureau of Child Protection reported 18 complaints of child employment during

the year, out of which litigation charges were filed for one case. Penalties for employing minors were increased from approximately \$9 (rupees 1,000) and/or 6 months' imprisonment to \$93 (rupees 10,000) and/or 12 months' imprisonment" (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 6d)

- 24.10 As reported by the Sri Lanka Department of Government Information on 21 July 2006:

"Parliament yesterday passed a law making it an offense to employ those below 18 years in hazardous employment. The new law also covers recruitment of children as child combatants and the child sex trade. Under the new law which was brought in the form of an [sic] amended legislation any person employing children between 14 – 18 years in the activities mentioned would be liable to a term of one year's rigorous imprisonment on conviction. Presenting the Amendment in Parliament yesterday Labour Minister Athauda Seneviratne said employment of children below 14 years is already a punishable offence under the Penal Code...The new legislation will introduce tougher punishment for those who sell children below 18 years as child slaves or into child prostitution, the Minister said. The land mark [sic] amendment will also strengthen the existing legislation to take action against recruitment of child soldiers by armed groups." [10a]

EDUCATION

- 24.11 The USSD 2006 recorded that "The law requires children between the ages of five and 14 to attend school, and the government demonstrated its commitment to children through extensive systems of public education and medical care. Approximately 85 percent of children under the age of 16 attended school. Education was free through the university level. Health care, including immunization, was also free." [2c] (Section 6d)

- 24.12 As reported by Save the Children on 23 June 2006:

"Seventy per cent of school children in tsunami-affected areas of Sri Lanka continue to suffer extremely difficult conditions at school, research by Save the Children in Sri Lanka has revealed. A lack of teachers, serious gaps in basic resources such as water and working toilets and shortages of books, desks and chairs are just some of the difficulties identified by the research. Save the Children in Sri Lanka also found that in many cases, children are forced to attend classes being held under hot and noisy zinc-sheet roofs. Another discovery was that despite the prohibition of corporal punishment in Sri Lankan schools, it is estimated that this method of punishment is still favoured by up to 55% of teachers working in the areas covered by the research. These findings come from the first phase of a research project called 'Children's Consultation on Education', conducted throughout March and April 2006. Nearly 1,500 children from areas worst-affected by the tsunami were consulted as part of the project." [19a]

- 24.13 As reported by BBC News on 14 March 2006 "Recent fighting in eastern Sri Lanka has closed more than 100 schools, with some turned into camps to accommodate displaced people, officials say...Officials estimate that 73 schools have also closed down in areas controlled by the rebels, and that the education of 24,000 children has been affected throughout the east." [9x]

CHILD CARE

24.14 Information from the British High Commission in Colombo, in a letter dated 18 October 2002, confirms that children's homes and orphanages exist in Sri Lanka, and that most of these are Sinhalese-run. Children in children's homes are not necessarily orphans; they might come from families where one parent is dead or absent, or where there are too many children for a family to support. If there are allegations of abuse, children are often placed in homes for their protection. There are two types of homes. State-run homes come under the auspices of the Probation and Childcare Department. Generally, homes in the voluntary-run sector are run by NGOs or religious organisations. The legal age limits for children's homes and orphanages are 0-18, although after the children turn 18 they often continue to live (and work) within the institution. Some homes are single-sex, while others are mixed. Conditions in children's homes are generally very poor. This can range from simple lack of resources and facilities, through neglect, to outright abuse. Homes should be overseen by the Probation Service, but it lacks the funding and skills base to do so appropriately. There is also no oversight of the Probation Service itself. [15f]

24.15 As noted in the Save the Children document 'Home Truths, Children's Rights in Institutional Care in Sri Lanka' dated 28 February 2006:

"Children enter care for a variety of reasons often associated with poverty and family breakdown, offending and abuse. Only 8% of children in voluntary institutions, often labelled 'orphanages' were without both parents. And 50% of children admitted to institutions were there due to poverty. There was patchy and limited use of services to enable children to stay with their parents and families and little use of alternative forms of care such as fostering. This was due to a range of issues including lack of availability or knowledge of current schemes; the limited range of alternative services available in most areas; bureaucratic barriers to the use of alternatives and beliefs among probation officers and communities that residential care is the only viable option... Conditions in institutions were inconsistent in voluntary homes and, with a few notable exceptions, conditions for children in state run institutions were extremely poor. In many state institutions there was poor sanitation, inadequate sleeping arrangements and children were not provided with a nutritious diet. The emotional needs of children were rarely met and some fundamental rights were violated. Conditions in voluntary homes were variable with examples of good practice alongside poor conditions similar to those in state institutions. Children strongly resented the lack of privacy, and felt they were not allowed dignity and individuality. Minimum standards exist for voluntary homes but are not adequately monitored and there are no standards for state institutions." [19b]

CHILD SOLDIERS

24.16 See Section 10 on Abuses by non-government armed forces, Forced conscription.

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25. TRAFFICKING

- 25.01 The US Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report, released on 5 June 2006, noted that:

“Sri Lanka is a source and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for sexual exploitation, and domestic labor, especially to the Middle East, China, and South Korea. Internal trafficking of women, girls, and boys for commercial sexual exploitation also occurs. An unsubstantiated number of women from Thailand, China, Russia, and other former Soviet Union countries are trafficked to Sri Lanka for commercial sexual exploitation. Sri Lanka is also considered a popular destination for child sex tourists. In areas controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, children have been forced to become child soldiers. The Government of Sri Lanka does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Over the last year [2005], the Government of Sri Lanka passed an amendment to the criminal code to bring its laws in line with international standards for the prevention of trafficking in persons. The government also dedicated human resources to the Anti-Human Smuggling Investigation Bureau and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued to assign Welfare Officers to Sri Lanka missions abroad to aid and assist women who are victims of trafficking. Officials remained vigilant toward the potential of increased child trafficking in the wake of the December 2004 tsunami, and there was no significant increase in reports of trafficking following the tsunami.” [2i] (Sri Lanka Section)

- 25.02 “The government investigated and arrested some people for cases involving trafficking during the past year, but did not distinguish these cases from prosecutions and convictions of people involved in migrant smuggling, pedophilia, and prostitution. The government does not provide centralized training to law enforcement officers, though individual divisions of the police such as the Anti-Human Smuggling Unit and Women’s and Children’s Bureau conduct annual anti-trafficking trainings [sic] for their staff...The Government of Sri Lanka’s efforts to provide protection for trafficking victims improved slightly over the year. Although the government operates rehabilitation camps and community centers that offer some medical and psychological services to internal trafficking victims, it relies primarily on international organizations and NGOs to provide victim protection services. Furthermore, some suspected victims who may have been trafficked into Sri Lanka have been arrested and released after paying a fine. The Bureau of Foreign Employment appoints labor attachés to Sri Lankan missions abroad to assist Sri Lankan victims of trafficking...During the course of the year, Sri Lanka improved its trafficking prevention efforts. The National Child Protection Authority, as part of its overall efforts to address child welfare, included child trafficking as part of its educational campaigns. Most public awareness programs, however, are initiated by IOM and ILO, such as dance-drama troupes and information workshops to educate the public on the dangers of trafficking.” (USSD Trafficking in Persons Report, June 2006) [2i] (Sri Lanka Section)

- 25.03 The US State Department Report 2006 (USSD), Sri Lanka recorded that:

“The law prohibits trafficking in persons, and the legal penalties for trafficking in women include imprisonment for two to 20 years and a fine. For trafficking in children, the law allows imprisonment of five to 20 years and a fine...The

NCPA has adopted, with International Labor Organization (ILO) assistance, a comprehensive national plan to combat the trafficking of children for exploitative employment. With the NCPA, police began work on children's issues, including trafficking in children. The government established rehabilitation camps for trafficking victims and initiated awareness campaigns to educate women about trafficking; however, most of the campaigns, with support from the Bureau of Foreign Employment, were conducted by local and international NGOs. Government programs to monitor immigration with computer programs designed to identify suspected traffickers or sex tourists continued, as did a cyber-watch project to monitor suspicious Internet chat rooms." [2c] (Section 5)

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26. MEDICAL ISSUES

OVERVIEW OF AVAILABILITY OF MEDICAL TREATMENT AND DRUGS

26.01 "Almost 60% of Sri Lanka's population relies on the public health-care system. Some 95% of inpatient health care is provided by the public sector. Health care in the public sector comprises both Western and Ayurvedic systems of medicine, though the majority of the population seeks treatment from Western medicine...Three tiers of public medical institutions provide curative health care. District hospitals, peripheral units, rural hospitals, central dispensary and maternity homes, and central dispensaries provide primary health care. District hospitals are typically the largest of these facilities. Central dispensary and maternity homes are the smallest facilities with inpatient services, whereas central dispensaries are the smallest outpatient facilities. There are some 156 157 district hospitals, 102 peripheral units, 167 173 rural hospitals, 65 83 central dispensary and maternity homes, and 404 385 central dispensaries. Within the category of rural hospitals, there are some 15 estate hospitals, most of which do not function effectively because they lack adequate facilities and equipment. Provincial and base hospitals provide secondary health care. There are some seven provincial hospitals and 39 base hospitals. These facilities are located in large towns and most are managed by the provincial ministries of health, though the central Department of Health Services manages a few of these hospitals. Teaching and specialty hospitals provide tertiary health care. There are some 18 teaching hospitals, including one specializing in Ayurvedic medicine, which is managed by the central Ministry of Indigenous Medicine. The largest hospital in the country is the National Hospital of Sri Lanka in Colombo, which provides specialized health care not including pediatrics, obstetrics, ophthalmology, and dental surgery. For these services, there are separate children's, maternity, eye, and dental hospitals also located in Colombo. There is currently no functioning medical referral system. In addition to the three-tiered public health-care system of curative health services, there are 26,552 health units headed by medical officers that deliver preventive health services...Private health practitioners provide mostly curative care. At least half of outpatient curative health care in urban and suburban areas is provided by the private sector. Although there are some full-time, private general practitioners, the majority of doctors in the private sector are also government doctors who work from home, clinics or private hospitals. There are also a number of traditional practitioners in the private sector, mostly in Ayurvedic medicine, and a small

number of homeopathic practitioners.” (Centre for Reproductive Rights, Women of the World: South Asia, Sri Lanka chapter, undated, website accessed on 19 September 2006) [32] (p208-209)

- 26.02 A detailed (undated) list of government hospitals, Ayurvedic centres and private hospitals is published on the website Sri Lanka Health (accessed on 21 September 2006). The following government hospitals exist:

Ayurveda General Hospital – Colombo
 Colombo North General Hospital
 Colombo South Hospital – Kalubowila, Dehiwela
 Cancer Institute – Maharagama
 Dental Hospital – Colombo
 Castle Street Hospital for Women – Colombo
 De Soysa Hospital for Women – Colombo
 Eye Hospital – Colombo
 General Hospital – Colombo
 General Hospital – Galle
 General Hospital – Kandy
 Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children – Colombo
 General Hospital – Peradeniya
 General Hospital – Kalutara
 General Hospital – Jaffna
 Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital – Kotte
 [25a]

- 26.03 In addition to these hospitals, the website Sri Lanka Health recorded that further government hospitals exist in the district of Colombo:

National Hospital of Sri Lanka (NHSL) – Colombo
 Teaching Hospital Colombo South (THCS)
 Teaching Hospital Colombo North (THCN)
 Medical Research Institute (MRI) – Colombo
 Mental Hospital – Mulleriyawa
 Mental Hospital – Angoda
 Military Hospital – Colombo
 Chest Hospital – Welisara
 [25a]

- 26.04 As outlined by the British High Commission in Colombo in March 2001, most medications are available in Colombo, under various generic and company labels. The prices for medications bought in Sri Lanka range widely, but as a comparison, most drugs would be cheaper than in the United Kingdom for prescription and dispensing charges. On the whole, medical care is affordable for the average person, and government hospitals generally charge a lesser fee than private hospitals. [15b] As confirmed in the USSD 2006 “Health care [for children], including immunization, was also free” [2c] (Section 4)

HIV/AIDS – ANTI-RETROVIRAL TREATMENT

- 26.05 As noted in the World Bank document of August 2006 entitled, ‘HIV/AIDS in Sri Lanka’:

“Sri Lanka has a relatively small number of people living with HIV/AIDS, but high-risk behaviors that contribute to the spread of HIV are prevalent, making

the country vulnerable to an increase in infections. Sri Lanka has a narrowing window of opportunity to forestall the spread of HIV among high-risk groups. According to UNAIDS, Sri Lanka has a relatively small number of HIV infected people - about 5,000 adults. Since 1986, only 712 cases have been officially reported, with underreporting due mainly to limited availability of counseling [sic] and testing, fear associated with seeking services as well as the stigma and discrimination associated with being identified as HIV positive. Of the total number of HIV cases reported from 1987 to 2000 in which the mode of transmission is known, 98 percent were sexually transmitted. Only a few cases of HIV transmission from mother to child and through blood transfusions have been reported and transmission through intravenous drug use has not yet been reported.” [55b]

26.06 “In 1992, the Government of Sri Lanka initiated HIV prevention and control efforts through the National STI and AIDS Control Program (NSACP) of the Ministry of Health under the Director General of Health Services. In addition, the National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS) and the National Programme for Tuberculosis and Chest Diseases (NPTCCD) are strengthening their responses to reduce transmission and prevent further spread of HIV. These services are provided in collaboration with eight Provincial Directors of Health Services and the respective District staff. The NSACP in collaboration with the Provinces has made remarkable progress in institutionalizing HIV prevention activities and in providing care and treatment to people living with HIV...the NSACP has now established Care and Treatment resources needed to make treatment available to the HIV positive patients who need treatment. In 2004, it was estimated that 100 people needed treatment and currently 62 people are registered and receiving care and treatment through the national Program...From 1998 to 2002, the World Bank provided about \$1 million of support each year to Sri Lanka’s HIV/STD program through the Health Services Project, adding to the financial and technical assistance being provided by other multilateral and bilateral agencies, such as WHO and other UN agencies and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.” (World Bank, ‘HIV/AIDS in Sri Lanka’, August 2006) [55b]

26.07 As recorded by UNAIDS (the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, section on Sri Lanka undated, website accessed on 25 January 2007), in Sri Lanka there were an estimated 5,000 adults with HIV and the percentage of HIV-infected women and men receiving antiretroviral therapy was 6 per cent. The national prevalence of HIV is estimated to be below 0.1%. UNAIDS also recorded that the cumulative AIDS cases reported by the end of 2003 were 161 and that the cumulative AIDS deaths reported as of the end of 2003 were 119. [28]

26.08 A letter from the British High Commission in Colombo dated 25 January 2007 mentioned that they had contacted a consultant at the National STD/AIDS Control Programme to discuss availability of HIV/AIDS drugs.

“He said that they have all drugs recommended by the WHO. The government provides first grade treatment for HIV patients meeting WHO standards. Drugs for countering opportunistic infections are widely available in pharmacies. Generally prices in pharmacies are lower than in the UK. If an infected person one [sic] admits themselves for treatment in any of the Government medical institutions treatment is free of charge. The World Bank is funding a National STD/AIDS Control Programme.” [15o]

- 26.09 As noted in the USSD 2006, “There was no official discrimination against those who provided HIV prevention services or against high-risk groups likely to spread HIV/AIDS, although there was societal discrimination against these groups.” [2c] (Section 5)

CANCER TREATMENT

- 26.10 As stated in information provided to the Home Office by the SCIS (Source Country Information System) Sri Lanka of the ICMPD (International Centre for Migration Policy Development) in November 2004, surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatments are available in the public sector in Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Jaffna, Vavuniya and Anuradhapura and all kinds of cancer can be treated. In the private sector, surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatments are available in Colombo, Kandy and Galle and all kinds of cancer can be treated. [69c]

See also Section on Overview of availability of medical treatment and drugs.

KIDNEY DIALYSIS

- 26.11 On 9 March 2006 the *Daily News* reported a statement by the Sri Lanka Association of Nephrology and Transplantation (SLANT). As noted in this statement:

“In Sri Lanka the prevalence of ESKD [end-stage kidney disease] is 350 persons/million population adding upto [sic] a total of 6300 persons requiring regular dialysis or transplant... Sadly both the private [sector] and the state together have only 70 dialysis machines operating throughout the country. Of them only 3 institutes (National Hospital, Sri Jayawardenapura and Kandy hospital) are the ones that offer this service for persons suffering from Chronic Kidney disease. It is estimated that at least dialysis machines are required to provide adequate dialysis facilities to those who are already in ESKD. Of transplants, only about 1000 have been performed since the programme was initiated by a team headed by Professor Rezvi Sheriff Professor of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine Colombo University in 1986. There are only 6 fully qualified nephrologists (Specialists in the field of Kidney diseases) in the State sector of Sri Lanka’s health services, reflecting the great paucity of persons available to meet the needs of all those suffering from various stages of kidney disease.” [16a]

MENTAL HEALTH

- 26.12 As noted in the Mental Health Policy for Sri Lanka 2005 (website of Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Uva Wellassa Development accessed on 28 June 2005):

“Sri Lanka has one of the best Primary Care Services of its type in the world and is committed to achieving equally high standards in mental health care... Mental illness is extremely common. It has been estimated that some 376,000 Sri Lankans suffer from serious debilitating mental illnesses including bipolar illness, major depression and schizophrenia at any given time. Serious mental illness primarily affects people when they are young. About 10% of the population is thought to suffer from other mental illness such as phobic states,

obsessional disorders, somatoform disorders, mood disorders and other forms of delusional disorders. More women than men suffer from depression. Sri Lanka has one of the highest suicide rates in the world. Other key issues which will affect the mental health of the population include the last 20 years of civil conflict and the recent tsunami. Between 20,000 to 40,000 people affected by the tsunami are expected to go on to develop mental illness, most notably depression and medically unexplained symptoms.... The current mental health services in Sri Lanka find it difficult to meet the clinical demands placed upon them. Because more than 90% of the mental health services are concentrated in Colombo and a few major urban cities, the majority of people have to travel long distances to obtain basic services. Such inequities in distribution primarily affect the poor. Most psychiatric facilities offer only a limited range of clinical services.” [67a] (p2)

26.13 The Ministry of Health Mental Health Policy 2005 continued:

“Although Sri Lanka began to decentralize its mental health services long ago, this process has been unduly slow and a major portion of patients are still treated in centrally placed large hospitals. 15 Districts have no inpatient provision...The most important issue to be addressed to ensure implementation of the national mental health policy is the urgent innovation required to address significant shortages of skilled mental health staff. There are no psychiatric nurses, 13 occupational therapists and only 8 psychiatric social workers and few psychologists. In many countries about 10% of all community staff will be community mental health staff. In Sri Lanka there are none outside just a few areas. A major constraint for mental health services in Sri Lanka is a shortage of psychiatrists. Only 41 Ministry of Health and University psychiatrists are currently available for the whole country. These are unevenly distributed. 11 of the 25 districts have no psychiatrist. It must, therefore be a priority to appoint at least one psychiatrist in every District.” [67a] (p3)

26.14 The Ministry of Health Mental Health Policy 2005 further noted:

“Natural disasters [like the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 26 December 2004] take a heavy toll on mental health of those affected and can significantly increase the risk of distress, psychological symptoms and mental disorders. Between 30% - 50% of those involved may experience some level of mental distress and/or psychological problems. Between 5 to 10% are likely to develop a recognizable mental disorder. There is also substantial evidence that loss of employment and livelihood, particularly sudden loss, very frequently gives rise to anxiety and depressive disorders. On the basis of the above figures, acute stress is likely to affect some 130,000 to 220,000 people. Of these, about 22,000 to 44,000 people are likely to develop recognizable mental health problems and will need sustained help over the longer term. In the aftermath of trauma, post traumatic stress disorder, depressions, suicidality, addiction, medically unexplained symptoms, or anxiety and dissociative disorders arise (Gersons 2005). The most frequent diagnoses made include depressive and anxiety disorders, somatization disorders, acute stress disorder, and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In addition and especially when families and loved ones are lost suddenly or if there is uncertainty as to their whereabouts, grief reactions may be prolonged and take longer to resolve. However these figures may well be an underestimate given the scale of the tragedy. There will also be many people with pre-existing serious psychiatric disorders where

sudden discontinuation of health care including medication will present problems. There may be as many as 6,000 people affected this way in the disaster areas.” [67a] (p7)

26.15 The Ministry of Health Mental Health Policy 2005 continued:

“Sri Lanka has three major mental hospitals in the Western Province: Angoda (1,700 patients), Mulleriyawa 1 and 2 (1000 patients) and Hendala (300 patients). In addition, the National Hospital situated in Colombo and 11 other General hospitals in urban centers provide specialist facilities for mentally ill patients. Beds provided for mentally ill patients constitute only 4.6 % of total beds in all government hospitals in the country. Rehabilitation of chronically ill patients has been just started and there are centers in several districts. These centers are manned by untrained staff and the resources are also very limited... There are no approved cadres of psychiatrists other than general psychiatrists.... [67a] (p7-8) There are several important NGOs including, Sahanaya in Colombo, Shanthiham in Jaffna and Basic Needs in various districts, Niwahana in Kandy, Nest in many areas and Richmond fellowship. These organizations provide psychiatric assessment and treatment, psychological interventions, rehabilitation for both individuals and families. Sahanaya, Nest and Shanthiham also have undertaken mental health training programs for medical staff and other health and social care professionals. There are also several International NGO’s involved with Sri Lanka such as VSO, IMC, MdM, and IOM who provide essential services.... All the patients receiving mental health services from the government sector receive the services and drugs free of charge. All hospitals with psychiatric services provide drugs identified in the essential drugs list.” [67a] (p9-10)

26.16 As recorded in the WHO (World Health Organisation) Mental Health Atlas – 2005: Country Profile Sri Lanka (website accessed 17 June 2005), the following therapeutic drugs are generally available at the primary health care level of the country: Carbamazepine, Ethosuximide, Phenobarbital, Phenytoinsodium, SodiumValproate, Amitriptyline, Chlorpromazine, Diazepam, Carbidopa, Levodopa. [55b]

26.17 As stated in information provided by SCIS (Source Country Information System) Sri Lanka in February 2005, all treatments for acute psychological/psychiatric problems and disorders (severe depression and in particular potential suicide cases) can be provided in the public sector at Angoda and Mulleriawa mental hospitals in addition to the University Unit in the Colombo National Hospital at no cost. Anuradhapura General Hospital, Galle General Hospital and Jaffna Thellippalla Hospital can also provide treatment at no cost. Treatments are limited in the private sector because they are not normally willing to admit this type of patient. SCIS Sri Lanka stated that the total number of psychologists working in the public sector in the country was about 30, while there were 31 psychiatrists (21 in government hospitals and ten in university units. Figures for psychologists and psychiatrists working in the private sector were respectively four and eight although it was noted that most psychiatrists in the public sector simultaneously worked in the private sector. [69b]

26.18 Information provided by SCIS Sri Lanka of the ICMPD in December 2004 noted that treatment for PTSD is available in all private hospitals and clinics in Colombo. Private sector hospitals for this treatment are Nawaloka Hospital,

Asiri Hospital, Asha Central Hospital, Durdans Hospital and Apollo Hospital. In the public sector, treatments are available in all teaching and general hospitals in Colombo. Treatments are also available in all teaching hospitals as well as in all private hospitals and clinics in Kandy, Anuradhapura and Jaffna. However, it was noted that there are no regular basic treatments in Sri Lanka for PTSD but only consultation with a psychiatrist. [69a]

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27. HUMANITARIAN ISSUES

- 27.01 The Human Rights Watch (HRW), World Report 2007, Sri Lanka, January 2007 noted that:

“Humanitarian aid often did not reach those in need in 2006. Neither the government nor the LTTE took necessary measures to ensure that humanitarian relief got to the 240,000 people who were forced to flee their homes or the hundreds of thousands who otherwise required assistance because of the fighting... Ever since the end of major fighting on the Jaffna peninsula in August [2006], the government and the LTTE have hindered the delivery of humanitarian assistance.” [21b]

- 27.02 As noted in the UNHCR Position on the International Protection Needs of asylum-seekers from Sri Lanka dated December 2006:

“Restrictions on freedom of movement have also had a negative impact on humanitarian access and delivery of assistance. Whilst some supplies are reaching the civilian populations through government convoys or boats, as well as through UN and ICRC convoys, there are severe shortages of food, fuel, medical supplies and other essential items throughout the Jaffna Peninsula and in LTTE-controlled areas (in Kilinochchi, Mulaitivu, parts of Mannar, Vavuniya, Trincomalee and Batticaloa Districts).” [6b] (Paragraph 21)

- 27.03 As recorded in Keesing’s Records of World Events, November 2006 – Sri Lanka, “The government said on Nov. 20 [2006] that it would open the main highway to the peninsula to allow supplies to the 500,000 civilians cut off by the fighting. A convoy of some 80 trucks carrying food supplied by the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) was allowed through the front lines on Nov. 29 to reach some 38,000 people, most of them refugees, trapped by the fighting in the Vaharai area of Batticaloa district.” [23j]

- 27.04 As recorded in a document by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)/Norwegian Refugee Council entitled ‘Sri Lanka: escalation of conflict leaves tens of thousands of IDPs without protection and assistance. A profile of the internal displacement situation’, published on 16 November 2006: “The government as well as the LTTE have severely restricted access to conflict areas under their control, thus leaving more than half of the newly displaced people and other affected populations without adequate international protection and humanitarian assistance. The areas mostly affected by renewed violence and displacement include Jaffna, Trincomalee and Batticaloa.” [54a] (Overview)

- 27.05 The Human Rights Watch (HRW) report entitled 'Improving Civilian Protection in Sri Lanka', released on 19 September 2006, noted that:

"The renewal of major fighting has resulted in several hundred thousand people, including more than 220,000 persons displaced from their homes throughout the north and east, requiring humanitarian assistance. Neither the government nor the LTTE has acted to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches these populations at risk. Government efforts to provide aid have been slow and cumbersome, while the Ministry of Defense (MoD) has placed unnecessary obstacles in the way of humanitarian agencies, including new registration requirements that appear designed more to discourage humanitarian action in the north and east than regulate it. Even after the end of major fighting in Jaffna, the government and the LTTE have continued to hinder humanitarian assistance from reaching the peninsula." [21p] (Introduction)

See also Section 29

THE TSUNAMI (INDIAN OCEAN EARTH QUAKE) OF 26 DECEMBER 2004)

- 27.06 As recorded in the BBC report on the tsunami entitled 'At-a-glance: Countries hit', dated 22 June 2005:

"Impact: After Indonesia, Sri Lanka suffered more from the tsunami [aka the Indian Ocean earthquake of 26 December 2004] than anywhere else. Its southern and eastern coastlines were ravaged. More than 100,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, along with crops and fishing boats. The International Labour Organization estimates more than 400,000 people lost their jobs as a result – mostly in the fishing, hotel and tourism sectors. Toll: More than 31,000 people died and more than 4,000 have been reported missing. More than half a million people were made homeless...About \$2bn has been pledged to help reconstruction efforts. But the issue of sharing aid with north-east areas controlled by Tamil Tiger rebels has caused tension and divisions. President Kumaratunga suffered a setback when a key coalition partner opposed to a deal with the rebels quit in June." [9fj]

- 27.07 As outlined in the European Commission Tsunami Indicative Programme adopted on 23 May 2005:

"After Indonesia, Sri Lanka has suffered the most from the tsunami. Its southern, northern and eastern coastlines have been ravaged. Some 40,000 dead, 443,000 displaced and between 1 and 2 million affected (about 10% of total population). Of those killed, 27,000 belonged to fishing families. Around 65 percent of the country's fishing fleet – 29,700 boats – has been completely destroyed or damaged. Total job losses estimated at 380,000. The Eastern part of the country was worst hit, taking the brunt of the north-westerly moving tsunami wave. Well over 40 percent of the total damage is focused in the east. The south – especially the Galle District – was also very heavily impacted with well over 30% of the damage. The North sustained about 20 percent of the damage. The damage ranges from 500 metres to 3 kilometres inland. As in Indonesia, the main result is the devastation of poor coastal communities. The tsunami has destroyed or damaged: 130,000 houses, 168 public schools, four universities, 18 vocational centres; 92 local clinics, hospitals and drug stores; significant losses in power, transportation (roads and railways), water supply

and sanitation. Sri Lanka's tourism industry has been very hard hit since the disaster occurred during one of their busiest periods of the year destroying key infrastructure. Environmental damage has also been significant...The human impact has been even more staggering than the damage to infrastructure. This is aggravated because the tsunami hit the particularly impoverished coastal communities the hardest. The north and east suffer a double effect as the tsunami comes on top of damage caused by the twenty-year civil conflict in the country." [57] (p8)

27.08 As recorded on the website of the Sri Lanka Department of Census and Statistics, the following districts in the five provinces were affected. Southern Province: Galle, Matara, Hambantota; Western Province: Kalutara, Gampaha, Colombo; Eastern Province: Ampara, Batticaloa, Trincomalee; Northern Province: Jaffna, Mullativu, Killinochchi; North Western Province: Puttalam. [58b] (Impact of Tsunami 2004 on Sri Lanka, last updated 22 December 2005)

27.09 As recorded in a document by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)/Norwegian Refugee Council entitled 'Sri Lanka: escalation of conflict leaves tens of thousands of IDPs without protection and assistance. A profile of the internal displacement situation', published on 16 November 2006:

"During 2005, the national response focused on post-tsunami reconstruction, with the Ministry of Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconciliation creating the Task Force for Relief (TAFOR) and the Task Force to Rebuild the Nation (TAFREN). Coordination with local government structures and national and international aid agencies has often been difficult. The November 2005 presidential elections have prompted some restructuring in government agencies and ministries. The new Ministry of Disaster Management is at the same time the Ministry of Human Rights. Its National Disaster Management Council is tasked to coordinate and manage relief activities pertaining to natural and man made disasters. The ministry has now been mandated to coordinate the national IDP response, although the relatively junior Disaster Management and Human Rights Minister seems to have little political influence to move forward the IDP issue. The Reconstruction and Development Agency (RADA), established in November 2005, now combines TAFREN and TAFOR into one agency responsible for reconstruction and development activities in post-tsunami and post-conflict areas. At the same time, two new ministries were created, the Ministry of Resettlement and the Ministry of Nation-Building and Development. The new entities are intended to follow a coherent strategy with regard to both conflict-and tsunami-displacement. However, human rights organisations are concerned that changes at ministerial level do not sufficiently translate into effective action on the ground (AI, June 2006, p.5). Furthermore, Sri Lankan NGOs raised concerns regarding RADA's transparency, accountability, and lacking possibilities for civil society to participate and be consulted. RADA was also seen as too centralised and inflexible (CPA, June 2006)." [54a]

27.10 On 18 December 2006 Reliefweb (quoting AFP), reported that:

"Corruption and ethnic violence is blocking a flood of foreign aid for Sri Lanka's tsunami survivors two years after the massive disaster, according to official records and whistle-blowers. President Mahinda Rajapakse admitted a year ago the country had failed to do enough to help the victims of the towering waves, but thousands of survivors still live in 'tent villages' along the

coast. Sri Lanka, one of the worst hit by the December 2004 Asian tsunami, lost an estimated 31,000 people while another million were left homeless, but the island also attracted 3.2 billion dollars in foreign aid pledges. Out of the promised aid, it was not clear how much was received, but the state auditor general in September 2005 noted out of 1.16 billion dollars committed, only 13.5 percent had actually been spent. Since then, there has been no fresh government audit. Whistle-blowers believe that only a fraction of the aid actually went to the real victims and in the absence of proper account-keeping, it has been virtually impossible to track down what happened to the cash. Official figures are often contradictory, but even the state admits only about half of the estimated 100,000 damaged or destroyed homes have been rebuilt as the country readies [sic] to mark the tragedy's second anniversary.... Reconstruction in the worst affected area of the island's north-east suffered a double blow with the escalation of fighting between government troops and Tamil Tiger rebels since early this year. Much of the damage was in the northern and eastern regions, some of which are controlled by Tiger rebels. Efforts by peacebrokers to get Colombo and the Tigers to work together last year ended in failure, leading the way for more bloodshed.” [31b]

See also Section 29

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28. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

28.01 As noted in the US State Department Report 2006 (USSD), Sri Lanka:

“The law grants every citizen ‘freedom of movement and of choosing his residence’ and ‘freedom to return to the country,’ and the government generally respected these rights in practice; however, during the year [2006] it restricted the movement of Tamils. The war with the LTTE prompted the government to impose more stringent checks on travelers from the north and the east and on movement in Colombo, particularly after dark. Tamils were required to present special passes for fishing and transiting through high security zones in the north and the east. While Tamils were no longer required to obtain police passes to move around the country, they were frequently harassed at checkpoints.” [2c] (Section 2d)

28.02 “On August 11 [2006], the government closed entry points to the A-9 Kandy to Jaffna highway following the start of military engagement between government forces and the LTTE on the Jaffna peninsula. The road closure restricted the movement of passengers and supplies through the LTTE-controlled Vanni region, including LTTE headquarters in Killinochchi. Commercial flights were also suspended in August, and the LTTE refused to guarantee the safety of civilian flights or passenger and supply chains by sea operated by the ICRC or the government.” (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 2d)

28.03 “Limited access continued to certain areas near military bases and high security zones, defined as areas near military emplacements, camps, barracks, or checkpoints where civilians could not enter. Beginning in June [2006] the SLMM reported that monitors were restricted from accessing sites of reported CFA violations. High security zones extended up to a four-kilometer radius from the fences of most military camps. Some observers

claimed the high security zones were excessive and unfairly affected Tamil agricultural lands, particularly in Jaffna...Curfews imposed by the army from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. also restrict the movement of Jaffna's citizens." (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 2d)

- 28.04 A letter from the British High Commission in Colombo, dated 24 August 2006, noted that:

"The Sri Lankan authorities often require households in predominantly Tamil areas to register all residents. These lists are then used in cordon and search operations to identify people who the police consider need to give a fuller explanation of why they are residing or travelling in a location...Normally the police detain those who have not registered, for further questioning. After a big push in November and December 2005, when police registration forms were distributed throughout Colombo and which culminated in Operation Strangers Night II, the authorities have become more relaxed about this. In June [2006] there was public discussion about implementing police registration island wide as was done in the past, but nothing has come of this." [15h]

- 28.05 A further letter from the BHC Colombo, dated 31 August 2006, provided additional information:

"There is no uniformity in the implementation of the police registration. After the new Government took over in Nov 2005, police visited households and issued forms to be completed by the head of the household, asking them to take full responsibility for the information provided and the persons on the list. The form also included questions such as when did you buy the house?, from whom did you buy the house, what was the purchase price?, did you buy the house with the help of a broker?, if so provide details of the broker etc. This form was issued to almost all houses in the Tamil concentrations in the city and suburbs. Generally the police do not say that they are targeting only Tamil households, but collection of completed forms / booklets are only strictly enforced when it comes to Tamil concentrations. The main purpose of these booklets is to assist the Police, when they launch cordon and search operations, to identify visitors or undeclared persons in the area." [15i]

- 28.06 As recorded by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada in their Responses to Information Requests LKA101784.E, dated 22 September 2006:

"News sources from 2006 report an increase in the number of checkpoints and roadblocks in the capital city of Colombo (Xinhua 15 Aug. 2006; AFP 2 June 2006; The Press Trust of India 27 Aug. 2006), as part of an effort to prevent LTTE bomb attacks (ibid.; AFP 2 June 2006). In late August 2006, road blocks were reportedly set up on all the main roads leading to Colombo (TamilNet 28 Aug. 2006), and every vehicle entering and leaving the city was checked (ibid.; The Press Trust of India 27 Aug. 2006). Other security measures in Colombo include parking restrictions along busy roads (Xinhua 15 Aug. 2006), increased military personnel patrolling the streets (Canada 15 Aug. 2006), and body searches of individuals wishing to enter public buildings and shopping centres (AFP 2 June 2006). According to an official at the Canadian High Commission in Colombo, Sri Lanka, some visible [security] measures [implemented since December 2005] include new checkpoints, more frequent searches of vehicles at checkpoints and [a] complete check of intercity buses

entering Colombo, forcing passengers to [get off] and vouch for their luggage (Canada 15 Sept. 2006).” [42a]

28.07 On 23 October 2006 BBC Sinhala reported that the police in Sri Lanka had opened a series of offices in eastern region to issue special permits to those planning to travel to Colombo. Vehicle owners are to be issued with a permit before leaving the east and are required to hand over the parts of the four-part permit to check points as they travel towards the capital. Travelling time was foreseen to be drastically increased. [9I]

28.08 As recorded on the official website of the Sri Lankan Government’s Secretariat for Co-ordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP) on 10 November 2006:

“The Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) was compelled to temporarily close the A9 highway, entry/exit checkpoint at Muhamalai situated at the isthmus of the Jaffna peninsula on 11 August 2006...The A9 highway is the main thoroughfare that links the Jaffna peninsula with the South of Sri Lanka. The highway starts from Jaffna and passes through the LTTE dominated Wannai through to Kandy the hill capital of the country. The A9 highway was closed from 1995 to 2002. At the time, two entry/exit points that regulated movement into the uncleared areas of the Wannai were established. One was the gateway to the government controlled Jaffna peninsula at Muhamalai in the north and the other at Omanthai 98 km away, was the entry point into Wannai from the south. The A9 has remained opened since 2002 and contrary to the misconception propagated by the LTTE, the only part of the highway that is temporarily closed since 11 August 2006 is the entry/exit checkpoint at Muhamalai. The Omanthai checkpoint has remained open and facilitates the movement of goods and people to and from the LTTE dominated areas to the south.” [41m]

28.09 As noted in the UNHCR Position on the International Protection Needs of asylum-seekers from Sri Lanka dated December 2006:

“Following the suicide attack on the Army Commander Lieutenant-General Sarath Fonseka on 25 April 2006, the authorities have returned to pre-ceasefire security arrangements. As a result, many checkpoints have been re-instated on the main roads and in the towns in the North and East or in Colombo, making it particularly difficult for Tamils to travel in government-controlled areas. For those who were born in LTTE-controlled areas (this is indicated on the National Identity Card), it is difficult to cross the checkpoints and they face varying levels of harassment...Apart from the insecurity related to the armed conflict, the LTTE has also restricted movements of civilians out of the LTTE-controlled areas, thus preventing them from moving into government-controlled areas. Even if an individual reaches government-controlled areas, it does not necessarily mean that she/he will be able to secure the protection of the authorities, particularly if the individual is being targeted for attack by the LTTE, given the LTTE’s capacity to track down and target its opponents throughout the country.” [6b] (Paragraph 20&22)

28.10 The UNHCR Position Paper of December 2006 further noted that:

“Tamils in Colombo and its outskirts, where there are large Tamil communities, are at heightened risk of security checks, arbitrary personal and house to house searches, harassment, restrictions on freedom of movement,

and other forms of abuse since the imposition of new security regulations in April and December 2006. Under emergency regulations, the police are empowered to register all persons within the jurisdiction of each police station. These regulations, which were enacted during the height of the conflict in the 1990s, remain in place and require all residents to register with their local police station. Such registration, which is taking place in Colombo, enables the police to have accurate information on the ethnicity and location of all inhabitants of Colombo.” [6b] (Paragraph 23&24)

28.11 “Tamils [from the North or East] who are able to reach Colombo could be vulnerable to the arbitrary arrests, detention and other forms of human rights abuses Tamils have faced there. It may be noted that Tamils originating from the North and East, in particular from LTTE-controlled areas, are perceived by the authorities as potential LTTE members or supporters, and are more likely to be subject to arrests, detention, abduction or even killings.” (UNHCR Position on the International Protection Needs of asylum-seekers from Sri Lanka, December 2006) [6b] (Paragraph 34 (a) iv)

28.12 As reported by the pro-LTTE website TamilNet on 13 March 2007:

“The law enforcement authority under the direction of Sri Lanka Defence Ministry has formulated a scheme to closely monitor the activities of lodges and boarding houses to strengthen the security in Colombo city. As a first step the Ministry is suspending the registration of new lodges, and is planning to order closure of lodges which fail to provide basic facilities, and to identify lodges which are suspected of having close links with undesirable persons. The first phase is to be implemented shortly. Under the second phase, lodges assisting terrorist activities would be acquired by the government, and persons running these lodges would be prosecuted in courts under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) for harbouring terrorists. All lodges and boarding houses would be routinely monitored and checked by special police teams once a week, according to the new security plan.” [38a]

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29. INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE (IDPs)

29.01 As stated in the UNHCR Global Report 2005: Sri Lanka, published in June 2006:

“The unprecedented scale of donations for tsunami victims created an enormous gap between those displaced by the tsunami and those displaced by the conflict... By December 2005, more than 27,000 IDPs had returned to their homes in former conflict areas, in addition to nearly 3,000 registered refugees who returned from India in organized or spontaneous movements... The UNHCR Global Report 2005 recorded that there were 325,000 IDPs in Sri Lanka.” [6z] (p330-331)

29.02 As noted in the AI report ‘Sri Lanka Waiting to go home – the plight of the internally displaced’, released on 29 June 2006:

“IDPs in Sri Lanka suffer a variety of human rights violations, including serious violence and widespread denial of economic and social rights and violations of

some civil and political rights. Not only are they often more vulnerable to human rights violations than other members of the population, but they are also less able to access legal and other remedies.” [3t] (Introduction)

“The majority of those displaced are from the north and east, the contested areas where most of the fighting has taken place. Because of their geographical concentration in these regions, the Tamil population has experienced by far the greatest displacement. According to a census of all IDPs in Sri Lanka conducted by the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Refugees in 2002, 80.86% of the displaced population was Tamil, 13.7% Muslim, 4.56% Sinhalese and other 0.88%. Many of these IDPs have suffered multiple displacements during the course of the conflict... While many people were displaced by the fighting, displacement was also the result of a multitude of other factors. Some left their homes to escape the widespread arrests, torture and ‘disappearances’ perpetrated by the security forces. Others were displaced when their property was taken over by the military, some fled communal violence between communities, and others were expelled from or chose to leave areas of LTTE control. In addition, many people were forced to leave their homes because the conflict had destroyed the infrastructure and livelihoods on which they depended...The large-scale relocation caused by the tsunami and the subsequent application of the coastal buffer zone dramatically altered the dynamics of displacement in Sri Lanka and exacerbated disputes over land, which have been linked to ongoing ethnic conflict. Moreover, there has been widespread concern among coastal communities that this forced relocation away from the sea will erode their livelihoods and traditional way of life.” [3t] (Patterns of displacement)

- 29.03 “While many civilians living in the north and east are affected by the increasing conflict-related violence and human rights abuses, including killings, abductions, child recruitment and ‘disappearances’, the insecure circumstances in which IDPs live make them particularly vulnerable. Displaced people often live in areas that are unfamiliar to them where they may lack family and community support networks...Both representatives of Tamil communities displaced both by the tsunami and by the conflict believe that they are particularly vulnerable to harassment by security forces because they are living in temporary camps. In Karaitivu, Ampara district, representatives from a Tamil tsunami IDP camp told Amnesty International delegates that they had faced heightened security problems following the declaration of a State of Emergency (SoE) on 13 August 2005...Muslim people displaced by tsunami [sic] in the east told Amnesty International delegates that they felt particularly at risk of violence and harassment, primarily by the LTTE, and that the local authorities were not protecting them or their property due to fear of the LTTE. Muslim IDPs in Ampara and Batticaloa reported incidents of harassment by the LTTE and expressed concern that the poor security environment following the LTTE split had been further increased [sic] by the tsunami and resulting conflicts over land. In particular they claimed that they were being threatened and harassed to move from their land as part of an LTTE strategy to claim more land for Tamil communities in the post-tsunami relocation.” (AI report of 29 June 2006) [3t] (Patterns of displacement)
- 29.04 On 25 August 2006 the UNHCR reported that the number of Sri Lankans displaced within their country by fighting this year had passed the 200,000 mark, with an additional 8,700 having fled to India. UNHCR spokesperson Jennifer Pagonis said that the number of people displaced since fighting flared

in April 2006 between government forces and the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) stood at 204,602. [6y]

29.05 As reported by BBC News on 7 September 2006:

“The UN in Sri Lanka says that it is concerned for the safety of thousands of mostly Muslim displaced people who are returning home to the north-east. The government said that more than 40 bus loads had left relief camps for their homes in and near Muttur. Nearly 12,000 people have gone back to the area after spending more than a month in relief camps, officials say. Fighting between troops and Tamil Tiger rebels last month [August] around Muttur forced 40,000 civilians to flee the area.” [9d]

29.06 As stated in a public statement dated 8 November 2006:

“Amnesty International is deeply concerned by reports of the killing today of as many as 65 civilians taking refuge in a school in Kathiraveli, a coastal hamlet 15 km north of Vaharai in the eastern district of Batticaloa. The Sri Lankan Army (SLA) reportedly fired multi-barrel rockets and artillery shells which hit a school where internally displaced people (IDPs) were taking shelter. As many as 40 bodies are reported to have been recovered from the scene and more than 100 have been wounded. It is likely that many more may have been injured as the area targeted was densely populated and inhabited by some 5000 IDPs. Amnesty International is appalled that the military should attack a camp for displaced people -- these were civilians who had already been forced from their homes because of the conflict. Amnesty International condemns all attacks on civilians and is particularly saddened and shocked to see such a large-scale attack on civilians just days after the government’s announcement of its Commission of Inquiry into human rights abuses. A Sri Lankan military spokesman has confirmed heavy artillery and mortar bomb exchanges in Batticaloa district, but has accused the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) of using civilians as human shields. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that 60,646 people remained displaced in Batticaloa district alone, as of 23 October 2006, and over 200,000 have been displaced in the north and east of Sri Lanka since 7 April 2006.” [3c]

29.07 As recorded in a document by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)/Norwegian Refugee Council entitled ‘Sri Lanka: escalation of conflict leaves tens of thousands of IDPs without protection and assistance. A profile of the internal displacement situation’, published on 16 November 2006:

“The protracted armed conflict between the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has escalated dramatically since the beginning of 2006, with an estimated 3,300 people having been killed and over 200,000 internally displaced, in addition to the hundreds of thousands uprooted earlier on in the conflict and by the tsunami of December 2004. Both sides to the conflict are accused of deliberately targeting civilians and committing grave human rights violations with impunity. The government as well as the LTTE have severely restricted access to conflict areas under their control, thus leaving more than half of the newly displaced people and other affected populations without adequate international protection and humanitarian assistance. The areas mostly affected by renewed violence and displacement include Jaffna, Trincomalee and Batticaloa.” [54a] (Overview)

- 29.08 “Many of Sri Lanka’s IDPs have had to flee several times and have been uprooted for some 20 years. The December 2004 tsunami made half a million people homeless, many of whom had previously been displaced by the conflict. Although such multiple displacement may create considerable overlap – the extent of which is not clear – three distinct groups of IDPs are currently made reference to in Sri Lanka. UNHCR reports over 201,000 newly displaced since April 2006, with a peak of almost 240,000 at the beginning of September. To those numbers, the UN agency adds some 312,700 IDPs from the pre-2002 conflict, and a December 2005 estimate of 457,000 people remaining displaced by the December 2004 tsunami (UNHCR/MNBD, December 2005; 31 May 2006; 4 September 2006, 23 October 2006). Due to the unknown extent of the overlap between the different IDP groups, and because no information on displacement is available from inaccessible areas in the conflict zone, an accurate figure for total current displacement cannot be given. Available numbers suggest conflict-related displacement of around 520,000 in October 2006, to which some inaccessible IDP groups would have to be added, as well as a considerable – but unknown – number of unregistered IDPs living with host families. Another group not included in official figures are night time IDPs who live at home during the day and spend nights in camps for fear of violence (CPA, February 2003, p.24). The total number of displaced people – including tsunami-IDPs – may lie somewhere between 600,000 and 800,000.” **(IDMC/Norwegian Refugee Council, ‘Sri Lanka: escalation of conflict leaves tens of thousands of IDPs without protection and assistance. A profile of the internal displacement situation’, 16 November 2006) [54a] (Overview)**
- 29.09 “Most recent IDPs come from Trincomalee and Batticaloa Districts...Next to Trincomalee and Batticaloa, the areas mostly affected by new displacement include Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu...Tamils displaced from or within government-held areas constitute the largest number of IDPs, followed by Muslims. Sinhalese IDPs make up the smallest group. Breakdowns along ethnic lines of the new displacement have not been made available...Both the government and the LTTE block access to, and information flow from, the areas where they carry out military operations. As a result, an estimated 130,000 IDPs cannot be reached by international organisations, particularly in Mannar, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and parts of Batticaloa (UNHCR/GIS, 31 October 2006).” **(IDMC/Norwegian Refugee Council, ‘Sri Lanka: escalation of conflict leaves tens of thousands of IDPs without protection and assistance. A profile of the internal displacement situation’, 16 November 2006) [54a] (Overview)**
- 29.10 “Domestic and sexual violence in both tsunami and conflict IDP camps reported by Amnesty International. Internally displaced women face loss of family members and male spouses, increased responsibility to provide for and protect children and family members, threats to physical safety, psychological insecurity, and more general issues of social marginalisation and lack of power. In Vavuniya District, a NGO indicated that 60 percent of IDP families were female-headed households (FHH). There are numerous Land and Property issues facing women both in ‘Welfare Centres’ and upon return.” **(IDMC/Norwegian Refugee Council, ‘Sri Lanka: escalation of conflict leaves tens of thousands of IDPs without protection and assistance. A profile of the internal displacement situation’, 16 November 2006) [54a] (Vulnerable groups)**
- 29.11 “The Government of Sri Lanka (<http://www.priu.gov.lk/index.html>) is home to three ministries having a direct bearing on assistance to IDPs: the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Refugees (MRRR), the Ministry of Eastern

Development and the Ministry for Assisting Vanni Rehabilitation. The MRRR is responsible for IDPs island-wide...A Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Refugees (RRR) secretariat has been established at the Prime Minister's Office." (IDMC/Norwegian Refugee Council, 'Sri Lanka: escalation of conflict leaves tens of thousands of IDPs without protection and assistance. A profile of the internal displacement situation', 16 November 2006) [54a] (National and international responses)

- 29.12 As noted in the UNHCR Position on the International Protection Needs of asylum-seekers from Sri Lanka dated December 2006:

"With frequent confrontations between the parties to the conflict, which included aerial bombings, long-range shelling and claymore mines, the civilian population in the East and North face the risk of being caught in the crossfire. This has resulted in large numbers of civilian casualties and displacement. By mid-November [2006], 204,163 persons (56,272 families) had been displaced in government-controlled and LTTE-controlled areas. These new displacements are in addition to the 312,712 persons displaced before the Cease Fire Agreement. Furthermore, over 16,000 Sri Lankans have fled to southern India since January 2006." [6b] (Paragraph 9)

- 29.13 The UNHCR Position Paper of December 2006 further noted that:

"In August 2006, 50,000 civilians, including Muslims and Tamils, fled Muttur due to heavy fighting in the area. According to reports, Muslims fleeing from Muttur were subjected to a number of serious human rights violations during flight. On or around 4 August [2006], hundreds of Muslim civilians were fleeing the fighting in Muttur and moving towards Kiliveddy town when they were diverted by the LTTE into an area under its control. The army was alerted to the LTTE presence and immediately began to shell the area, killing civilians as well as LTTE cadres, and causing everyone to flee. The fate of at least 32 men, almost all of them Muslims, is unknown, although some reports indicate that they were executed by the LTTE." [6b] (Paragraph 29)

- 29.14 "Groups of displaced Muslims have come under particular pressure from community leaders and politicians, as well as senior government officials and security forces to return to their places of origin as quickly as possible. This was illustrated when Sampoor was taken by government forces in early September 2006, precipitating a sudden rush by community and political leaders to return the displaced to Muttur just days after the shelling between the LTTE and government forces had ended and before the situation was sufficiently stabilized. Police officers and government officials toured the displacement sites making public announcements promoting return. Government buses were provided to transport Muslims back to Muttur and deadlines for return were issued by government authorities. The displaced populations were told that displacement sites would be closed, food and water cut and basic assistance stopped, giving them no option but to return. While most Muslim families returned willingly to Muttur, some had serious reservations. Muslims who wished to remain in displacement sites for safety purposes faced opposition from government officials and security forces. UNHCR received some reports of individuals who were physically forced by government officials and security forces to return." (UNHCR Position on the International Protection Needs of asylum-seekers from Sri Lanka, December 2006) [6b] (Paragraph 29)

- 29.15 The ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) reported in their Sri Lanka Bulletin No. 08, released on 20 December 2006 that:

“In the past three weeks, renewed fighting between the government security forces (SLSF) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) – there have been constant military operations and artillery exchanges in the Vakarai area of Batticaloa district and in the Kellar-Seruvilla area of Trincomalee district – has resulted in further casualties among civilians and in thousands of newly displaced families. Of the 35,000 displaced civilians trapped for the past three months by heavy fighting in Vakarai, about 15,000 have managed to flee the area and reach the government-controlled area in the southern part of the district. The displaced are presently being housed at 36 different sites and assisted by several humanitarian organizations as well as the Government of Sri Lanka. In the meantime, another 4,000 civilians have fled the fighting in the eastern part of Trincomalee district and reached the town of Kantale, where they are sheltering around the local schools and temples.” [34a]

- 29.16 On 9 January 2007 the UN News Service reported that:

“More than 20,000 people have fled fighting between the Sri Lankan Government and Tamil separatists in the Indian Ocean island’s eastern coastal strip of Vaharai in the past three weeks, but despite reaching relative safety they still they face many problems and an uncertain future, the United Nations refugee agency reported today... As fighting continues to erupt across Sri Lanka’s north and east, the future is uncertain for most of Sri Lanka’s 465,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), including some 216,000 people forced from their homes by last year’s violence.” [6g]

- 29.17 A press release issued by Amnesty International on 14 March 2007 stated that:

“Armed groups, some identified as part of a breakaway group of Tamil Tigers known as the Karuna faction, are infiltrating camps for newly displaced people and abducting residents, according to sources known to Amnesty International. Tens of thousands of people have been fleeing their homes after intense fighting in the eastern region of Batticaloa over the weekend, pushing the number of displaced people to well over 120,000...The military action of the Karuna faction in the east has increased violence and displacement... There have also been reports of armed men abducting young people from internally displaced people (IDP) camps...Amnesty International is also concerned at reports of people who have been displaced being forced to resettle in the north of the country. Over the weekend displaced people were asked to leave Batticaloa to go to the north-eastern town of Muthur. Around 40 buses transported them away; some of the people apparently did not wish to go... Recent fighting in Batticaloa has resulted in a significant increase in internally displaced people. Large numbers of people are seeking shelter and protection in areas controlled by the Sri Lankan Army (SLA) as the SLA continues to shell Tamil Tiger or 'uncleared' areas. Batticaloa already had 80,000 IDPs and 40,000 more are now seeking shelter. More than 250, 000 civilians have been displaced by the conflict since April 2006.” [3f]

- 29.18 As noted in a HRW document of 16 March 2007:

“Since March 12, the government has been returning people from at least six internally displaced person sites in eastern Batticaloa district. At least 771 individuals have been sent to Trincomalee district farther north as part of a plan to return approximately 2,800 internally displaced persons. To pressure individuals to return home, government officials and military personnel have threatened to withdraw humanitarian aid, food and other essential supplies. Some officials have threatened families that they would revoke their family cards, which entitle them to food rations. In some cases, the security forces have said that they would no longer be responsible for the security of the displaced persons who stayed behind... According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), an estimated 127,000 persons are displaced in Batticaloa district, of whom more than 40,000 fled fighting over the past week. Authorities have organized at least 21 buses to transport displaced persons from camps in Batticaloa to Trincomalee district.” [21d]

29.19 However, a UNHCR briefing note issued on 16 March 2007 stated that:

“UNHCR received renewed assurances today from the Sri Lankan government that we will now be fully engaged in any further moves to return internally displaced people (IDPs) following disturbing reports yesterday that scores had been forcibly returned by authorities in the country's east. The reports received by UNHCR said that the displaced people had been sent back to their places of origin in Vaharai and Trincomalee despite serious concerns over the security situation there. Our office in Colombo conveyed our concerns to the government over those reported forcible returns and this morning was assured that UNHCR would in future be fully engaged in the process to ensure that any returns are voluntary and safe. UNHCR received reports yesterday of a stepped-up police presence in Batticaloa district, where over 152,000 people are registered as internally displaced following several successive population movements in recent months. Reports say the police presence was especially heavy around displacement sites, and that in at least 10 of those sites, scores of people had been ordered onto buses. According to one of the reports, women and children at one site were forced to board buses despite pleas that they couldn't leave while their husbands were still at work and children at school.” [6h]

29.20 “The reported incidents followed earlier government assurances to UNHCR that return movements will be voluntary and that UNHCR would be able to accompany the process. However, reports indicate this has not been the case and we also are disturbed by statements attributed to local authorities that all assistance may be stopped if internally displaced people remain in Batticaloa and that the government would not be able to guarantee their safety. UNHCR again urges that all return movements are voluntary, without undue pressure or duress... Many of the returnees UNHCR has been able to interview to date have expressed serious reservations about the security situation in their areas of origin, especially Trincomalee and parts of Batticaloa district. UNHCR believes that the displaced do not have sufficient information to make a decision on return.” (UNHCR briefing note of 16 March 2007) [6h]

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30. FOREIGN REFUGEES

- 30.01 As noted in the US State Department Report 2006 (USSD), Sri Lanka:
- “The law does not provide for the granting of asylum or refugee status in accordance with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 protocol. The government has not established a system for providing protection to refugees; however, the government cooperated with the UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations in assisting IDPs and refugees. The government assisted in returning to their homes approximately 40,000 civilians displaced in July and August by military engagement in Muttur. There were no reports of refoulement, the forced return of persons to a country where they feared persecution. According to UNHCR, over 16,000 citizens fled to India during the year.” [2c] (Section 2d)
- 30.02 As stated in the ‘UNHCR Global Report 2005: Sri Lanka’, published in June 2006:
- “While Sri Lanka has not yet acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol, the Government continues to respect UNHCR’s mandate and the basic rights of asylum-seekers and refugees. UNHCR succeeded in involving local human rights lawyers in the refugee status determination (RSD) process by providing lawyers from the Legal Aid Commission and the National Centre for the Victims of Crime with training on refugee law and RSD procedures to enable them to provide legal assistance to asylum-seekers in the appeals process. At the end of 2005, over 100 refugees, recognized by UNHCR under its mandate, were awaiting durable solutions, mainly through resettlement.” [6z] (p330-331)

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31. CITIZENSHIP AND NATIONALITY

- 31.01 As specified in the website of the Department for Immigration and Emigration (accessed on 5 July 2005 and 4 August 2006) ex-Sri Lankans now holding foreign Citizenship or Sri Lankans qualified for grant of Citizenship of a foreign country, who have contributed to the socio-economic development of Sri Lanka are eligible for citizenship. “Provisions were introduced to the Citizenship Act No: 18 of 1948 by the Citizenship (Amendment) Act No: 45 of 1987 for the resumption/retention of Dual Citizenship of Sri Lanka by ex-Sri Lankans/Sri Lankans qualified for grant of foreign Citizenship.” [71a]
- 31.02 As outlined in extracts from the Official Report of the Sri Lankan Parliament dated 24 June 1998, the Immigrants and Emigrants Act was first introduced in 1949. Section 45 lists various categories of people who are guilty of offences under the Act, which include anyone who forges, alters or tampers with any passport, or has in their possession any forged passport, or who uses such a document. Section 45 sets out the punishment, which consists of a fine, or a period of imprisonment, or both. Section 45A provides punishments for those found guilty of facilitating illegal entry into Sri Lanka. [20]
- 31.03 The Immigrants and Emigrants (Amendment) Act was passed in July 1998. During the passage of the Bill the Sri Lankan Immigration Minister told Parliament that the amendment was designed to combat “the crime of illicit

trafficking of persons from Sri Lanka, as recorded in extracts from the Official Report of the Sri Lankan Parliament dated 24 June 1998.” The Minister stated that the diplomatic missions of various western countries had made representations to the Sri Lankan authorities about organised groups engaged in the business of securing illicit entry of Sri Lankans to their countries. [20]

- 31.04 On 8 March 2004, Daily News reported that, a Citizenship (Amendment) Bill had been passed in Parliament. Under the terms of the new legislation, the right of a mother to pass her Sri Lankan citizenship to her child is now identical to that of a father. Hitherto, only a father could pass citizenship to his children. Those over 22 years of age and who have assumed citizenship of another country will be recognised as Sri Lankan citizens upon application made to the Ministry of Interior. Such persons have the option to obtain dual citizenship or may renounce citizenship of the other country and assume Sri Lankan citizenship. [16p] “Changes to regulations under the act have also been recently approved by the Cabinet of Ministers; these changes permit foreign spouses of Sri Lankan women to obtain citizenship on the same basis as foreign spouses of Sri Lankan men. Previously, foreign spouses of male citizens of Sri Lanka were able to obtain citizenship after meeting a one-year prerequisite of residency in the country, while the citizenship or visa applications of foreign nationals married to female citizens of Sri Lanka were considered on a case-by-case basis.” (Centre for Reproductive Rights, Women of the World: South Asia, Sri Lanka chapter, undated, website accessed on 19 September 2006) [32] (p220)

IDENTITY CARDS AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- 31.05 The website of the Registration of Persons Department (accessed on 2 August 2006 and 12 September 2006) specifies what is required in order to apply for identity cards for the first time:

“The applicant should be a lawful resident of Sri Lanka and should have completed [sic] 16 years of age. Documents to be attached with the applications for an identity cards [sic] for the first time. Duly perfected Birth Certificate or presumptive age certificate. If the birth certificate or presumptive age certificate is not available, a nil statement of register of birth and an affidavit should be submitted along with possible documents stated below: School leaving certificate. Baptismal certificate. Copies of children’s birth certificates indicating the birth of application [sic]. Birth extract. Citizenship Certificate (if date of birth is indicated). Estate leaving certificate (if date of birth is indicated). Certified copies of relevant pages in the Passport. Record of birth or registration card issued by estate superintendent...Five copies of colour photographs (1 3/8” x 7/8”). Stamp fees...Documents to be furnished to prove residence. Residential certificate issued by the Grama Niladhari. In the absence of such certificate one or more of the following documents should be produced. Certified extract of the electoral list. Certified copy of monthly statement of bank Accounts. Certified copy of telephone bills. Certified copy of electricity bills. Certified copy of the deed pertaining to the ownership of the land or house. If the house is leased or rented, relevant agreement and receipts for payments of rates. Temporary residents should forward the copy of the letter which provided information to the police along with above documents.” [48a]

- 31.06 The website of the Registration of Persons Department (accessed on 12 September 2006) also provides details of the documents to be attached to the application for duplicates for lost identity cards:

“Certified copy of the complaint made to the police regarding the loss of the identity card. Birth certificate or alternative documents mentioned in the above section. Certificate of employment, (if employed) obtained within three months. Number of the lost identity card. Stamps to the value of Rs.15.00. Certificate of residence or other documents mentioned in the above section. Five colour photographs (1 3/8” x 7/8”). Documents to prove that the number has been used...When applying for a duplicate of the lost identity card, the very same particulars in the lost identity card should be indicated in the application.” [48b]

- 31.07 On 20 August 2004, the *Daily News* reported that the Secretary of the Public Security Law and Order ministry had visited the Department for Registration of Persons (DRP) and found it in appalling conditions. According to *Daily News* he was also surprised to learn that identity cards had been issued merely on photocopies of birth certificates while the original should be insisted. [16be]

- 31.08 As reported on 8 October 2004, by the *Daily News*:

“A bill to provide for making production of the National Identity Card compulsory for voting at future elections became law yesterday with the legislation passed unopposed. The Elections Act (Special Provisions) Bill went through incorporating amendments proposed by the opposition especially the minority parties. The Tamil National Alliance though abstained at the vote, registered its support for the Bill...The law however, will come into effect one year after Government takes all necessary steps to issue identity cards to all eligible voters in the country.” [16br]

- 31.09 As stated in the website of the Sri Lanka Department of Immigration and Emigration (accessed on 22 July 2005 and 12 September 2006), in Sri Lanka there are five types of travel documents: Diplomatic Passports; Official Passports and Ordinary Passports valid for all countries; Emergency Certificates valid for India and Nepal; Identity Certificates valid for All Countries issued to a person living in Sri Lanka, whose nationality is not established; Non Machine Readable Passports issued by Sri Lanka Missions abroad under special circumstances. “If Travel Document is lost a complaint should be made at the nearest Police Station and with a certified copy of the entry the matter has to be informed to the issuing authority. This document is required when applying for a new Travel Document in place of a lost one.” [71b]

- 31.10 As stated on the website of the Sri Lanka Department of Immigration and Emigration (accessed on 22 July 2005 and 12 September 2006):

“Following are punishable offences [under the Immigrants and Emigrants Act No. 20 of 1948 it’s [sic] regulations and subsequent amendments]. If found guilty upon prosecution imprisonment from 6 months to 5 years and a fine of Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 200,000 can be imposed. Submission of falsified or forged document/s to obtain a Travel Document. Applying for a Travel Document while in possession of such a document and / or possession of more than one valid Travel Document at a time. Despatch of a Sri Lanka Travel Document through the post, courier or another person from / to Sri Lanka without the

prior approval of the Controller. For approval written request [in duplicate], Courier letter [in duplicate] and the Passport should be forwarded to the 3rd floor #41 Ananda Rajakaruna Mw Colombo 10 Sri Lanka.” [71b]

See also Section 18 and 32

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32. EXIT/ENTRY PROCEDURES

- 32.01 Regarding security checks on leaving Sri Lanka, the U.K. Home Office Fact-Finding Mission Report of 2001 confirms that:

“On entry to the terminal building all passengers have to show tickets and baggage was screened by X-ray machine. Since 22 March 2000 only passengers are allowed into the check-in area, which was screened off from the rest of the terminal. We had been told that this was as a result of pressure from European embassies whose Airline Liaison Officers (ALOs) had been worried that agents had previously been able to signal to officials to allow people to embark. This measure had gone some way to improving the situation and has halted the previous practice whereby agents could accompany passengers right up to the departure gate.” [35a] (p39)

- 32.02 On their 2002 visit to Sri Lanka, Home Office officials were informed that “It would be almost impossible to pass through airport controls without having documents checked, as security is very tight.” [35b]

- 32.03 As noted in a *Daily News* report of 25 June 2004, according to a former Assistant Controller of the Immigration and Emigration Department, the Immigration and Emigration Section at the [Colombo] Bandaranaike International Airport had sophisticated equipment and ultraviolet scanning to detect forged passports. He added that a birth certificate was a very vital document to issue a passport; that the application form to obtain a passport should be filled in using the applicant’s own handwriting. He also said that all particulars in a passport were fed into the computer system and the person who was in charge of the computer used to place his signature on the documents of the passport. Furthermore, the embarkation and disembarkation forms should be filled in by the passport holder and that those forms are retained by the Immigration and Emigration authorities at the airport. [16bi]

- 32.04 On 15 April 2004, *Daily News* reported, that the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) was probing a massive racket at the Bandaranaike International Airport [Colombo] where several persons have left the country on forged passports.

“Investigations reveal that an organised gang with the assistance of several employees at the BIA have assisted persons with forged passports to leave the airport without their details being included in the computers of the Immigration and Emigration Department. A senior investigator said that these organised gangs used a method to avoid the ‘Ghost Image’ on the passport to go through the normal immigration channel. The gangs’ modus operandi was to get the ‘facilitator’ introduce the passenger to a minor employee at the BIA and direct the passenger to the counter with the minor employee. The forged

passport holder acts according to instructions of the “facilitator” and goes through the Immigration barrier with the normal stamping on the passport.... It was revealed that earlier there was an officer of the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB) sitting next to the Immigration and Emigration Officer at the BIA counter. But during the recent past there has seen no NIB officer next to the Immigration Officer.” [16b]

- 32.05 As recorded by the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) of Canada in their Responses to Information Requests (RIRs) LKA102359.E, dated 22 December 2006:

“According to 19 December 2006 correspondence sent to the Research Directorate by an official at the Canadian High Commission in Colombo, the Sri Lankan authorities do not systematically collect statistics concerning the prevalence of forged identity documents such as passports, visas, birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates...An article in the November 2006 issue of the Colombo-based magazine Adoh reports on the prevalence of human trafficking, forged travel documents and corruption among Sri Lankan authorities. The article, written by an investigative journalist, indicates that government officials and airport security are reportedly bribed to allow persons to depart Sri Lanka using forged documents (Adoh Nov. 2006, 7). According to the article, forged visa stickers are often used to leave Sri Lanka illegally and can be purchased at a cost ranging from 3,000 Sri Lankan rupees (LKR) [approximately CAD 32 (XE.com 20 Dec. 2006a)] to LKR 12,000 [approximately CAD 128 (ibid. 20 Dec. 2006b)] (Adoh Nov. 2006, 7). The article also notes that forged passports can be purchased from officials at Sri Lanka's Immigration and Emigration Department for a sum ranging from LKR 20,000 [approximately CAD 214 (XE.com 20 Dec. 2006c)] to 25,000 LKR [approximately CAD 267 (ibid. 20 Dec. 2006d)], more than 10 times the regular passport fees (Adoh Nov. 2006, 8).” [42c]

- 32.06 The IRB document of 22 December 2006 continued:

“In correspondence sent to the Research Directorate, the Official at the Canadian High Commission in Colombo stated that [f]orged visas are routinely identified by foreign control authorities or airlines at Colombo airport and at transit or destination points connected with Sri Lanka. [It is estimated] that hundreds of persons with some type of forged document are moved monthly through Colombo Airport by criminal syndicates. (Canada 19 Dec. 2006)... According to a Bernama Daily Malaysian News article, in April 2006, Colombo International Airport launched a new fraud detection unit to prevent passengers using forged travel documents from boarding flights (28 Apr. 2006). Correspondence from an official at the Canadian High Commission in Colombo indicates, however, that travel using forged documents continues to increase (Canada 19 Dec. 2006). The Official stated that [f]rom discussions with Gulf state immigration authorities and visa offices using biometrics in Colombo, the identification of improperly issued genuine Sri Lankan documents is growing significantly. This is most visible at the airport by the ever increasing numbers of same day deportees from Gulf States [that use] biometrics on arriving prospective foreign workers. The deportees are invariably those who [have] obtained a passport in a new identity. (ibid.) [42c]

- 32.07 The IRB document of 22 December 2006 further recorded that:

“The Official [at the Canadian High Commission in Colombo] also indicated that it was possible to obtain valid travel documents and National Identity Cards (NICs) by fraudulent means (ibid.). The Official noted that [a]ccording to sources with knowledge of such matters, forged birth certificates can be acquired for as little as USD 5.00, while genuine, but improperly issued birth certificates can be acquired for as little as USD 20.00 each. With these types of birth certificates, genuine NICs can be issued and afterwards genuine passports. (ibid.)...In 19 December 2006 correspondence, the Official at the Canadian High Commission in Colombo provided information concerning the security features of identity documents. The Official stated that [t]here are no security features in Sri Lankan birth, marriage or death certificates. The Sri Lankan passport contains various security features which, to our knowledge, have not been made public. Sri Lankan seals, visas and foreign visas issued to Sri Lankans do contain a variety of security features which, to our knowledge, have not been made public. (Canada 19 Dec. 2006).” [42c]

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TREATMENT OF RETURNED FAILED ASYLUM SEEKERS

32.08 On 21 March 2002, a Home Office delegation was told in a meeting in Sri Lanka with the Director of the CID that “There are computerised records in the South of the country only. Details of arrests etc. are sent from the North of the country, and are then transferred to computer. Paper-based records are held in the North. There are no photographs of wanted persons at the airport, only computerised records.” [35b]

32.09 As reported on the official website of the government of Sri Lanka on 7 June 2004:

“Sri Lanka signed a Readmission Agreement with the European Community (EC) June 4, in Colombo. This is the first formal Agreement Sri Lanka has entered into concerning the combating of illegal immigration. The Agreement provides a quick procedure for re-admission not only for one’s nationals, but also third country nationals, on the basis of agreed items listed in the Agreement. The Joint Declaration on the Facilitation of Law Enforcement Cooperation, which constitutes an integral part of the Agreement, recognizes the need for the two parties to take measures to combat organized criminal activities, including human trafficking, migrant smuggling and financing for terrorist purposes, which have become grounds for growing concern.” [44d]

32.10 The UNHCR Position on Returns to Sri Lanka, dated 1 January 2005, gives UNHCR’s views on returns to Sri Lanka:

“It is the position of the UNHCR Representation in Sri Lanka that conditions in the country are not yet conducive to any large scale, organised return of Sri Lankan nationals to their country of origin, or of internally displaced persons to their homes in areas affected by the conflict. Current conditions are such that return with dignity, as well as physical, legal and material safety cannot be assured. As such, UNHCR is not encouraging or promoting return at this time but is providing and monitoring post facto support for returnees. The organisation is also seeking to ensure that their return is spontaneous, voluntary and results from them being adequately informed about existing

conditions and in particular the conditions pertaining in their home villages or towns, prior to their return.” [6q]

32.11 The UNHCR position paper on returns to Sri Lanka further noted:

“The parties to the conflict have not signed a formal Peace Agreement and reports of ongoing human right violations, such as abductions, extortion, the taking of hostages, recruitment of child soldiers, disappearances and assassinations continue. In order to achieve lasting peace, fundamental issues need to be addressed, including human security and minority rights. In addition, in the war-affected [sic] areas, conditions are worsened by the level of destruction of habitable property and infrastructure; concerns regarding right to ownership and occupation of property without a sufficient mechanism in place to resolve them; the presence of landmines and unexploded ordinances; and the lack of adequate basic services (potable water, health, education, sanitation and non-discriminatory access to the law)... In order to avoid potential gaps in the continuum of return, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction (“4Rs”), UNHCR remains engaged in dialogue with international and national actors, including donors, to ensure continuity during the transitional period. UNHCR will also continue to work closely with the Governments of Sri Lanka and India to facilitate repatriation of priority cases and prepare for organised voluntary repatriation in the future, when the circumstances change to favour large-scale voluntary returns.” [6q]

32.12 A UNHCR position paper entitled ‘Returns of Tamil Asylum Seekers with scars’ dated 1 January 2005 stated:

“UNHCR maintains its position...that ‘Tamil asylum seekers with scars, should they be returned to Sri Lanka, may be more prone to adverse identification by the security forces and taken for rigorous questioning and potential ill-treatment’...Please note that UNHCR’s comments are strictly limited to the risk of adverse identification, rigorous questioning, and potential ill-treatment of returned persons with scars upon their arrival at the airport, not the potential risk of arrest subsequent to the initial interrogation at the airport.” [6r]

32.13 As noted in a letter from the British High Commission in Colombo, dated 26 September 2005:

“We have spoken to the International Organisation of Migration locally about returns. They say that to their knowledge most returns are detained briefly and then released to their families. Our Airline Liaison Officer has contacted the Canadian, Australian and German Missions here, to ask about their experiences with returns. All of their experiences are similar. In August [2005] a charter plane returned approximately 40 failed asylum seekers from Germany. The Sri Lankan Police (CID) have told us that these were processed by them ‘in a few hours’. In general, the Sri Lankan Immigration services and CID are informed in advance of the passenger’s arrival. The passenger is handed over to Immigration who briefly interview them and then hand them to CID. In most cases a record is kept by both of the returnees arrival and they are then allowed to proceed. Usually family are at the airport to meet them. In a few cases CID have detained people where there was an existing warrant for their arrest when they left Sri Lanka. DII (Directorate of Internal Intelligence) may also have an interest in these individuals and keep records on them. There is no reason to think that they have any information

regarding asylum claims in the UK or elsewhere. There does not appear to be any involvement in the process by the Sri Lankan Army.” [15d]

32.14 The letter from the BHC of 26 September 2005 continued:

“The role of scarring is extremely difficult to assess, I have not found any detailed reports, but anecdotal evidence is that it can play a part in rousing suspicion. The key issue is not what triggers suspicion, but how suspects are treated. Membership of the LTTE and fundraising for the organisation are no longer criminal offences in Sri Lanka (although they are in the UK) so even if the authorities acted on their suspicion Sri Lankan law gives them limited powers to act. Unarmed members of the LTTE are permitted to operate in government areas under the 2002 ceasefire agreement.” [15d]

32.15 A letter from the British High Commission in Colombo, dated 24 August 2006, noted that:

“There is strong anecdotal evidence that scarring has been used in the past to identify suspects. In my own conversations with the police and in the media the authorities have openly referred to physical examinations being used to identify whether suspects have undergone military style training. A UK based member of staff who was present during the processing of two recent returns at Colombo airport on 04/08 and 23/08 [2006] reported however that no such examinations took place, and that the returnees, both ethnic Tamils from the north of Sri Lanka were able to make onward journeys with little delay. His observations support more recent claims from contacts in government ministries that this practice has either ceased or is used less frequently. At the very least it appears to only take place when there is another reason to suspect the individual rather than a routine measure for immigration returnees.” [15h]

32.16 The letter from the BHC Colombo dated 24 August 2006 continued:

“The Sri Lankan authorities have a good IT system to track arrivals and departures at the main airport and are able to track, in most cases, whether an individual is in the country or not. Our own experience of the return of failed asylum seekers and the shared information of other missions, particularly the Canadians, and the International Organisation of Migration is quite clear. As we have reported earlier [26 September 2005] the vast majority are questioned for a short period of time to establish identity and possibly on security issues and then released. Normally only when there is an outstanding arrest warrant are individuals detained for longer periods.” [15h]

32.17 As recorded by the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) of Canada in their Responses to Information Requests (RIRs) LKA102038.E, dated 22 December 2006:

“In 19 December 2006 correspondence to the Research Directorate, an official at the Canadian High Commission in Colombo provided corroborating information [with regards to the letter from the British High Commission in Colombo dated 26 September 2005] on the return of failed asylum seekers to Sri Lanka, stating that ‘[r]eturnees, if identified to the airlines as such by immigration authorities who are removing them to Sri Lanka, have an established process awaiting them upon arrival. First, the Chief Immigration

Officer (arrivals) documents the arrival of the person, takes a statement, and determines whether the returnee should be granted entry as a Sri Lankan national. Next an officer of the State Intelligence Service (SIS) documents the arrival and takes a statement. Finally, an officer of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Sri Lanka Police documents the arrival, checks for outstanding warrants and takes a statement. If there is an outstanding warrant for arrest, the returnee may be arrested. Otherwise, the returnee is free to go.” [42b]

32.18 The IRB LKA102038.E of 22 December 2006 further recorded that:

“An October 2006 report published by Hotham Mission's Asylum Seeker Project (ASP), an Australian non-governmental organization (NGO) that ‘works with asylum seekers in the community’ (Hotham Mission n.d.), similarly notes that persons returning to Sri Lanka who have had previous problems with the government of Sri Lanka may be detained by the police upon their arrival (47). According to the report, persons who have been detained or questioned in the past are more likely to be arrested and, because of the state of emergency and ongoing conflict in the country, ‘may face further human rights violations, such as torture’ (Hotham Mission Oct. 2006, 47). The report also notes that Sri Lanka's National Intelligence Bureau keeps records on people dating back more than ten years and, since 2004, has been using a national computerized database (ibid.).” [42b]

32.19 “The October 2006 Hotham Mission report cites information obtained during consultations with the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM), a body of international observers that monitors the ceasefire agreement between the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) (SLMM n.d.), concerning the return of failed asylum seekers (47). The SLMM indicates that if a person returning to Sri Lanka has any previous affiliation with the LTTE, they may be targeted by the police (ibid.). The organization also notes that if a person has previous affiliations to certain individuals or political groups, they may be targeted by the LTTE (ibid.). The SLMM provides the example of persons who have been members of the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), an inactive Tamil militant organization (SATP n.d.), who were still being targeted by the LTTE in Sri Lanka at the time the Hotham Mission report was published (Hotham Mission Oct. 2006, 47).” (Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) of Canada, LKA102038.E, 22 December 2006)

See also Section 12 on Bail/Reporting conditions

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33. EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

33.01 As noted in the US State Department Report 2006 (USSD), Sri Lanka:

“The government respected the legal right of workers to establish unions, and the country has a strong trade union tradition. Any seven workers may form a union, adopt a charter, elect leaders, and publicize their views, but in practice such rights were subject to administrative delays. Nonetheless, approximately 20 percent of the seven-million-person work force nationwide and more than 70 percent of the plantation work force was unionized. In total, there were

more than one million union members. Approximately 15 to 20 percent of the nonagricultural work force in the private sector was unionized. Unions represented most workers in large private firms, but workers in small-scale agriculture and small businesses usually did not belong to unions. Public sector employees were unionized at very high rates. “[2c] (Section 6a)

- 33.02 “Most large unions were affiliated with political parties and played a prominent role in the political process, although major unions in the public sector were politically independent. The Ministry of Employment and Labor is authorized by law to cancel the registration of any union that does not submit an annual report, the only grounds for the cancellation of registration. Employers found guilty of discrimination must reinstate workers fired for union activities but may transfer them to different locations. Anti-union discrimination is a punishable offense liable for a fine of \$166 (20,000 SLR).” (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 6a)
- 33.03 “The law provides for the right to collective bargaining; however, very few companies practiced it. Approximately 50 companies belonging to the Employers' Federation of Ceylon (EFC), the leading employers' organization, had collective agreements. All collective agreements must be registered at the Department of Labor. Data on the number of registered collective agreements were not available. More than half of EFC's 435-strong membership was unionized. All workers, other than police, armed forces, prison service, and those in essential services, have the right to strike. By law, workers may lodge complaints with the commissioner of labor, a labor tribunal, or the Supreme Court to protect their rights. The president retains the power to designate any industry as an essential service.” The law prohibits retribution against strikers in nonessential sectors; however, in practice employees were sometimes fired for striking.” (USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 6b)
- 33.04 “While there is no national minimum wage, 38 wage boards established by the Ministry of Labor set minimum wages and working conditions by sector and industry. These minimum wages did not provide a decent standard of living for a worker and family. The law prohibits most full-time workers from regularly working more than 45 hours per week (a 5½-day workweek). Regulations limited the maximum overtime hours to 15 per week. Several laws protect the safety and health of industrial workers, but the Ministry of Labor's small staff of inspectors was inadequate to enforce compliance. Health and safety regulations do not meet international standards. Workers have the statutory right to remove themselves from dangerous situations, but many workers were unaware or indifferent to such rights and feared that they would lose their jobs if they removed themselves from the work situation.” USSD 2006) [2c] (Section 6e)

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Annex A: Chronology of major events

See also Annex B

- 1948** Ceylon gains independence from the United Kingdom.
- 1956** Sri Lanka Freedom Party wins the general election; Solomon Bandaranaike becomes Prime Minister.
- 1959** Sirimavo Bandaranaike succeeds her husband as SLFP leader and Prime Minister.
- 1971** A JVP uprising is suppressed.
- 1972** The country becomes known as Sri Lanka.
- 1976** Formation of the Tamil United Liberation Front, calling for a separate Tamil State.
- 1977** General election is held, won by the UNP. Junius Jayawardene becomes Prime Minister. Civil unrest between Sinhalese and Tamils.
- 1978** New Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka comes into force.

Jayawardene becomes the country's first executive President. The Tamil language is recognised in the Constitution.
- 1979-1983** Continuing ethnic violence and the imposition of a State of Emergency.
- 1982** **October:** Jayawardene re-elected as President.
- 1983-1984** State of Emergency declared and mounting Tamil terrorist activity.
- 1986** Further violence in the north of Sri Lanka and bomb attacks in Colombo.
- 1987** **April:** Terrorist attacks against the civil population.
29 July: Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord signed. Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) arrives.
October: IPKF attack the LTTE and regain control of Jaffna. Re-emergence of the JVP which launched an anti-accord campaign.
- 1988** Presidential elections won by the UNP candidate, Ranasinghe Premadasa.
- 1989** State of Emergency, in force since May 1983, repealed. The UNP win the February general elections. IPKF begins its withdrawal from Sri Lanka. State of Emergency re-imposed in June in response to renewed JVP violence.
- 1989-1990** JVP effectively destroyed as a political force by Sri Lankan security forces.

- 1990** **March:** the last troops of the IPKF leave Sri Lanka. LTTE hostilities renewed and Government offensive launched against Tamil strongholds in the Jaffna peninsula.
- 1991** Further violence and bomb attacks. Assassination of the senior cabinet minister, Wijeratne.
LTTE proscribed in India following the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, the former Indian Prime Minister.
- 1993** Assassination of the DUNF leader Athulathmudali, and of President Premadasa.
- 1994** **16 August:** General election and defeat of UNP Government. Mrs Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga appointed Prime Minister, leading the People's Alliance (PA).
9 November: Presidential election. Mrs Kumaratunga is elected, and her mother, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, is appointed Prime Minister.
- 1995** Peace talks held with the LTTE, but they soon break down. Major offensives launched in the Jaffna peninsula and the town of Jaffna is recaptured by the Government.
- 1996** Escalation in LTTE violence. One hundred killed and 1,400 injured in a bomb attack on the Central Bank in Colombo. State of Emergency extended to the whole country.
- 1997** **July:** The State of Emergency in the south of the country is lifted.
- 1998** **26 January:** The Government bans the LTTE after a bomb attack on the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy.
4 August: State of Emergency imposed on the whole country, and the provincial elections are postponed.
- 1999** **November:** Heavy fighting between LTTE and Government forces. Hundreds killed and LTTE recaptures territory previously lost.
December: President Kumaratunga survives an assassination attempt and is re-elected President three days later.
- 2000** **April-May:** LTTE capture the strategic Elephant Pass and close in on Jaffna.
May: Due to the precarious military situation, the authorities put the country on a war footing and assume sweeping new powers under the Public Security Act.
May-September: The Sri Lankan Army prevent the LTTE from capturing the whole of the Jaffna peninsula and go on the offensive.
10 October: General Election held. The PA retains power but falls short of a majority. The PA forms a coalition Government after support from the EPDP and NUA. Sirimavo Bandaranaike dies on polling day. Ratnasiri Wickremanayake is sworn in as Prime Minister for a second term, having replaced Mrs Bandaranaike in August 2000.
24 December: The LTTE announces a unilateral month-long cease-fire.
- 2001** **28 February:** The LTTE are among 21 militant groups proscribed in the United Kingdom.

23 April: The LTTE announce the end of their four-month cease-fire, blaming the Government for the failure of peace efforts.

July: The Emergency Regulations (ERs) are lapsed.

24 July: The LTTE attack Katunayake Air Force Base and the adjacent Bandaranaike International Airport. 14 LTTE cadres and 7 military personnel are killed, and military aircraft and passenger planes destroyed.

July-September: President Kumaratunga suspends Parliament after the PA coalition loses its majority.

5 December: General Election held. The UNP obtains 109 seats, thereby defeating the ruling PA who come second with 77 seats. As leader of the UNP, Ranil Wickremasinghe becomes Prime Minister with Chandrika Kumaratunga continuing as President. Mahinda Rajapakse later succeeds Ratnasiri Wickremanayake as leader of the PA.

24 December: The Sri Lankan Government announces a month-long cease-fire, reciprocating an earlier unilateral declaration by the LTTE.

- 2002**
- 20 January:** The LTTE announces an extension of the cease-fire until 24 February 2002. The Government reciprocates the following day.
- 22 February:** An announcement is made that the Sri Lankan Government and LTTE had signed a cease-fire agreement.
- March:** The UNP win an unprecedented landslide victory in local polls, taking 217 councils out of the 222 that held elections.
- 2 April:** Nordic observers begin monitoring the cease-fire.
- April:** The LTTE opens a political office in a government-held area in the north.
- April:** The strategic A9 highway is opened for the first time in 12 years, linking the Jaffna peninsula with the rest of the country.
- 10 April:** LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran gives his first press conference for 12 years.
- June:** Violence between Muslims and Tamils near Trincomalee leads to six deaths before peace is restored.
- July:** Another vital road opens, the A5 connecting Kandy with Batticaloa, which had been closed since 1995.
- 4 September:** The Government lifts the ban on the LTTE, which had stood since 1998.
- 16-18 September:** The first formal peace talks for seven years between the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE take place in Thailand.
- 3 November:** The second round of peace talks end with the announcement that joint committees were to be set up to examine rehabilitation needs in war-hit areas, to push for military de-escalation and to look at political questions at the heart of the 19-year civil war.
- November:** Velupillai Prabhakaran states that the LTTE were ready to drop their long-standing demand for independence, and would settle for provincial autonomy and self-rule in Tamil-dominated areas in the east and north. However he warned that the Tamils would resume their struggle for a separate state if a political solution could not be reached in the ongoing peace process.
- December:** At the end of the third round of peace talks it is announced that the two sides had agreed to share power in a federal system. They had agreed on "internal self-determination based on a federal model within a united Sri Lanka". Under the deal, which would have to be approved by Parliament, Tamils would have autonomy in the north and east of the country.
- 2003**
- March:** The sixth round of peace talks is overshadowed by the sinking of an LTTE vessel in which 11 Tamil Tigers were killed.

- April:** Clashes between Tamil and Muslim communities in the north-east
- 21 April:** The LTTE suspend participation in the peace talks expressing serious grievances about their “marginalisation” from negotiations and the perceived unequal dividends of peace.
- 23 April:** The LTTE confirm that they have no intention of breaking the cease-fire, but want the Government to implement decisions agreed at earlier meetings.
- November:** The LTTE released their proposals for an Interim Self-Governing Authority (ISGA).
- 4 November:** President Kumaratunga suspends Parliament and dismisses the ministers of defence, interior and mass communications and assumes those portfolios herself because of what the President termed a “deterioration of the security situation” during the course of the peace process. Parliament reconvened on 19 November 2003.
- 2004**
- January:** President Kumaratunga tells the nation that a secret swearing-in ceremony had extended her term by a year, until 2006.
- January:** The PA form an alliance with the JVP.
- February:** President Kumaratunga dissolves Parliament paving the way for snap elections, four years ahead of schedule.
- March:** Renegade Tamil Tiger commander, known as Colonel Karuna, leads split in rebel movement and goes underground with his supporters.
- 2 April:** Early general elections held. Coalition led by President Kumaratunga (UPFA) wins 105 of 225 parliamentary seats, falling short of overall majority. M. Rajapakse sworn in as prime minister a few days later.
- April:** President Kumaratunga invites Norway to resume its role as a negotiator between the government and the LTTE.
- 7 July:** Suicide bomb blast in Colombo, the first such incident since 2001
- 10 July:** Party of President Kumaratunga (UPFA) wins local elections.
- 26 July:** Norwegian deputy foreign minister V. Helgesen states he had failed to achieve a breakthrough in the stalled peace talks.
- 19 November:** High Court judge Ambepitiya killed in Colombo.
- 26 December:** More than 30,000 people killed when massive waves, generated by a powerful undersea earthquake (Tsunami) off the coast of Indonesia, devastate coastal communities in the North, East, South and South West. Hundreds of thousands forced from their homes. National disaster is declared by government.
- 2005**
- 8 February:** Senior Tamil Tiger leader E. Kaushalyan and five others killed.
- June:** Deal reached between the government and the Tamil Tiger rebels to share nearly \$3bn in tsunami aid among Sinhalas, Tamils and Muslims (a.k.a. P-TOMS). Marxist party JVP pulls out of coalition in protest. A subsequent Constitutional Court ruling in July suspends the application of the P-TOMS
- August:** State of Emergency is declared after foreign minister Lakshman Kadirgamar is assassinated.
- November:** Mahinda Rajapakse, at the time prime minister, wins presidential elections.
- 2006**
- February:** At talks in Geneva, GOSL and Tamil Tiger rebels declare their respect for the 2002 ceasefire.
- April:** Explosions and rioting in Trincomalee. The main military compound in Colombo is attacked by a suicide bomber (at least eight people are killed). The army launches air strikes on Tamil Tiger targets.

June: 64 people are killed in a mine attack on a bus in Anuradhapura district. A few days later, more than 30 people are killed in a battle between government forces and Tamil Tiger rebels in the Mannar district.

August: Clashes between Tamil Tiger rebels and government forces in the north-east, considered the worst fighting since the 2002 ceasefire. Hundreds of people are killed and the UN says tens of thousands have fled.

September: The government says it has captured Sampur (in the Trincomalee district) in an action seen as the first major capture of enemy territory by either side since the 2002 ceasefire.

October: A suicide bomber attacks a military convoy, killing more than 90 sailors. The southern city of Galle is attacked by Tamil Tigers. Peace talks resume in Geneva but fail over the LTTE's demand that the government re-open the key A9 highway.

November: Prominent Tamil MP Nadarajah Raviraj, a former mayor of Jaffna, is shot dead in Colombo by gunmen.

December: the government announces revised though emergency regulations.

2007 **January:** After weeks of heavy fighting the military announces the capture of the Tamil Tiger stronghold of Vakarai, in the east. Tens of thousands of civilians flee the area. President Rajapakse's government secures a parliamentary majority after 25 opposition MPs defect to its ranks.

March: Government troops claim continuing success against the Tamil Tigers rebels in coastal areas in the east. Thousands of civilians flee the fighting. Tamil Tigers launch their first air raid, hitting a military base next to the Katunayake Colombo international airport.

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Annex B: Timelines

A) SATP (SOUTH ASIA TERRORISM PORTAL) SRI LANKA TIMELINE FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY – 27 MARCH 2007)

The SATP (South Asia Terrorism Portal) Sri Lanka timeline reproduced below covers the period 1 January 2007 – 27 March 2007.

<http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/shrilanka/timeline/index.html> [37d]

- January 1
- A civilian, identified as M. Bandara and his wife P.J Mallika, are shot dead by cadres of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) at Mantotta in the Ampara district. Similarly, LTTE cadres shot dead another civilian, Sudubanda Rathnayaka and his wife Somawathi Rathnayaka, along the 3rd canal road in the Bakmitiyawa area.
- Troops recover the dead bodies of three Tamil youths, believed to be supporters of the LTTE breakaway faction led by 'Colonel Karuna, from the Kiran area of Batticaloa district. Civilians informed the troops that three dead bodies were found lying close to a church in the area, apparently killed by the LTTE cadres on December 31. The victims were identified as Sivanesvaram Puwanesvaram, Senthurai and Yoganadan Mayuran.
- A Police jeep is caught up in an LTTE claymore mine explosion at Settikulam in the Vavuniya district. Two Police constables in the jeep are killed and one more sustained injuries in the incident.
- The LTTE has begun issuing ID cards to civilians living in territories under their control. The Commissioner of the Tamil Eelam Department of Registration of Persons, S. Jeyenthiran, issues the first high-tech identity card with a Social Security Number, by which a person is identified in a computer network, to LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran.
- January 2
- The Sri Lankan Government said that it would take legal action against any institution or organization that is issuing bogus identity cards.
- Defence spokesperson, Minister Keheliya Rambukwella, said that the pullout of the truce monitors from the Northeast has paved the way for the LTTE to engage in large-scale child recruitment freely in the East.
- The Government states that it is not ready to negotiate with the LTTE to seek the release of the Jordanian vessel 'Farah III' which remained in the outfit's custody in Mullaitivu but warned it would take suitable action at the appropriate time.
- Three Sri Lankan Military officers have been taken into custody and will face a court-martial for helping the LTTE, the Defense Ministry said.

- January 3 Unidentified assailants shot dead a young woman, identified as Kamalini Kanapathippillai, at Point Pedro in the Jaffna district.
- The U.N. calls on the Sri Lankan Government and LTTE to stop fighting, protect the innocent, and resume peace talks.
- Sri Lanka Army Commander Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka has reportedly vowed to liberate the Eastern Province from the LTTE's hold and then to proceed to liberating the Northern Province. The Army Commander said the LTTE would be eradicated from the East within the next two to three months.
- January 4 Troops kill one LTTE cadre in a retaliatory fire when the outfit's cadres, hidden in surrounding jungle areas near an Army point in the Kalyanapura area of Polonnaruwa district, opened fire on the Army point. One soldier is also killed in the incident.
- The Media Centre for National Security states that the LTTE is facing a severe recruitment problem to fill their numbers as 'fighters' due to heavy losses they sustained in Mavil Aru, Muhamalai, Thoppur, Sampur, Muttur jetty and Vakarai.
- January 5 At least six passengers are killed and 63 are wounded in a bomb blast inside a bus bound for Giriulla from Nittambuwa in the Gampaha district. The Government blames the LTTE for the attack.
- January 6 At least 16 persons are killed and 40 injured as a second explosion occurred in a bus in a span of less than 24 hours in the Galle district, over 80 km from the national capital Colombo. The Government blamed the LTTE for the attack.
- The dead bodies of two civilians are recovered from Allesgarden and another one from Chelvanayakapuram in the Trincomalee district. The three were shot dead by unidentified assailants a day earlier.
- At least three soldiers of the Sri Lanka Army and a civilian are killed as suspected LTTE cadres detonated a claymore mine targeting a truck at Pattamkulam in the Vavuniya district.
- January 7 Four dead bodies, at least two of which appeared to have been executed, are recovered from the Vavuniya town.
- President Mahinda Rajapakse accused the LTTE of stoking an ethnic backlash by majority Sinhalese on the minority Tamil community.
- January 9 LTTE cadres storm the office of the Thamir Makkal Viduthalai Pullikal (TMVP) at Valachchenai in the Batticaloa district and completely destroyed it. Troops conducted an immediate search in the area where they confronted a group of LTTE cadres and killed at least four of them.
- Armed men ambushed two camps belonging to the breakaway faction of the LTTE led by 'Colonel' Karuna at Valachchenai in the Batticaloa district, killing several cadres of the Karuna faction. The

LTTE claims that unidentified assailants killed at least 10 members of the breakaway Karuna faction and wounded four more in the ambush. An official at the Defence Ministry in Colombo confirmed the attacks, but said only two Karuna group cadres died and that two were wounded.

Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee told President Mahinda Rajapakse that India is of the firm view that a solution to the ethnic conflict in the island nation could be achieved only through dialogue.

The Sri Lankan Parliament passes the proposal to extend the Emergency Regulations for another month.

January 10 Troops confront a concentration of the LTTE cadres in the Kondagalchena area of Batticaloa district and killed at least 10 cadres of the outfit after overpowering them.

Indonesian police deports a Sri Lankan wanted by the US for smuggling military equipment to the LTTE.

January 10 Troops kill eight LTTE cadres in the Korakallimadu area of Batticaloa district.

Troops kill a LTTE cadre who tried to infiltrate the FDL at Vempotukerni in the Jaffna district. Subsequently, troops retaliate when LTTE cadres directed mortar fire towards them, killing three of them and injuring three others. One soldier also sustained injuries in the incident.

January 11 STF personnel capture the 'Janath' Camp, stronghold for the LTTE artillery and mortar gun position, and seven other sub camps of the LTTE, which lies west of Kanchkudichchiaru in the Ampara district. During subsequent search operations, STF personnel recovered four dead bodies of the LTTE cadres, large number of warlike items and equipment. Four STF personnel and an unspecified number of LTTE cadres are injured in the incident.

Two civilians, later identified as Rajasankar and his brother Theivendran, are shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Vavuniya district.

Defence spokesperson and Minister Keheliya Rambukwella states that the Government has no intention to launch an offensive to capture areas under the LTTE.

Sri Lanka is investigating a number of foreign and local aid groups it suspects may be helping the LTTE, and may banish a Dutch organisation from the island.

January 12 The LTTE cadres kill two police constables in Vavuniya while detonating a claymore mine targeting a security convoy carrying drinking water to a nearby police post along the Mannar-Vavuniya

road, according to defence ministry sources. One police constable sustains injuries during the explosion.

The STF took control of the LTTE's eight bases, including Janak camp near Kanchkudichchiaru, in the Ampara district.

January 13 Four soldiers are killed and two others sustain injuries when the LTTE rebels fired artillery and mortar shells at the SLA detachment at Mankerni in the Batticaloa district.

January 14 Troops shot dead five cadres of the LTTE, including Dileep of Intelligence Wing and 'Major' Shankar of Military Wing, who confronted them while on a foot patrol in the Vandaramoolai area of Batticaloa district.

Two LTTE deserters, who had escaped the outfit recently, identified as Sinnathambi Danapalasingham and Krishanapille Rajaram, are shot dead by suspected LTTE cadres at Kannagipuram in the Akkariapatthuwa area of Batticaloa district.

January 15 Two civilians, Mohammed Kaninil Hameed and Hamindi Sriyam, died in an accidental explosion of the LTTE-planted pressure mine in the Allanagar of the Vavuniya district.

The Military urges the deserting LTTE cadres in the East to surrender, as operations against the insurgents' camps intensified.

Torture chambers allegedly used by the LTTE to punish escaping rebels and informers, including women fighters, have been found at guerrilla camps in eastern Sri Lanka

January 16 In Panichchankerny, south of Ichchalanpatthu and its suburbs, in the Batticaloa district, troops after overrunning the 3rd defence line of the LTTE cleared the village areas, killing at least 30 of its cadres despite heavy LTTE resistance. However, the pro-LTTE Website Tamil Net said 40 Sri Lankan soldiers are killed and that the outfit lost only seven cadres.

Troops confront a group of LTTE cadres in the Vakare area of Batticaloa district. During subsequent search operations, troops recover seven dead bodies of LTTE cadres from the incident site which was later handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

At least six civilians, including a woman, are shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Vavuniya town.

Five soldiers are killed and two others sustain injuries in a LTTE-triggered claymore mine explosion targeting the troops in the Puthukulam area of Vavuniya district.

'Colonel' Karuna faction is attempting to consolidate power in Batticaloa and surrounding areas according to independent reports from the Eastern Province.

The role of the SLMM is to undergo some amendments at the end of the ongoing workshop of the ceasefire monitors, said SLMM spokesman Thorfinur Omarsson.

January 17 Military spokesman Brig Prasad Samarasinghe said that 561 LTTE cadres have surrendered to the Sri Lankan Armed Forces in the East since July 25, 2006. "The majority of them are children," he added.

Defence spokesperson Keheliya Rambukwella stated that the LTTE is growing cannabis to make big money. The LTTE, however, denies the allegations and claimed that cannabis were grown in a Sinhala village called Bakkimiddiya and alleged that the Army video was taken in that village.

January 18 Four LTTE cadres are killed as troops advanced into the outfit-held territory in Batticaloa district.

Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera stated in New Delhi that a political process is underway in the country to share power with ethnic Tamils but made it clear that the campaign against the LTTE will continue until the rebels stop bloodshed.

The SLMM spokesman Thorfinur Omarsson said that ten of Sri Lanka's nearly three dozen truce monitors will be back at their posts next week in the North and East after an absence of more than two weeks.

The United Nations humanitarian affairs office said that the ongoing violence in Sri Lanka has resulted in 213,000 new refugees, asking donors for U.S. \$66 million in aid to carry out support programs in coming months.

January 19 Sri Lankan security forces capture the only LTTE stronghold in the eastern Sri Lanka - Vakarai - as thousands of civilians fled the area amidst heavy fighting between the two sides.

An elite guerilla unit of the LTTE in Ampara district carried out an ambush on Sri Lankan Special Task Force convoy, killing at least 11 Sri Lankan commandos and wounding more than 11 at Bakmityawa, claims outfit's military spokesman Irasiah Ilanthirayan.

At least nine LTTE cadres are killed and twelve others sustain injuries in confrontations with the SFs in the Batticaloa district.

Three soldiers are killed and four others sustain injuries when LTTE cadres open fire towards troops in the Vakarai area of Batticaloa district.

The bodies of three civilians are recovered near Gnanavairavar temple along Mathakuvaitthakulam road in the Thavasikkulam area of Vavuniya district. All of them were strangled to death and there were gun shot injuries on two of them.

The LTTE claims that it had "decided to pull back" from its Pannichchankerni position, which is on the access route to Vaharai.

The Sri Lanka Army, which has now consolidated power in new territory earlier controlled by the LTTE, has offered a general amnesty to deserters to return to the Army.

January 20 At least four soldiers of the SLA are killed and three others injured at Echalanpattu in a LTTE mortar in the Trincomalee district.

Sri Lanka Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera stated in New Delhi that the LTTE is much more brutal than the al-Qaeda.

The SLA claims to have gained Komathalamadu, Verugal, Kadiraveli and Batticaloa-Trincomalee road, a day after it captured Vaharai from the LTTE. Providing further details of the Vaharai battle, military sources claimed that since the beginning of October 2006, 331 LTTE cadres had been killed.

January 21 Troops advancing further captured the area from Verugal to Mavil Aru and Sinhapura, west of Vakarai and capture a number of LTTE camps in the area. Troops also found 22 dead bodies of the outfit's cadres scattered in the area.

SFs confronted a group of about 75 LTTE cadres who were attempting to escape towards Toppigala from the Vakarai area in Batticaloa district. Official sources confirm that at least 18 LTTE cadres are killed and a large number sustain injuries in the incident.

A fierce sea clash broke out after about 20 LTTE boats attack a cargo ship. Navy ships backed by air fire destroyed three of the LTTE boats, killing at least six of the outfit's cadres.

The Sri Lanka military states that it has taken control of the Trincomalee – Batticaloa A-15 road chasing the LTTE cadres to the Thoppigala jungles. "Ninety five percent of the civilians in the Eastern Province are now under the government controlled areas and the Tigers are now confined to limited areas in Thoppigala jungles," the military stated.

January 21-22 Army hands over dead bodies of four LTTE cadres to the LTTE through the facilitation of International Committee of the Red Cross on January 22. These cadres were killed in the retaliatory fire by troops in the Punani area of Batticaloa district on January 21.

January 22 A Manager of the Vavuniya Central Transport Board depot is shot by LTTE cadres in the Poonthottam area.

Government promises to wipe out the LTTE from Thoppigala jungles in the Batticaloa district after capturing the outfit's stronghold in Vakarai.

Speaking to Daily News General Officer Commanding of the Sri Lanka Army 23 Division in Welikanda, Brigadier Daya Ratnayaka terms the defeat of the LTTE in Vakarai as the biggest defeat the LTTE have ever faced in the recent history.

Sri Lanka's major opposition UNP has reportedly proposed that a solution to the ethnic problem should be sought through power devolution based on the Tokyo Agreement. The UNP hands over its proposals to the All Party Representative Committee chairman Tissa Vitarana.

January 23 The bullet-riddled dead bodies of two civilians, identified as Selliah Janachchandran and Selvarajah Sriskantharajah, are recovered from the Eravur area of Batticaloa district.

Defence sources said that around 37 underage children have been abducted by the LTTE during the last two weeks in Arippu, Karanadi and Madukkarai uncleared areas (area not under Government control) north of Mannar.

The LTTE dismisses the Government's invitation to stop fighting and resume talks, claiming that there was no sincerity in the offer.

January 24 Troops open fire at two LTTE cadres who attempted to infiltrate the SFs FDL at Kachchai in the Jaffna district, killing one of them. Later, another LTTE cadre committed suicide by detonating a hand grenade on seeing the arrival of troops.

January 25 Three LTTE cadres are killed and another injured in an encounter that followed an attack by the LTTE cadres on SFs at the Janakapura – Kokuthduwai FDL in the Welioya area of the Moneragala district.

Sri Lanka vows to attack and destroy LTTE military assets, including those in the outfit's northern stronghold.

'Colonel' Karuna has said that the LTTE chief Prabhakaran cannot win the war in Sri Lanka.

The Resettlement Minister Rishad Badiudeen said 64,250 ethnic minority Tamils have been displaced in eastern Batticaloa district, including 12,500 people who fled from Vaharai.

January 26 A civilian and two security personnel are killed when LTTE cadres attack a combined route clearing patrol in the general area of Murunkan in Mannar. Another police personnel and three civilians sustain injuries during the attack.

- SF personnel arrest 38 people during a crackdown against LTTE rebels in the President's home constituency of Hambantota, a day after he vowed to crush "terrorism."
- January 27 Troops recover two unidentified dead bodies from the general area (area under Government control) of Weppankulam in the Vavuniya district.
- January 28 Defence Ministry warns that following a severe setback in the East, the LTTE is planning a major offensive against the SFs in Wannu to retain control of their cadres.
- The LTTE political head, S. P. Thamilchelvan, states that the passive stance adopted by the International Community, which he characterized as "unconstructive engagement," is encouraging Colombo to pursue its power-centric politics and aggressive military agenda.
- Due to harassment by LTTE terrorists who have now fled to Thoppigala area, civilians in Thoppigala and surrounding villages of Ittamalai and Iluppadichenai have started crossing over to cleared areas (area under Government control).
- January 29 International donors warn Sri Lanka against escalating its ethnic conflict and demand a power-sharing deal with the LTTE to end violence and salvage the economy. World Bank's Vice President for South Asia, Praful Patel said that Sri Lanka must commit to peace and restore investor confidence if it is to develop its potential.
- January 30 Sri Lanka donors agree to provide "new development assistance" of \$4.5 billion over 2007-2009.
- The Interpol Headquarters in France has issued a world wide arrest warrant LTTE Sea-Tiger leader, Thillayampalam Sivanesan alias Soosai, identifying him as a fugitive wanted for prosecution consequent to the facts forwarded by the Central Investigation Department to Court.
- January 31 Eleven security personnel and a civilian were killed and 13 others are injured when cadres of the LTTE detonate a claymore mine at Vandaramoolai in the Batticaloa district.
- SLMM chief Lars Johan Solvberg meets LTTE representative Seevaratnam Puleedevan to discuss security and cooperation in the cease-fire monitoring process. The meeting is the first contact between the LTTE leadership and the monitors since November 2006.
- Sri Lankan Government asked the LTTE to engage in sincere peace talks to end escalating bloodshed. Chief government spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella said that the government was ready for peace talks with the rebels. "We want the talks to be sincere," he said.

- February 1 The STF personnel marching ahead in their operation Niyathai Jaya (Definite Victory) seizes LTTE 'Jeewananda Base' located inside the Kangikadaichi Aru jungle of Ampara district. STF sources said that this camp had been used by the LTTE to train child soldiers. Radio conversation among the terrorists has revealed that at least 16 LTTE cadres suffered injuries in the STF attack.
- The Norwegian Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Hans Brattskar, meets the political leader of the LTTE S.P. Thamichelvan in Kilinochchi and discusses the ways to resume peace talks.
- The Armed Forces consolidating their positions in the East after flushing the LTTE cadres out of Vakarai town, announces that the troops are now in the process of removing landmines ahead of their operation's final phase of resettling the displaced. They have removed 4,000 landmines from several locations in Vakarai, Palachchenai, Kadiraveli and Verugal.
- February 5 At least two civilians were killed and another wounded in an encounter between the LTTE cadres and the Karuna faction in Kaluthavalai in the Batticaloa district.
- February 6 Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama said that the Government will mobilise all its resources to bring to an end all acts of terrorism while evolving a political solution for the North East issue, Addressing the diplomatic corps on his first day in office, the Minister said Government will be able to present a political solution that is currently being worked out to all stakeholders within a short period of time.
- February 7 LTTE cadres killed the Head Priest of a Hindu temple at Sandiveli Pullair Kovil in Batticaloa. Commander of the Sri Lanka Army (SLA), Lieutenant General Sarath Fonseka, said that "desperate terrorists chased away from Verugal and Vakare areas after their infiltration into Thoppigala jungle patches are directly responsible for this heinous crime."
- February 9 Troops killed two LTTE cadres at Periyakattukulam in Welioya.
- February 11 Police recovered dead bodies of two civilians, identified as Chelliah Mylvaganam and Navaratnam Arultheepan, with gunshot wounds and bearing torture marks in Valikamam East along Puttur-Chunnakam road close to Nilaavarai junction in the Jaffna district.
- February 12 The Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) successfully repulsed an LTTE attack on a naval patrol and killed over eight LTTE cadres in the South coast off Poduwakkattu at Trincomalee. The SLN also completely destroyed one LTTE boat and damaged another in the attack. Navy Spokesman Commander D.P.K. Dassanayake said that the Navy recovered a 12.7 mm machine gun, 7.62mm Multi Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG), a T-56 assault rifle, four life jackets and a communication set in the damaged boat. "The boats were equipped with machine guns and 85 horsepower out board motors," he added.

Three soldiers were killed in an LTTE mortar attack at the Kilali Forward Defence Lines of Jaffna district.

President Mahinda Rajapakse, in an interview with the BBC, said that the Government's peace pact with the LTTE was a mistake. "Today we realise we have made a mistake. Through the peace pact, we've demarcated areas called LTTE controlled areas, and they have taken over the rights of the people through this pact. In the LTTE controlled areas, no political parties can function, people cannot walk anywhere in freedom, and the children are being forced to join the armed forces of the LTTE. These rights should be given back to the people," he said.

- February 13 The Indian Coast Guard intercepted a LTTE ship carrying a suicide bomb jacket packed with explosive substances weighing seven kilograms, five detonators, and arrested five persons. The ship was seized by the Coast Guard in the Palk Bay, 20 nautical miles from Point Calimere in south Tamil Nadu.
- February 14 Two security force personnel were killed when the LTTE attacked the Kohambagasthalawa Home Guards post on the Ampara-Mahaoya Road in the Ampara district. Three LTTE cadres were killed and several others injured when the Special Task Force personnel retaliated.
- February 17 SLN personnel killed four LTTE cadres and destroyed two of the outfit's boats hauling a large quantity of steel balls, which are normally used for bombs, off the coast of Kalpitiya in the Puttalam area. According to defence sources, the SLN recovered one million steel balls from the boats.
- February 17-18 A civilian is killed and six other persons including five army personnel were wounded when suspected cadres of the LTTE set off a fragmentation mine in the Jaffna town. The death toll rises to three a day later.
- February 18 According to LTTE sources, a determined effort is being made by its campaigners to obtain signatures from British parliamentarians criticising the Sri Lankan Government handling the present crisis in the island.
- February 20 Three unidentified dead bodies are found at an unspecified place in the Vavuniya district. The defence ministry blamed the deaths on the LTTE.
- Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickramanayake rejects the allegations that the Government had a pact with the LTTE.
- February 21 Two civilians and a Police officer are killed and 16 others, including ten civilians, four Police and two Army personnel, sustained injuries when the LTTE cadres detonated a claymore mine fixed to a motorcycle on the wayside of Ottamavadi town in the Batticaloa district targeting a Police cab.

- February 22 SLN destroys two LTTE boats off the Kalpitiya coast, killing nine Sea-Tigers in the process.
- The bullet-riddled bodies of three civilians are found at three different locations in the Vavuniya town.
- February 23 European cease-fire monitors said that nearly 4,000 people were killed in Sri Lanka over the past 15 months — compared to 130 deaths in the previous three years.
- Unidentified assailants shot dead a Tamil civilian at Koolamarathady in the Trincomalee district.
- Unidentified assailants shot dead a member of paramilitary 'Colonel' Karuna group, identified as Ravichandran Ashok, in the Kaluvanchikudy area of Batticaloa district.
- February 24 Sri Lankan troops captured three LTTE bases in the north-eastern region, forcing the outfit's cadres to flee into the jungles.
- February 25 Sri Lankan security forces reportedly captured four LTTE bases in the Peraru area of Trincomalee district forcing the Tigers to withdraw into the jungles in further north.
- February 26 Unidentified armed men shot dead two police constables, identified as Vickremasinghe and Seniveratne, at Muthalikkulam in Vavuniya district. However, police claimed that LTTE pistol group cadres were involved in the killing of the constables.
- February 27 SLN personnel sank two LTTE boats in the North off Pulmoddai coast and killed at least 16 LTTE cadres on February 27. Two SLN personnel were injured in the confrontation.
- Three LTTE cadres were killed in a counter-attack by anti-insurgency commandos in Mannar district.
- A civilian, identified as Naina Lebbe Casim, was found dead at Akkaraipattu in Amparai district with injuries on the body.
- Another civilian, identified as Selvarasa Sivanathan, was found dead on Thalavai-Punnaicholai road in the Batticaloa district.
- SLN patrol units foiled an LTTE attempt to smuggle a cache of arms and explosives in the seas 185 nautical miles, off 'Dondra Point' at Matara.
- The Ambassador of Italy Pio Miriani and the USA Ambassador Robert Blake were injured in the LTTE's mortar firing, targeting an air movement carrying Disaster Management Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe along with few foreign diplomats in Batticaloa. Defence sources said that the mortars were launched as the two helicopters landed at the Webber stadium in the Batticaloa town. Sources further said that Minister suffered no injuries in the attack.

- February 28 SLN blew up an unidentified arms-smuggling ship and killed about 12 of its crew off southern Sri Lanka.
- Anti-insurgency commandos in Mannar district killed three LTTE cadres in a counter-attack.
- Two civilians were shot dead by unidentified armed men at Ilupakadaivai in Thiriyai of Trincomalee district.
- March 1 STF troops, after intercepting a movement of LTTE cadres in the general area of Kallady in Batticaloa district, opened fire and killed three of them.
- Dead bodies of two civilians, identified as Mohamad Mansil and Mohamad Ikram, were recovered from the general area of Illuppukulam in Uppuweli area of Trincomalee district.
- March 2 Unidentified persons shot dead two civilians, identified as Abdul Razak and Priyantha, at Salaipaiaru in the Trincomalee district.
- Two SLA soldiers were killed when unidentified persons threw a grenade on a SLA patrol unit at Namalwatte in the Morawewa division in the Trincomalee district.
- March 3 Sri Lankan police found five bodies in a marsh at Kandana near Colombo and suspect that they are victims in a renewed civil war with LTTE.
- Two civilians identified as Maduraiveeran Mahendran and Premajeevan Ranjan, were killed by unknown assailants in the Karupanjankulam area of Vavuniya district.
- March 4 Two SLA personnel and an officer of the intelligence unit were killed in a claymore mine attack targeting the vehicle carrying them, near Kothiyaladi between Maruthanamadam junction and Chunnakam in the Jaffna district.
- Unidentified armed men abducted two civilians, identified as Thambyaiyah Mohan and Kurukulasingam Srikumaran, from their house for interrogation and shot them dead subsequently at Kedayankerny in Karuvakerny area of the Batticaloa district.
- Two civilians were shot dead by unidentified gunmen in the Batticaloa district.
- LTTE cadres shot dead two deserters from their ranks identified as T. Mohan and K. Srikumaran after storming their residence at Kodayankerni junction in Valachchenai in the Batticaloa district.
- March 5 Three soldiers, identified as, Sergeant K.G. Priyantha Pathirana, Lance Corporal W.M. Anura Shantha and K.M. Sumeda Dammika were killed in the Jaffna district, when troops traded fire with rebels of the LTTE.

- March 6 Police recovered charred remains of five security personnel in Nachchaduwa near Thirappane in the Anuradhapura district.
- March 7 Three persons were killed on the spot and two others were injured when a parcel floating in the Uma Oya (river) in Uva-Paranagama area of Badulla district. On seeing the mystery parcel floating in the river, the victims had recovered the parcel, and attempted to open it when it exploded.
- Sri Lanka's Human Rights Commission said that nearly 100 abductions and disappearances took place in the country in the past two months of 2007. The majority of these abductions have taken place in Colombo, Batticaloa and Jaffna. More than thousand cases of abductions were reported in 2006. Sri Lanka Government said that it suspects some state security service personnel have been involved in abductions and murders that have mushroomed amid renewed civil war.
- The LTTE warned civilians not to board any Sri Lankan vessels traveling between Trincomalee and Jaffna as it has decided to attack such vessels. It also accused the armed forces of using civilian vessels to transport troops and military hardware.
- Sri Lanka Parliament agreed to extend the Emergency Regulations by one month.
- March 8 During confrontations between SFs and LTTE cadres, ten outfit cadres were reported killed and seventeen others sustained injuries in the Thoppigala region of Batticaloa district.
- The activities of the LTTE are no longer confined to Sri Lanka as the IISS publication Military Balance 2007 has pointed out there are now emerging commercial links between the LTTE and the al-Qaeda movement, said Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama in London.
- An international arms dealer from Indonesia pleaded guilty in federal court to conspiring to export guns, surface-to-air missiles and other military hardware to LTTE.
- UNICEF said as at January 2007 they have recorded 6,241 child abductions in the North and East provinces and blamed the LTTE for having recruited 6,006 of them for war. The UNICEF also blamed the breakaway Karuna group for abducting 235 out of the recorded 6,241. The UN agency said 1,879 children are still being held by both groups out of which 1,710 are still being kept by the LTTE while the Karuna group uses 169 of them.
- March 9 Anti-insurgency commandos overran a LTTE base in the Ampara district, killing at least 20 outfit cadres. Three commandos were killed and 12 others sustained injuries during the operation.

Eight persons, including two senior Army officers, two soldiers, warden for Wilpattu National Park, three wildlife rangers were ambushed and killed by LTTE cadres in the Anuradhapura district.

SFs completed a 48-hour humanitarian operation capturing four major LTTE bases in Peraru jungles North of Trincomalee. Later, Brigadier Samarasinghe said, "... We believe that there are no more Tiger bases in the North of Trincomalee and the area is now free of LTTE threats..."

The Sri Lanka Government accused the LTTE and its allies of involvement in abductions and killings across the island to defame the Government. The charge came in the wake of confirmation by the Police that the five persons killed in execution style and dumped in a village close to Colombo three days ago were members of the Karuna faction.

Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa called for increased support from the United States to prevent the LTTE from obtaining fresh consignments of armaments. Outlining the Government's two-track strategy to defeat the LTTE, he emphasised the need to prevent the outfit from replenishing their depleted arsenal. He reiterated his determination to militarily defeat the LTTE.

March 10 Troops retaliated when LTTE cadres opened fire towards them in the Nagar Kovil area of Jaffna district and killed four outfit cadres.

During a confrontation at Periyathampanai in the Vavuniya district, troops killed three LTTE terrorists and injured a few more.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa assured that the ruling Sri Lanka Freedom Party's proposals to find a political solution to the country's ethnic problem will be submitted to the All Party Representative Committee by March 14.

March 11 During an encounter between soldiers on route clearing duties and LTTE cadres at Unnichchi, area between Chenkalady and Mahaoya in the Batticaloa district troops killed nearly twenty LTTE cadres and injured a large number of them.

Troops launched an attack on a LTTE movement in the Muhamalai area of Jaffna district and killed three outfit cadres and injured many others during the attack.

STF personnel on foot patrol along Kalmunai - Batticaloa road in the Pandiruppu area of Ampara district were caught in an LTTE claymore explosion. Two STF personnel were killed and another sustained injuries in the explosion.

The leader of the LTTE breakaway faction Vinayagamurthy Muralitharan alias Karuna, also known as 'Colonel' Karuna, has accepted that he has areas under his control. He claimed that his group is "involved in civil administration" in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka.

According to ICRC, nearly 40,000 civilians have left LTTE-controlled areas in eastern Sri Lanka over the last three days.

March 12 The Government SCOPP said that the latest LTTE threat to attack vessels carrying civilians proves outfit's complete disregard for human life and the fundamental rights of the Tamil people by restricting their movements. "This warning is a yet another blow to the CFA, and a direct act of aggression against the sovereignty of the nation," the SCOPP said in a statement with reference to the outfit's earlier warning that the civilians travelling by boats between the North and East would become a legitimate military target if they were suspected of carrying Sri Lankan troops.

March 13 Two top level LTTE intelligence wing cadres, identified as Vendran and Illakkian, were among eleven outfit cadres killed during SLAF air strikes in the Thoppigala area of Batticaloa district.

President Mahinda Rajapakse reiterated his commitment to a negotiated political settlement for the present conflict, saying the Government had to resort to military offensives after the LTTE rejected all political proposals

Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama who met with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon at the UN Headquarters in New York called on the international community including the UN to support Sri Lanka's efforts to deal with LTTE as a terrorist organization and assist in curbing LTTE fund raising and arms procurement.

March 14 Human rights group Amnesty International cited unidentified individuals as saying that armed men, some in the uniforms of a breakaway Tamil Tiger rebel faction, have been carrying out various activities in refugee camps, including abducting young people. Purna Sen, Amnesty's Asia Pacific Director, was referring to the LTTE breakaway faction led by 'Colonel' Karuna. However, a spokesman for the Karuna group acknowledged that its members were helping authorities in camps where there are shortages of workers, but denied that they were involved in abductions. Meanwhile, denying the Amnesty report, Defense Ministry spokesman Samarasinghe said that no armed personnel other than the government-commanded security forces are allowed in the refugee camps and added, "This is absolute untrue."

Assuring Britain's support in achieving peace in Sri Lanka, British Prime Minister Tony Blair has said that the only realistic way to solve Sri Lanka's national question is to fully implement the Cease Fire Agreement. Speaking at British Parliament, he said "We have said to them (Sri Lanka) that we will do all we can to help but my right honourable friend is right to say that the only realistic way to get a solution is to come back to the 2002 agreement and make sure that it is implemented." He was responding to question raised by Keith Vaz, Labour MP representing Leicester East constituency on 'tragic situation unfolding in Sri Lanka'.

- March 16 Counter fire launched by SFs in response to LTTE sporadic mortar and artillery fire at the Omanthai defence line in the Vavuniya district neutralized their fire and forced them to withdraw towards Mullikulam and areas north of Kirisudan. Intelligence reports confirmed that LTTE has lost a number of their cadres and that seven dead bodies of the outfit cadres were seen lying ahead of the FDL. Five soldiers were also killed and twelve others sustained injuries in the incident.
- FDLs of SFs at Nagarkovil and Muhamale in the Jaffna district were attacked by LTTE cadres, reports SLA. These sporadic artillery and mortar fire killed one soldier and injured another on duty at Muhamale FDL.
- Government urged the U.S. to extend a crackdown on the LTTE's overseas groups that help raise funds for the outfit. Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama said Sri Lanka had sought "greater vigilance and greater action by the U.S. law enforcement authorities in terms of the ones who are responsible for collection of funds for the LTTE, adding, "U.S. authorities in Boston and Baltimore had helped halt fund-raising by LTTE "front groups" who funneled cash to rebels fighting the government under guise of charities."
- March 17 Three LTTE cadres were killed in an encounter in the Kanthirathan – Killali area of Jaffna.
- The LTTE strongly denied two sacked Government ministers' claim that there was a secret deal between the outfit and President Mahinda Rajapaksa. "This is all false propaganda. This is how politicians in the south play political games. When they have differences among themselves, they bring the LTTE into the picture," a local newspaper quoted LTTE spokesperson Rasiah Ilanthiriyana as saying. He said they had not made any deal with any party in the south other than the 2002 CFA. Earlier, Ministers Mangala Samaraweera and Sripathi Sooriyachchi, urged that the alleged deal with the LTTE be investigated as soon as possible.
- March 18 Troops opened fire after observing a gathering of LTTE cadres in the Peraru area of Trincomalee district, killing two outfit's cadres and injuring few others. One soldier was also killed in the incident.
- Troops killed two LTTE cadres in the Sempimalai area of Trincomalee district. One soldier, identified as Private C.T. Chandrasekara, was killed and another sustained injuries during the exchange of fire.
- LTTE cadres ambushed a group of soldiers killing two of them and wounding 12 others in the Batticaloa district.
- One suspected LTTE vessel that was carrying a consignment of armaments to their organization across the seas about 195 nautical miles away from Arugam Bay in the Ampara district was destroyed by the naval troops on duty. More details about the

contents in the vessel and the fate of the LTTE men aboard the vessel are awaited.

The LTTE blamed that SFs were attacking territory held by them and the outfit cadres were retaliating in kind, reported AFP. "Sporadic artillery exchange is reported at Mannar, Vavuniya, Manaluru and along the northern forward defence line of Vanni," LTTE spokesman Rasiah Ilanthiriyar said in a statement.

Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama called on the US Government to prevent the LTTE from engaging in fund-raising activities through numerous front organisations in the US.

The Sri Lankan Government has said the on-going action against the LTTE is only a defensive military operation. "The defensive military operation by the Government of Sri Lanka was started only after the LTTE's abortive attempt to kill the command of the Lankan Army last year," said the Sri Lankan Deputy High Commission in India in a communique. He added that from the time the CFA in February 2002, the outfit had violated it more than 3,800 times compared to 346 times by the Lankan security forces.

March 19

STF personnel killed four LTTE cadres in the Vellaveli area of Batticaloa district.

Troops on routine patrol confronted a group of LTTE cadres in the Periyathampanai area of the Vavuniya district and killed three outfit cadres.

Four LTTE boats that entered the restricted sea off Kilaly in the Jaffna district were completely destroyed by the Army using artillery fire. Entry of the four boats to the restricted sea from the direction of Kalmunai Point and Sangupitty Jetty was confirmed before artillery was fired destroying all four boats.

The LTTE have stolen Norwegian passports and sold them to the al-Qaeda organisation to earn money, said Norwegians Against Terrorism Organisation chief spokesman Falk Rovik. "The LTTE has sold these passports to the highest bidders including an Algerian al-Qaeda group," Rovik said.

University Teachers for Human Rights, Jaffna, an independent union of Tamil academics, in their latest bulletin has accused the LTTE of continued conscription of children, as young as six years and even the disabled.

Two cadres of the LTTE women's front including its leader Anayarkanny and Seevaratnam Ambihai were detained by the British Police inside the premises of House Of Commons at the British Parliament in London for taking pictures of participants in a Parliamentary seminar on the theme 'A way forward to peace and reconciliation in Sri Lanka' organised by the Campaign for Peace and Unity in Sri Lanka.

- March 20 Four LTTE cadres were killed in a retaliatory fire by troops in the Chamalankulam area of Vavuniya district.
- March 21 More than 30 LTTE cadres are believed to be dead and four SFs were killed, when a fierce battle erupted between troops and the outfit cadres in the Batticaloa district, said Military officials. The outfit cadres continued to fire artillery and mortars at the Kumburumalai, Siththandi, Black Bridge, Mavedivembu and Chenkaladi Army camps, while at the same time a group of 300 outfit cadres attempted to infiltrate the camps in small groups. The indiscriminate shelling injured many civilians and severely damaged their houses. SFs retaliated with mortar and small arms fire, which killed more than 30 outfit cadres and injured many others. During the mortar attack four soldiers were killed and 14 were injured.
- SFs killed five LTTE cadres who attempted to infiltrate the Muhamalai Forward Defence Line in the Jaffna district.
- Sri Lanka claimed that India has agreed with it in 'principle to work out a joint mechanism' to safeguard the interests of the fisher folk community in the Pak Straits/Bay as well as tackle 'activities related to terrorism'.
- Highly placed Government sources told The Hindu that India has received a proposal from Sri Lanka for "coordinated patrolling" of their maritime waters, but no decision has been taken on the issue. Making a clear distinction between "coordinated patrolling" and "joint patrolling," the sources stated that the proposal was only for patrolling that would be coordinated in advance. There was no proposal for the two navies to patrol the seas together, they added.
- The LTTE is reported to be carrying out a very effective extortion campaign within Colombo targeting the relatives of the expatriate Tamils.
- March 22 Thirteen LTTE cadres were killed in three separate confrontations with the security forces in the Northern Province, the defence ministry said. Troops observed two motorcycles moving near the forward defence lines at Omanthai in the Vavuniya district and opened fire on them, killing four outfit cadres. Another seven cadres who arrived at the scene on a tractor were also shot dead by troops. In the Jaffna district, troops shot dead two LTTE cadres who tried to break into the Military line at Nagarkovil.
- Two businessmen were shot dead by the LTTE cadres in the Vavuniya district for failing to pay ransom to the outfit, defence sources said. "It is believed that the victims have already paid around Rs.375, 000, a couple of months ago to the LTTE extortionists," the sources added.
- LTTE gang in Paris has ransacked a residential apartment and removed scores of recorded video, audio cassettes and DVDs from the apartment of Luxmy, the editor of a Tamil literary journal and a

leading Tamil feminist. She is also an organizer of the literary meetings, Ilakkiya Chanthippus and seminars in Europe.

March 23

At least twenty LTTE cadres and nine soldiers were killed in a clash between SFs and outfit cadres in the Mannar district near Vavuniya border. The battle marked the opening of a new front in escalating hostilities between soldiers and the outfit cadres in the Northwest, as fighting had previously been concentrated in Northern and Eastern districts.

SFs and LTTE cadres clashed in the Batticaloa district, after which troops recovered the dead bodies of six outfit cadres.

March 24

Two persons were killed when a suspected LTTE suicide bomber blew himself up at a military check point in Jaffna. The man was killed along with the soldier who tried to search him near a Hindu temple.

LTTE cadres from Thoppigala jungles opened indiscriminate fire towards populated Kommanthurai and Chenkalady villages in the Batticaloa district, killing a 6-year-old girl and injuring two other civilians.

LTTE cadres fired mortars on troops in the Parayanakulam area of Mannar district, killing one soldier and injuring three others.

Soldiers on sentry duties along the Muhamalai FDL in Jaffna district killed one LTTE cadre who was attempted to infiltrate the FDL.

Two LTTE cadres surrendered to the Army detachment in the Unnichchiya area in the Batticaloa district.

March 25

Three Tamil civilians, identified as Soosaithaas Thanaraaj, Arulraaj Jeyantharopan and Yoakalingkam Chaarangkan, were shot dead by suspected LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres near the Hatton National Bank in Jaffna town, the military said. The men were in a tea boutique when two suspected LTTE cadres on a motorcycle fired at them.

A prominent social worker and a People Alliance organizer, Kandapudi Subharathnam, was shot dead by suspected LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres opposite his residence at Eruvil in the Batticaloa Town.

The LTTE supplied forged passports to Ramzi Yousef who bombed the World Trade Center, counter terrorism expert Aaron Mannes said. He was commenting on the report about the outfit stealing Norwegian passports and selling them to Al Qaeda affiliates in the Daily News of March 20. Mannes in his commentary, published in the Counterterrorism Blog quoting Rohan Gunaratne, said the Sri Lankan terrorist group not only supplied forged passports to Yousef, it also smuggled weapons from Pakistan's militants to their counterparts in Philippines.

Government has conceded that the number of refugees in the East crossed 1.3 lakh. The Government has a set a deadline of March 31

for re-settlement of the people displaced from Vaharai. Given the volatile situation, it might be an ambitious target.

March 26 The LTTE carried out their first ever air attack on the main Sri Lankan Air Force base in Katunayake, killing three air force personnel and injuring another seventeen at 12:45 am on, the military said. A light wing aircraft manned by the outfit dropped two bombs near the engineering section of the base. There were no damages to the fighter jets. The Bandaranaike International Airport was closed temporarily as a precaution and few commercial flights were diverted to destinations in India.

The Government classified the LTTE as the only terror organisation equipped with air capabilities in the world adding that it has posed threats not only to Sri Lanka but also to the entire region. Addressing the media in the aftermath of the first air attack by the LTTE on Sri Lanka Air Force Katunayake, Highways Minister Jeyaraj Fernandopulle said that no other terror organisation in the world is equipped with air capabilities.

March 27 The LTTE carried out a suicide attack targeting the Army main base at Chenkalady in the Batticaloa district against. Three members of the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP), identified as Carthic, Chandru and Vicky, a 12-year-old boy Navarathnam two security force (SF) personnel were killed in the explosion. Five civilians, two Army soldiers and two Policemen were injured. [37D]

B) SATP (SOUTH ASIA TERRORISM PORTAL) SRI LANKA TIMELINE FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2006)

The SATP (South Asia Terrorism Portal) Sri Lanka timeline reproduced below covers the period January – December 2006).

<http://www.satp.org/satporqtp/countries/shrilanka/timeline/2006.htm> [37c]

All the SATP timelines for the years 2000-2005 and (less in detail) the period 1931-1999 can be accessed from the following link:

<http://www.satp.org/satporqtp/countries/shrilanka/timeline/index.html> [37i]

January 2 Five people are killed and two others sustain injuries in a bomb blast in Trincomalee.

January 3 Vavuniya West Area political head of the LTTE, 'Major' Jeyanthan, and a civilian, Vinotharan Thevarasa, are killed in a claymore mine explosion in the LTTE-controlled area of Valaiyankattu in Mannar town.

Unidentified assailants shot dead a Hindu priest, Selvathamby Vishagaratnam, in the Kiran area of Batticaloa district.

A woman, identified as Sepamalai Victoria, is killed and her husband sustained injuries in an attack by unidentified assailants in the Sethukkuda area of Batticaloa district.

- A civilian, Nadaraja Balendran, is shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Wellawatte area of Colombo district.
- January 5 A civilian, Kunam Thanus, is killed and three others sustain injuries when unidentified assailants lobbed a grenade and subsequently opened fire in the Valaichenai area of Batticaloa district.
- Unidentified assailants abduct a civilian, Thabendran Mathan, and subsequently stab him to death in the Vadamaradchy area of Jaffna district.
- A LTTE cadre, Rajasanthram alias Wannan, is killed in retaliatory fire by the security forces (SFs) when he tried to lob two hand grenades at them, in the Kiran area of Batticaloa district.
- January 7 15 Sri Lankan Navy personnel are killed in a suspected suicide attack by the LTTE on a navy gunboat outside the Trincomalee naval harbor in Trincomalee district.
- A senior PLOTE member, identified as Kennedy, is shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Jaffna district.
- January 8 SFs kill a LTTE cadre in retaliatory fire in the Sittandy area of Batticaloa district.
- A civilian, identified as Sinnarasa Rasaiah, is shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Point Pedro area of Jaffna district.
- January 9 A soldier and two LTTE cadres were killed following a gun-battle between the LTTE and a military patrol in Muttur near Trincomalee.
- President Mahinda Rajapakse, during a meeting with Ambassadors of the Co-chairs of the international donors said that his Government "will continue to act with restraint" but would take "all necessary measures" to check "further terrorist attacks."
- January 10 Security forces recover four claymore mines, planted by the LTTE, in Mannar and Batticaloa.
- US Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Jeffrey Lunstead, at a meeting with the American Chamber of Commerce warned the LTTE against re-igniting a civil war.
- January 11 LTTE 'Pistol Group' cadres abducted a 31-year old woman, Pavalarani Kanapathipillai, from her house in Mattuvil and later shot her dead in the Jaffna area.
- Addressing villagers in Batticaloa at a rural self-defence training and drill programme, the LTTE's 'special commander for Ampara-Batticaloa', Bhanu, warned that its Air Force is ready to launch attacks on the Sri Lanka Government's armed forces if war breaks out.

- January 12 Nine Sri Lankan Navy personnel were killed and eight injured in a suspected LTTE triggered claymore mine blast in Chettikulam on the Mannar-Medawachchiya road.
- Issuing a statement on January 12, the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) condemned the latest attack on Navy personnel in Chettikulam and found LTTE's explanation unacceptable.
- January 13 A powerful bomb blast damaged a car belonging to the SLMM in Batticaloa town.
- January 15 Three women relatives of a LTTE cadre were shot dead by unidentified assailants in Manipay, close to the Manipay Hindu College in Jaffna district.
- Suspected terrorists shot dead a former EPDP member, Navaratnarajah Jegatheeswaran, near Nelliady-Kodikamam road in Jaffna.
- January 16 A Sri Lankan Army soldier was killed when suspected LTTE cadres lobbed a grenade at a sentry located in the premises of Mannar General Hospital, in Mannar district.
- January 17 Suspected LTTE cadres trigger a claymore mine explosion on the Nilaveli-Trincomalee road, injuring 12 sailors travelling by bus to Trincomalee. Two unidentified civilians are killed and another injured in the crossfire, which ensued after the blast, when the LTTE cadres opened fire at the bus and retaliated by naval troops.
- One soldier is killed and another one injured when the LTTE detonated a claymore mine at Sarasalai in the Jaffna district.
- Another batch of 10 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees from Selvanayakapuram in Talaimannar district arrives at Rameswaram in the Indian State of Tamil Nadu raising their total number to 48.
- The SLMM decides to temporarily suspend their monitoring activities in Trincomalee due to the recent escalation of violence in the district.
- January 18 The SLMM will continue operational activities in the seas off Trincomalee despite its earlier decision to suspend operations in the entire district.
- Norwegian Ambassador, Hans Brattskar, after a meeting with the LTTE political head, S.P. Thamilselvam, said, "Tamil Tigers will [not] go to war and [we are] optimistic that the LTTE wants to come to the negotiation table."
- January 19 Three police personnel and a civilian are killed in a suspected LTTE triggered claymore mine blast in the Thandavanveli area of Batticaloa district. Seven army personnel, 13 police personnel and three civilians are injured in the blast.

- In another claymore mine blast along the Trincomalee-Kandy Road, two Navy personnel, one Police constable and 16 civilians are injured.
- January 21 27 LTTE cadres are killed in an explosion that occurred in the Adampan area of Mannar district.
- The police shot dead two suspected LTTE cadres who attempted to attack them with a grenade at Chettikulam.
- A home guard and a civilian are shot dead in Seruwila by unidentified gunmen.
- January 22 A 21-year-old youth is shot dead by unidentified assailants, suspected to be from the 'Colonel' Karuna group, near the Mamangam Kovil in Batticaloa.
- President Mahinda Rajapakse calls for immediate talks with the LTTE to halt the increasing violence and warns that the wish for peace is not a sign that the Government was unable to counter the LTTE.
- Geneva is likely to emerge as a compromise venue for the first round of talks between the Government and LTTE.
- January 23 Suspected LTTE cadres attack an army patrol near the Batticaloa town, detonating a claymore mine, killing three soldiers and wounding two others.
- The Intelligence Division of Fort Police arrests a woman, suspected to be a member of the LTTE suicide bomb squad, near the Fort Railway Station in Colombo.
- U.S. Under-Secretary of State Nicholas Burns describes the LTTE as a "reprehensive terrorist group," which was "keeping the country on the edge of war" and said while the Tamils had "legitimate grievances," the LTTE bore the "full responsibility" to either choose peace or to continue with its "repugnant policies of the past decade and a half."
- January 24 A journalist, identified as S. Rajan, attached to a Tamil language newspaper Sudar Oli, is shot dead by an unidentified gunman at Trincomalee.
- January 25 The Government of Sri Lanka and LTTE will meet in Switzerland for talks on implementing their strained 2002 truce, said Norwegian Minister for International Development and key facilitator, Erik Solheim.
- LTTE leader, Anton Balasingham, assures that outfit will not attack the army.
- January 26 At least 10 LTTE cadres are killed and an unspecified number are injured when 'Colonel' Karuna faction cadres attacked a vehicle carrying LTTE cadres in the Vadamunai area of Batticaloa district.

- The attack followed the killing of a senior LTTE cadre, identified as 'Major' Kavilan, in the same area.
- Switzerland announces that it is ready to host the forthcoming peace talks between the Sri Lankan Government and LTTE in February 2006.
- 77 SF personnel are killed by the LTTE either by firing at them or in explosions after December 1, 2005 to-date, informs a statement of the Ministry of Defence.
- January 28 A civilian, identified as Thambiah Jeyarajah, is shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Lingapuram village of Trincomalee district.
- LTTE accuses the Government forces of harassing civilians despite this week's breakthrough in their stalled peace process.
- January 29 'Colonel' Karuna has welcomed the proposed cease-fire talks to be held in Geneva and said his group would unilaterally stop all "self-defence military campaigns" to give an opportunity to President Mahinda Rajapakse to continue with his peace effort.
- SLMM spokesperson, Helen Olafsdottir, in an interview with an Indian magazine states that ceasefire monitors have no evidence that the Sri Lanka Army is supporting the LTTE's breakaway faction led by 'Colonel' Karuna.
- January 30 Five TRO members are abducted from the Welikanda check-point area of Polunnaruwa district.
- January 31 The LTTE threatens that they will pull out of the upcoming peace talks in Switzerland unless the Government takes greater steps to protect Tamils against abductions.
- Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse states that representatives from the Muslim community will be included in the future peace talks.
- February 2 The Sri Lankan Government announces that senior Minister, Nimal Siripala de Silva, would head the Government team at the forthcoming peace talks with the LTTE, led by Anton Balasingham.
- February 3 The February 3-meeting between chiefs of Sri Lanka's International Donors and the LTTE in Kilinochchi is cancelled after the donors decided "it was not proper for the chiefs of the organizations to have talks with leadership of the Wanni Tiger organization until the forthcoming discussions in Geneva are over."
- February 5 LTTE rejects the Government plans for peace talks in Geneva on February 15 because of reported abductions of pro-LTTE aid workers, and demanded talks in late February instead.
- February 6 Peace facilitator Norway announces that the Government and LTTE will meet in Geneva on February 22 and 23 for a dialogue.

- February 7 The LTTE confirms its participation in peace talks scheduled to be held in Geneva on February 22-23.
- The Tamileela Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (TMVP), the LTTE breakaway-faction led by 'Colonel' Karuna, warns that it would be forced to withdraw from its unilateral cease-fire against the LTTE.
- February 8 The LTTE says that it is not ready to talk to the Sri Lankan Government if another party - a Muslim delegation - also sits at the negotiation table, but adds that a representative from the Muslim community could join the talks as a member of the Government peace delegation or as a representative of the Tamil-speaking people in the Northeast. The outfit also ruled out the possibility of any "modifications" to the CFA as well as discussions on a political solution to the conflict at the talks to be held on February 22 and 23 in Geneva.
- February 9 The Sri Lanka Information Minister, Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, reveals that there had been 5,464 cases of cease-fire violations committed by the LTTE from February 22, 2002 to February 4, 2006 civilians. The number of extortion cases reported within this period is 106.
- The Sri Lanka Government appoints a Steering Committee on Peace Building (SCPB), headed by Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera. The SCPB will consist of six Cabinet Ministers, a Deputy Minister, Members of Parliament, alliance partners of the Government, six Permanent Secretaries and senior officials of the Foreign Ministry and the Peace Secretariat.
- February 10 The Sri Lanka Muslim Congress leader, Rauf Hakeem, stated that there should be a separate Muslim delegation at the peace talks as per the Oslo agreement and also condemned the LTTE stand that no separate Muslim representation should take part in the talks.
- February 11 One of four suspected LTTE Sea Tigers aboard on a speeding trawler blew himself up in mid-sea off Talaimannar in the Mannar district after being intercepted by SLN personnel, killing four sea Tigers on board and injuring a SLN personnel, who succumbed to his injuries later. SF personnel recovered a LTTE travel document during a search operation in the area following the explosion.
- February 13 Military spokesperson, Brigadier S.A.P.P. Samarasinghe, informs that a combined Police and Army search operation recently has confirmed that no paramilitary groups were operating in areas under Government control.
- February 14 Sri Lanka's Parliament extends the state of emergency that gives wide-ranging powers to the armed forces, for one month. It was imposed on August 13, 2005.
- The UNICEF has called on the LTTE to cease the recruitment of children for military purposes and to release all children within its

ranks and has recorded 5,368 cases of reported child recruitment in Sri Lanka since January 2002.

- February 16 The LTTE says that the forthcoming talks in Geneva would decide “if there is peace or war.” Thamilselvam, political wing leader of the outfit, told Reuters that the future was “totally dependent on the outcome of this meeting. He added, “Any solution to the Tamil national problem should involve the concept of a Tamil homeland, nationhood and the right of self-determination and provide the people with a dignified solution.”
- February 17 Government releases four ‘naval wing’ cadres of the LTTE, also known as ‘Sea Tigers’, who were arrested in October 2005 for videotaping the Trincomalee Harbour, as a goodwill gesture ahead of Geneva talks. Soon after the release of four LTTE cadres, the outfit’s spokesperson, Daya Master, announced that they would release one of the two Police personnel in their custody since mid-2005 for entering uncleared areas (areas not under the Government control) in pursuit of an absconding British pedophile.
- February 19 President Mahinda Rajapakse states during an all-party meeting that the Government has decided to approach the Geneva peace talks on a multi-party basis, though the two main parties that will participate in the discussions are the Government and LTTE. He added that all earlier discussions were conducted as bi-party affairs and all of them were unsuccessful and that’s why a new approach for the talks was necessary.
- The political wing leader of the LTTE, S.P Thamilselvan, demands that the Government hand over cadres of breakaway faction led by ‘Colonel’ Karuna to the outfit.
- February 20 The LTTE threatens to kill Rajan Sivarajah, leader of the Liberal Democratic Tamils in Norway, unless he stops his “anti-LTTE activities immediately.” Rajan is one of the two Tamil leaders who addressed the first Conference of the World Alliance for Peace in Sri Lanka held in Oslo in 2004.
- ‘Colonel’ Karuna says that his forces would only disarm if the main group does. He said, “If Sri Lanka forces disarm all the armed groups and us ... it will only give legitimacy for the LTTE to extend its writ to kill us... Any hand over of arms must be part of (a) conflict resolution process at a stage when normalcy and trust is established.”
- February 21 The LTTE rules out the possibility of discussing an expansion in the mandate of the SLMM at the Geneva talks to be held on February 22-23.
- The Norwegian Government appoints Brigadier Henricsson, a Swede, as chief of the SLMM with effect from April 1, 2006 succeeding Hagrup Haukland, who is a Norwegian.
- Sidonia Gabriel, Programme Officer, Human Security and Peace Policy of the Swiss Foreign Ministry, tells Daily News that the Swiss

- Government would not allow the LTTE to carry out fundraising campaigns in the country.
- February 22 The Sri Lanka Government and LTTE commenced their two-day direct talks on implementation issues of the four-year old cease-fire agreement CFA in Geneva.
- Six unidentified assailants shot dead a LTTE 'National Auxiliary Force' cadre, identified as Shanthakumar Narayanapillai, in the Pulipaynthakal area of Batticaloa district. The 'Colonel' Karuna faction reportedly claimed responsibility for the killing.
- A former cadre of the LTTE, Navarasan, is shot dead in the Valaichenai area of the same district by suspected members of a paramilitary group.
- A Muslim supporter of the Sri Lanka's main opposition United National Party, Mohamathu Muhaideen Jarool, is shot dead, allegedly by a Muslim armed group at Meerakerny in the Eravur area of Batticaloa district.
- February 23 Peace talks between the Government and LTTE concludes in Geneva with both sides agreeing to meet again on April 19-21 at the same venue for another round. The Joint Statement at the end of the meeting said, "The LTTE is committed to taking all necessary measures to ensure that there will be no acts of violence against the Security Forces and the Police... The Government of Sri Lanka is also committed to take all necessary measures in accordance with the cease-fire agreement (CFA) to ensure that no armed group other than Government security forces will carry arms."
- February 26 Government sources say that the CFA of 2002 has been "amended" at the talks held in Geneva on February 22 and 23. Nimal Sripala de Silva, Government chief negotiator, told a media briefing in Colombo that the "new obligations" mentioned in the 'Geneva Agreement' of February 23 could be "construed as amendments to the CFA."
- The LTTE asks the Government to implement the Geneva agreement within two months and expressed its intention to talk to the Muslims and discuss the issue of separate Muslim representation in future rounds of talks and the Muslim concerns in the multi-ethnic eastern province.
- 'Colonel' Karuna, leader of the LTTE breakaway faction, vows to resist any attempt by the Government to disarm his group and threatened to end a unilateral cease-fire.
- February 27 Intelligence sources have stated that a large-scale LTTE war drill was in progress in the Kanjikudichcharu area of Ampara district, almost immediately after the talks between the Government and LTTE concluded in Geneva.

- The LTTE accuses Government of not honoring commitments given at the Geneva talks by failing to crack down on an armed member of a rival Tamil group in the north.
- Anton Balasingham, chief negotiator of the LTTE, rejects the Government's claim that the joint statement at the end of the Geneva talks amounted to an amendment to the original CFA.
- March 1 LTTE releases 20 cadres who had lied about their ages in order to join the insurgency.
- President Mahinda Rajapakse says that the future discussions with the LTTE would be held with 'transparency.'
- March 3 The LTTE delegation which took part in the Geneva talks with the Government will meet Norway's Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre in Oslo to discuss the outcome of the talks on the implementation of the CFA.
- March 4 The LTTE accuses the army of killing two of their cadres in an attack, the first significant incident of violence since talks in February, but the military denies involvement.
- March 5 Unidentified assailants shot dead a former soldier, identified as Mohamed Navas, in the Valaichenai area of Batticaloa district.
- Presidential Advisor, Nivard Ajith Cabraal, said that the next round of peace talks between the Government and LTTE, to be held at Geneva in April 2006, will focus on humanitarian issues to provide relief to the people in the Northeast before attention is focused on issues such as power-sharing.
- March 6 A Muslim businessman, identified as M. Jawfar, is shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Eravur area of Batticaloa district.
- President Mahinda Rajapakse describes the Geneva talks as a "victory for the entire nation," and promises to continue with his peace efforts despite opposition from his unitary and hard-line electoral allies. He describes the current situation as an opportune moment to end the separatist conflict.
- The LTTE chief negotiator, Anton Balasingham, describes the Geneva talks as a "victory" for the LTTE.
- March 7 Sri Lanka clears more than half of the country's estimated one-million land mines, planted during two decades of civil war, and should be able to complete the task within two years.
- Customs officials at the Bandaranaike International Airport in Colombo detains some LTTE delegates, including its Peace Secretariat head Pulidevan, who returned from Oslo, along with several catalogues containing weapons and number of powerful searchlights.

- The Marxist JVP states that the party does not like the double role of the Norwegian facilitator and said, "We should not continue to keep Norway as the facilitator."
- March 8 EPRLF General Secretary, T. Sritharan, demands that LTTE's chief negotiator, Anton Balasingham, should be charged for glorifying suicide bombers and issuing death threats from London.
- March 9 Unidentified assailants shot dead a civilian, identified as Govinda Vijayarasa, in the Iruthayapuram area of Batticaloa district.
- Sri Lanka's chief Muslim party, the SLMC, accuses the LTTE of carrying out a 'sinister operation' to link Sri Lankan Muslims with extremist Muslim groups such as Al Qaeda and vehemently denies accusations by the outfit that a Muslim 'Jihadi' group was operating in the east of the country.
- March 10 UNICEF has informed that the LTTE still holds as many as 1,358 child soldiers, despite its pledges to free all underage combatants.
- The LTTE has reportedly promulgated a "Tamil Eelam Lands Act" covering land administration in the areas under its control in the northeast.
- March 11 Thuiyavan, a 'political leader' of the 'Colonel' Karuna faction, tells Lankadeepa that his group is not a gang but an organisation. He stated, "Nobody can disarm us. We have our own arms. They are not given by the government or anybody else. We will hand over our arms on the day Prabhakaran hands over his. Until then we will not put down arms." He also said that they fear the Sri Lanka Army and Police, but bear arms to protect themselves from the LTTE.
- March 13 Anton Balasingham, the LTTE's chief negotiator, said, "The Geneva peace talks will face grave danger if the Sri Lanka government refuses to disarm Tamil paramilitary organisations and continues allowing them to launch offensive military operations against our military positions in Batticaloa district." He adds that the LTTE leadership would be compelled to review its decision to participate in the next round of talks, scheduled to be held in Geneva on April 19, if Colombo fails to fulfill the pledges agreed in the joint statement issued after the first session of talks in Geneva.
- March 15 A Danish Social Democrat member of the Herning City Council, Arul Thilainadarasa, is expelled from his party after he admitted to his affiliation with the LTTE.
- According to the latest Human Rights Watch report, members of Canada's Tamil community are being aggressively pursued and extorted by the LTTE. The HRW report said Canada's Tamil population are pressurized to lend money, re-mortgage their homes or even skip meals to help fund the fight for a separate Tamil state.

- March 16 Norwegian peace facilitator, Erik Solheim, announces that he will step down from the facilitator's role and will appoint a new special envoy to Sri Lanka.
- The British Government agrees to curb illegal fund raising from the Sri Lankan Tamil Diaspora in the UK by the LTTE.
- March 20 Unidentified assailants shot dead a civilian in the capital city of Colombo.
- Unidentified assailants shot dead a civilian, identified as Siththiravel Selvam, in the Eravur area of Batticaloa district.
- March 21 Parliament extends the state of emergency, first imposed after the assassination of Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar on August 13, 2005, by one month.
- LTTE chief negotiator Anton Balasingham has said that the outfit will view any further attacks by 'military-backed renegades' as an act of war and may postpone peace talks unless the State disarms them. He further said, "Unless Rajapakse... accepts the demand of the Tamils for regional autonomy, there won't be any prospect for a political solution. If internal self-determination is rejected, then only we will invoke the right to external self-determination - that is the right to form an independent state."
- March 22 Unidentified assailants shot dead two civilians, identified as M. Gunaratnam and Jude, in the Kurumankadu area of Vavuniya district.
- The LTTE rejects 'new preconditions' for the re-entry of their political cadres into Government-controlled areas in the Northeast.
- March 23 A LTTE cadre is killed and two others are injured in an attack on the outfit's 'Forward Defense Line sentry point' located in the Poonagar area of Trincomalee district.
- Cabinet spokesperson, Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, stated that the LTTE has violated the cease-fire agreement on 31 occasions following the February 22-23 Geneva talks.
- The Karuna faction along with other Sinhala and Tamil groups form a new organization called the Alliance for Protection of Rights of the People in the East with the aim of separating the North and East Provinces, which have been merged since the signing of the India-Sri Lanka Accord in 1987.
- The UNICEF has recorded 1,280 cases of children being kidnapped by the outfit in 2003, falling to 675 in 2005, 155 in July only. In January 2006, it logged 29 cases and 14 were reported for February.
- March 24 Unidentified assailants shot dead a civilian, identified as Ponniah Murugesu, and injured another in the Sasthrikulankulam area of Vavuniya district.

- The LTTE Peace Secretariat announced that to honour the Government's condition made at the recently concluded Geneva talks, it has decided to stop the opening of all political offices in Government-controlled areas and added, "We hope the government too will respond [to] us positively."
- March 25 Six LTTE cadres and eight sailors are feared killed, when a boat heading to northern Sri Lanka and carrying LTTE cadres exploded off the northwest coast near a naval craft. However, the LTTE denied any involvement in the incident.
- March 26 The Government has laid down 28 conditions for the LTTE to re-open its political offices in Government-controlled areas, forcing the outfit to indefinitely postpone the idea.
- The SLMM condemning the attack on SLN vessel on March 25, in which eight Navy personnel and six LTTE cadres were reportedly killed, said in a statement that it is hard to rule out LTTE involvement in the incident.
- March 27 Unidentified assailants shot dead M.L. Dharmasiri, personal secretary of Sri Lanka's Minister of Agriculture, Environment, Irrigation and Mahaweli Development Maithripala Sirisena, in the Aranangawila area of Polannaruwa district
- A suspected LTTE front, Upsurging Peoples Brigade, claims responsibility for attacks on the military that killed dozens of SF personnel in December 2005 and January 2006 and also threatened that they would resume attacks.
- The SLN has reimposed fishing restrictions in the sea "around the Jaffna peninsula up to a distance of 12 nautical miles from land up to International Maritime Boundary between India and Sri Lanka" to stop the LTTE from smuggling weapons in the guise of fishermen.
- March 29 The Sri Lanka Government said that it would continue peace talks with the LTTE despite the deaths of eight sailors in a suicide blast on March 25.
- The LTTE chief negotiator, Anton Balasingham, assures the outfit's participation in the peace talks scheduled to be held at Geneva on April 19, if safe passage through Colombo is provided for their negotiating team.
- March 30 The LTTE chief negotiator, Anton Balasingham, assures the outfit's participation in the peace talks scheduled to be held at Geneva on April 19, if safe passage through Colombo is provided for their negotiating team.
- April 3 The 'Colonel' Karuna faction has vowed to kill the Eelam LTTE cadres unless they return thousands of homes and businesses appropriated from Muslims in the 1990s. The breakaway faction also stated that it would 'hunt down' three top LTTE leaders and hand them to the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission.

- April 4 UNICEF has stated that the number of people affected by landmines in Sri Lanka has fallen 75 percent since the signing of the 2002 cease-fire agreement between the Government and LTTE.
- April 5 A cadre of the LTTE, identified as 'lieutenant' Arulanantham, is allegedly killed in an artillery fire from a Sri Lankan Army position in the Mankerni area of Trincomalee district.
- The LTTE political wing leader, S.P. Thamilselvan, in his meeting with the Norwegian peace envoy, Jon Hanssen-Bauer, demands the Sri Lanka Government to disarm paramilitary groups before the next round of peace talks at Geneva, scheduled to be held on April 19-21.
- The spokesperson of the SLMM, Helen Olafsdottir, has stated that there is a marked increase in the recruitment of children in the East for combat training presumably by the LTTE.
- April 6 Norway's International Development Minister Erik Solheim after his meeting with the Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse informs that the President has assured safe passage to the LTTE delegation traveling to Switzerland for peace talks scheduled to be held on April 19-21 at Geneva.
- Police chief Chandra Fernando has said that he has not clearly identified who the paramilitary armed groups are, but said the Special Task Force is operating under Police as a paramilitary. He adds that Police would take legal action against those who carry unauthorised arms and also criminals.
- April 7 Unidentified assailants shot the President of Trincomalee District Tamil Peoples' Forum, Vanniasingham Vigneswaran, inside a bank premises in the town. The TNA was to nominate Vigneswaran as the national list Parliamentarian to fill the position left vacant by the slain TNA Member of Parliament, Joseph Pararajasingham, who was killed on December 25, 2005.
- Suspected LTTE cadres shot dead two Muslim home guards, identified as B.A. Bawa and V. Tahibu, in the Welikanda area of Pollonnaruwa district.
- April 8 Suspected cadres of the LTTE kill one soldier and injure other.
- Another soldier and civilian are wounded in a fragmentation mine attack on an army lorry in the north.
- April 10 Five soldiers and two civilians are killed and two other civilians are injured in a claymore mine explosion triggered by suspected cadres of the LTTE in the Mirusuvil area of Jaffna district.
- Canada formally proscribes the LTTE as a terrorist group.
- April 11 Ten Sri Lankan Navy sailors and a civilian driver are killed, while nine others injured when a Navy convoy was targeted by a LTTE triggered

- claymore mine explosion, at Thampalagamuwa on the Trincomalee-Habarana road.
- April 12 At least 13 persons are killed and 40 others injured in a series of bomb blasts and arson in the Trincomalee district. In one of the incidents LTTE cadres set off an improvised explosive device outside a vegetable market, killing at least five people. Six more persons are killed in the subsequent mob violence in which shops, including those belonging to Tamils and Muslims, are set ablaze. 38 persons are injured in the two incidents.
- April 13 Two civilians, Panchadcharam Kirupakaran Mattuvil and Chinniah Thaya, are shot dead by suspected paramilitary cadres in two separate incidents in the Jaffna district.
- April 14 The Sri Lanka Government agrees on a new date for peace talks with the LTTE at Geneva. The head of the Government peace secretariat, Palitha Kohona, told *Reuters*, "The dates decided upon are the 24th and 25th of April."
- April 15 At least four soldiers are killed and several others wounded in a claymore mine explosion in the Vavuniya district.
- Three Sri Lankan Air Force personnel are killed in a LTTE triggered claymore mine explosion in the Kappalthurai area of Trincomalee district.
- April 16 The LTTE announces suspending participation in the second round of Geneva peace talks "until hurdles" placed before it by the Government were removed and "a more conducive environment" was created for the negotiations.
- Canadian Police raids the office of the World Tamil Movement in Montreal, the first raid after the Canadian Government proscribed the LTTE as a terrorist group and seized computers, files, LTTE flags and other political documents.
- April 17 Five SF personnel are killed and seven others sustain injuries in a LTTE triggered claymore mine explosion in the Veppankulam area of Vavuniya district.
- Army sources reports that the total number of members of the SFs injured due to attacks in the North and East since February 22-23 Geneva peace talks had risen to 45 with the attacks on April 17-morning. They comprise 25 Sri Lanka Army officers, 13 Navy officers, five SLAF officers and two Police officers. The number of civilians injured since the Geneva peace talks were 61.
- The Government agrees to permit Norwegian facilitators to engage a private helicopter operating in Sri Lanka to transport the LTTE eastern leaders to Kilinochchi for consultation in preparation for the peace talks, scheduled to be held at Geneva on April 24-25.

- April 18 The LTTE announces that they had killed three paramilitary cadres and captured another in the LTTE-controlled area of Pendukalsenai, west of Kiran in the Batticaloa district.
- The pro-LTTE website Tamilnet claimed that the Sri Lanka Army soldiers killed five Tamil civilians on April 18-night near the SLA 51-1 Division camp located at Vatharavathai, 13 km north-east of Jaffna.
- LTTE states that they would not attend the Geneva peace talks “unless violence against ethnic Tamils stops.” In an interview, LTTE Peace Secretariat chief S. Puleedevan claimed, “While our people are being killed and our shops are being looted, we are not going to Geneva.”
- April 19 Unidentified assailants shot dead a civilian, identified as Ambikaipahan Thambapillai, in the Kondavil junction area of Jaffna town.
- Sri Lanka Plan Implementation Minister, Keheliya Rambukwella, told the media that the helicopter ride offered to the LTTE through the SLMM was not a blank cheque but restricted to a maximum 72-hours and the outfit should use it before the Geneva talks scheduled to be held on April 24-25.
- General Secretary of Akhila Ilankai Tamil United Front, K. Vigneswaran, states that by not providing adequate relief to the Tamils hit by the recent ethnic riots in Trincomalee, the Sri Lankan Government is driving them into the waiting arms of the LTTE.
- April 20 Two bodies are found in the Kuttinagar area of Vavuniya district.
- April 21 Two soldiers were killed and another sustained injuries when LTTE cadres blew up their vehicle with a claymore mine in the Thanganagar area of Trincomalee district.
- Troops in Jaffna recovered 12 claymore mines, 39 hand grenades of different types, 50 detonators, 10 anti-personnel mines, 8 rocket propelled grenades, 110 TNT explosives sticks, 50 fuses, 5 pouches, 250 9-mm pistol rounds, 10 rounds of .38 ammunition, 5 T-56 magazines, 1400 T-56 bullets, 10 camouflage uniform sets, several other warlike items and explosives weighing 75-kgs along with some appliances from the compound of a house abandoned by an LTTE Mahaveerar’s (brave warrior) family in the Maduvil area. According to reports, this is the biggest ever recovery of LTTE claymore mines in a single instance after cease-fire agreement in 2002.
- April 22 An army officer was killed and six soldiers sustained injuries when an anti-personnel mine exploded near their car at Welikanda in the Polonnaruwa district, 216 kilometers northeast of the capital Colombo.
- Two civilians, Thambiah Gunanayagam and Loganathan Chandra Perumal, were killed in the LTTE-controlled area in Mannar district, when their motorbike hit a claymore mine fixed on a tree. Two more

- civilians were shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Nelliady area of Jaffna district.
- April 23 According to the pro-Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) website *Tamil Net*, eight civilians were killed in separate incidents on April 22-23.
- LTTE cadres shot dead six Sinhalese farmers, including a home guard, who were in their paddy fields at Kallanpattu in the Gomarankadawala area of Trincomalee district.
- April 24 Two home guards are shot dead by suspected LTTE cadres while they were proceeding from their duty post towards the Dutuwewa base in the Vavuniya district.
- LTTE cadres kill a three-year-old infant while he was with his mother at Muslim Colony in the Kaduruwela area of Polonnaruwa district.
- April 25 Army Commander Lt. General Sarath Fonseka is critically injured while at least eight persons were killed when a female suicide cadre of the LTTE, disguised as a pregnant woman, blew herself up in front of the military hospital inside the Colombo Army headquarters. 27 persons were wounded in the explosion.
- Following the attack, the Air Force launched a series of strikes on the LTTE-held Sampoor area in the Trincomalee district. The pro-LTTE website *Tamil Net* claimed that at least 12 civilians were killed in the aerial strike.
- April 26 At least four civilians are killed and 12 others, including two sailors, were injured when the LTTE directed mortar fire towards the naval jetty in Muttur.
- Associated Press reports that close to 40,000 civilians have left their homes in northeastern Sri Lanka to escape Government air strikes on LTTE bases.
- The LTTE's Trincomalee district political head S. Elilan said, "we are in a state of readiness and are awaiting for the instruction from our leadership to respond with a force that will be catastrophically disabling and devastating to the enemy."
- April 27 Three SF personnel are killed and three others sustained injuries in a LTTE triggered remote controlled claymore mine attack at Naravilkulam in the Mannar district.
- Two sailors of Sri Lanka navy are killed in another claymore mine attack by the LTTE in the Kayts area of Jaffna district.
- The Sri Lanka Government halts its "deterrent strikes" in the LTTE-controlled areas.
- Foreign Affairs Minister Mangala Samaraweera calls for "tangible and specific international actions against the LTTE and its front

organisations if it continues to persist with suicide attacks and other terrorist acts against security forces and civilians.”

- April 28 Two Tamil youths are shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Valaichenai area of Batticaloa district
- Chief of the SLMM, Major General Ulf Henricsson, confirms that the Sri Lanka Air Force and Navy had definitely targeted military positions and offices of the LTTE. He said that 10-12 people may have died and added that the report relating to a mass exodus of people from the Sampur area was grossly exaggerated.
- April 29 Two LTTE ‘auxiliary force’ cadres are killed in a claymore mine attack allegedly carried out by the Sri Lankan Army in the LTTE-held area of Manaluru in the Mullaitivu district.
- The Sri Lankan Government said that it is prepared to travel to Switzerland any time to resume peace talks with the LTTE.
- April 30 The LTTE raids camps belonging to ‘Colonel’ Karuna faction in the Welikanda area of Polannaruwa district, killing 20 of its cadres.
- The UN has informed that up to 21,000 people have fled their homes following the latest increase in violence in Sri Lanka’s northeastern district of Trincomalee. The office of the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Sri Lanka said in a statement, “Altogether there is an established recent case load of some 6,000 families or about 21,000 people.”
- May 1 The LTTE triggers an improvised explosive device (IED) blast targeting SLN personnel near Shanmugam Vidyalaya in the Trincomalee town. However, the blast missed its intended target, killing four civilians and one SLN personnel. One more SLN personnel sustained injuries in the blast.
- Two civilians are killed and three others were injured by the LTTE in the Welioya area of Batticaloa district. Five more civilians have reportedly gone missing from the area.
- The LTTE’s commando unit that returned to its FDL on April 30 after completing the attack on three paramilitary camps in the Welikanda area of Polannaruwa district, has claimed that five SF personnel, including a Captain rank officer, who took part in a paramilitary rescue operation, were killed in confrontation with the outfit.
- May 2 Cadres of the ‘Colonel’ Karuna faction attack the LTTE camp in Batticaloa, killing eight of the outfit’s cadres.
- Unidentified assailants attack the *Udayan* newspaper office at Kasthuriar Road in the Jaffna town, killing two employees of the daily and injuring an unspecified number of others.

- Troops allegedly kill a woman, identified as Sivagnanasundaram Kalarani, and wounded two others in the Chinnavalayankattu area of Mannar district.
- The LTTE 'Sea-Tiger' leader, Soosai, told that the outfit would use its own vessels and armed escort to transport eastern leaders to the North. He also said that they already used their vessels to transport cadres from Mullativu to Trincomalee with armed escort on April 30.
- May 3 The SCOPP chief, Palitha Kohona, states that the Government has been offering seaplanes for the last one week "but we have still not received a definite response from the LTTE. We are also engaged with the Government delegation's pre-talks preparation."
- The main opposition UNP has said that the ongoing peace process is the only way to a lasting peace, but added that the party will back the Government if it opts for war.
- May 4 Troops kill seven LTTE cadres in a retaliatory fire when they attacked SFs with hand grenades at Nelliady in the Jaffna town, injuring two soldiers.
- 'Ravana Force', an LTTE front outfit, warn Tamil media personnel working at the State print and electronic media institutions to refrain from supporting the Government's propaganda against the LTTE.
- May 5 One police personnel is killed and four others sustain injuries in a LTTE-triggered claymore mine explosion at Mandan in the Nelliady area of Jaffna district.
- Cadres of the LTTE shot dead a soldier and injured another at Adikovil in the same district.
- The Minister of Policy Development and Implementation, Keheliya Rambukwella, said that the Government has asserted that it will not provide the LTTE with aircraft belonging to the armed forces for any reason.
- May 7 At least eight civilians, who went missing from a temple, are feared killed in the Thenmarachchi area of Jaffna district.
- The 'Colonel' Karuna faction cadres kill 12 cadres of the LTTE in an attack at the outfit's camp in the Sampoor and Ravulkulee areas of Trincomalee district.
- The LTTE vows to raid Government territory to kill cadres of the 'Colonel' Karuna faction, who according to the outfit, are attacking their cadres with the help of the military and has warned that peace talks are off until those renegade attacks stop.
- The Colonel Karuna faction is reported to have said that no one can disarm them, be it the Government, Norwegian facilitators or the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission, as the Sri Lankan Government did not arm them.

- May 8 The Sri Lanka Government chief negotiator, Health Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva, urges Japanese special peace envoy, Yasushi Akashi, to enlighten the Co-Chairs about the LTTE attitudes and violations of the cease-fire agreement and to put pressure on the outfit to return to the peace process.
- May 9 Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, Mangala Samaraweera, during an official visit to India, said that his country needs foreign help to pressure the LTTE to come back to peace talks.
- The Sri Lankan Government is reported to have allocated Rupees 38 billion for a number of economic development projects, including activities to uplift the lives of displaced persons, in the Northern and Eastern provinces.
- The Japanese peace envoy Yasushi Akashi met the 'chief' of the LTTE's political division, S.P. Thamilselvan at Kilinochchi and held discussions with him.
- May 10 A home guard is shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Padaviya Police station area of Batticaloa district.
- According to the Netherlands Minister of Justice, Donner, and Minister of Immigration, Verdonk, there are signs that the Tamil community is being intimidated by the LTTE to raise funds. The Netherlands would like to put the LTTE on the European list of illegal and terrorist organizations, added Donner.
- The National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism, sponsored by the United States Department of Homeland Security, has designated Sihala Urumaya - the precursor to the Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU) - as a terrorist organization.
- The Japanese special peace envoy, Yasushi Akashi, stated in Colombo that relations between the Government and LTTE are at their worst since he began his role as the peace envoy in 2002. Yasushi also said that Japan has invited India to join the co-chairs of the Tokyo Donors' Conference, which includes the United States, European Union, Japan and Norway. On the response from India to the invitation, he said that the "indications were positive."
- The LTTE political wing leader, S.P. Thamilselvan, tells Reuters that the country is moving to the fringes of a new civil war.
- May 11 At least 17 Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) sailors and 50 LTTE cadres are killed as the SLN successfully repulsed an attempt by a cluster of the outfit's suicide boats to destroy a heavy troop-carrying vessel - the 'Pearl Cruiser' - with 710 troops on board off the coast of Vettalaikerni. In the firefight, Navy ensured the safety of the passenger craft and suffered the loss of one Dvora (P 418) with two officers and 15 sailors onboard. The Navy in a retaliatory attack with the assistance of the Air Force destroyed five LTTE boats completely and disabled four others, killing 50 'Sea Tigers' and forcing the fleet to withdraw.

The Government Defence Affairs spokesperson, Minister Keheliya Rambukwella, told Daily News that defence authorities have decided to launch limited operations to deter further LTTE attacks.

President Mahinda Rajapakse urges the LTTE to cease violence and resume peace negotiations with the Government.

The SLMM in a press release following the LTTE attack on naval vessel, with two SLMM monitors on board, in the sea off Vettalaikerni stated that the outfit has no rights at sea.

The LTTE political wing leader, S.P. Thamilselvan, strongly rejects the SLMM claim that the outfit had no rights at sea. He said in a letter to the SLMM that the outfit had a right to naval movements as part of the balance of power.

May 12 Unidentified assailants shot dead a civilian, identified as Balakumar, and injured another in the Muttur area of Trincomalee district.

A civilian, Gnanam, is shot dead by unidentified gunmen in the Atchuvveli area of Jaffna district.

The LTTE political wing leader, S.P. Tamilselvan, told the SLMM chief, Maj Gen Ulf Ericsson, "Nobody has the right to pass judgment on the sovereign rights of our access to the adjacent sea and airspace of our homelands." He also said that the LTTE is not a "non-state actor" and added that the outfit did not enter the peace process to be described as a "non-state actor" and the Sri Lankan government as the "state actor".

May 13 At least 13 civilians, including a four-month and a four-year old child, are killed by suspected LTTE cadres in two incidents in the Kayts Island of Jaffna district.

A soldier is shot dead by unidentified assailants near Main Street in Jaffna.

The head of the Nordic truce monitors said that the Government and LTTE have returned to a 'low-intensity war' despite a cease-fire that still technically holds on paper. He stated, "You could in some definition say we already have a war. We don't have a peace agreement, we have a ceasefire agreement. So there is a war ongoing. It is a low-intensity war. You can say that."

May 14 The LTTE dismisses calls by SLMM to stop outfit navy missions and have threatened "war" to keep their men at sea. LTTE's 'naval wing' chief, 'Colonel' Soosai, said that the outfit was "not prepared to relinquish sovereign rights to the seas which we have won with the sacrifice of our people." He further said LTTE's 'Sea Tigers' had lost 1,200 cadres in the past 15 years and they would not give up operations in the Indian Ocean adjacent to areas they control in the island's north and east.

The SLMM said in a statement that it was "reviewing" its own practice of putting monitors on Government vessels.

17 refugees from Sri Lanka arrived at Dhanushkodi in the Rameswaram district of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, taking the total number of refugees coming to India to approximately 800 since January 2006.

- May 15 A civilian, identified as Aham Razul, is hacked to death by suspected LTTE cadres in the Thopur area of Trincomalee district.
- 'Pistol gang' cadres of the LTTE shot dead a civilian, identified as Geetha Ponkalan Selvakumar, inside a hospital in the Batticaloa town.
- The Sri Lankan Government has said that no one can claim sovereignty over Sri Lankan territorial waters, as claimed by the LTTE.
- President Mahinda Rajapakse invites the LTTE to rejoin the peace talks and added that he is not in favor of further internationalization of the conflict.
- May 16 LTTE cadres detonate two claymore mines in the Thambalagamuwa area of Trincomalee district, killing one home guard and injuring two others.
- A woman cadre of the LTTE, identified as Yalisai, is killed when SFs who allegedly moved beyond the no-man zone at Palamodai, north of Vavuniya, attacked an LTTE FDL.
- May 17 LTTE snipers killed a Sri Lankan soldier at Muhamalai in Jaffna district.
- May 19 Five LTTE cadres are killed by cadres of the 'Colonel' Karuna group in the Sampur area of Trincomalee district.
- Suspected LTTE cadres in the Vavuniya district kill two soldiers.
- May 20 LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres shot dead a 12-year old boy, S. Sathyam, in the Mavadiodai area of Batticaloa district as he rejected the outfit's demand to join the organization as a child soldier.
- May 21 A 15-year old student and his companion, identified as Chandran Linton and Rasarathinam Mohan, are allegedly killed in a claymore attack by the SLA in the LTTE controlled area in the Mannar district.
- Cadres of the breakaway 'Colonel' Karuna faction in the Batticaloa district kill a top 'commander' of the LTTE, identified as Ramanan. A spokesperson for the Karuna group, T. Thuyavan, claims they killed Ramanan who was deputy head of the LTTE 'Military wing' of the Batticaloa district. He also claims that their cadres attacked an LTTE camp near Trincomalee, killing at least 10 cadres of the outfit.

- May 22 A civilian is shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Kopay North area of Jaffna district.
- Unidentified assailants shot dead a civilian, Iknesias Rasman Lanthilad, at Gnanasooriaym Square in the Batticaloa town.
- SLA soldiers shot dead a suspected LTTE cadre, identified as Arunachalam Suresh Gunapalan, at Vidathalpallai.
- The head of LTTE Peace Secretariat, S. Puleedevan, told Reuters that the military was pushing the island towards a “high intensity war” and also accused the army for the death their senior commander, ‘Colonel’ Ramanan, on May 21.
- May 23 The LTTE kills a soldier on duty near the FDL at Iramperiyakulam in the Vavuniya district.
- SFs shot dead a LTTE cadre at Thoppur in the Trincomalee district as he tried to escape after hurling a grenade towards troops.
- May 24 Three SF personnel are killed in an LTTE-triggered claymore mine attack in the Thandikulam area of Vavuniya district.
- A LTTE cadre, Oppilamany Sankaran, is killed when SF personnel launched an artillery attack in the Upparu area.
- India on May 14 extended the existing ban on the LTTE for a further period of two years, which was confirmed by Government of Indian state of Tamil Nadu on May 20. It is for the sixth time that India has extended the ban.
- 140 Tamil refugees arrive at Dhanushkodi in the Rameswaram district of Tamil Nadu in southern India. With this, the number of refugees reaching the Indian coast since January 2006 has reached 1,779, officials said.
- May 25 Four police personnel are killed in an LTTE-triggered claymore mine attack in the Kattankudy area of Batticaloa district.
- One civilian and a soldier are killed in a LTTE claymore mine attack in the Kovukil area of Jaffna district.
- A LTTE top leader, identified as Veeramani, the former ‘commander’ of the ‘Charles Anthony Brigade’, is killed in an accidental explosion near the Nagarkovil Forward Defence Line of the outfit in the Jaffna district.
- The Government urges Gulf Arab states to ban the LTTE in their countries in view to block the funds to the outfit.
- The SLMM has decided to increase its ranks by at least 15 more monitors and to bring in flak jackets and helmets.

- May 26 The Deputy Director of Irrigation in Batticaloa district, Nava Rathnarajah, is shot dead and his driver wounded by cadres of the LTTE in the Kalliyankadu area.
- A counter-ambush commando unit of the LTTE kill three 'Colonel' Karuna faction cadres and captured two others, when it allegedly launched an attack on the infiltrating five-member Karuna group from the Sri Lanka Army camp located in the Pattiaddy area of Trincomalee district.
- LTTE cadres open fire towards troops in the Kopay area of Jaffna district, injuring one soldier. In retaliatory action, the troops kill two LTTE cadres.
- The SLMC leader, Rauff Hakeem, during his meetings with the Norwegian Special Peace Envoy Jon Hanssen-Bauer told that that his party was ready to have unofficial discussions with the LTTE to solve issues that affect the Muslims in the North and East.
- May 27 Six local tourists and their guide are killed in a suspected LTTE landmine explosion near the Wilpattu National Wild Park, 200-kilometers north of capital Colombo.
- Two boys are killed and three others injured when Sri Lankan Army soldiers, who had allegedly moved into the Thikiliveddai area, an LTTE controlled border area of Batticaloa district, ambushed a tractor with farmers.
- The LTTE agrees to participate in the talks with the Government over the SLMM security measures in Oslo on June 8-9.
- Norway's top peace envoy to Sri Lanka, Eric Solheim, said that a major crisis was brewing in the country and that it could be headed back to full-scale civil war.
- May 28 A civilian, identified as K. Sawikaran, is shot dead by cadres of the LTTE in the Dimbulagala area of Polonnaruwa district.
- May 29 The Makkal Eela Viduthalai Munnawar (Eelam People's Liberation Alliance-EPLA), a front organization of the LTTE, threatens the entire Muslim population in Muttur to leave the area within 72 hours or face death.
- The LTTE, which agreed to participate in talks on June 8-9 in Oslo, has demanded for transport and security for its leaders. The LTTE's political wing head, S.P. Tamilselvan, stresses that the dialogue would be separate to the peace talks with the Government, which began in February. He also said that the outfit wouldn't surrender their weapons after a reported demand by the EU.
- May 30 The LTTE cadres kill 12 Sinhalese villagers working at an irrigation canal construction site in Omadiyamadu, close to the uncleared areas of Welikanda in Polonnaruwa district.

- The Sri Lanka co-chairs warn the LTTE that it would face “deeper isolation” if it failed to change itself. They also wanted the Government to “protect the rights and security of Tamils” and make the required political changes “to bring about a new system of governance.”
- May 31 The LTTE cadres kill a soldier and wounded two others in the Point-Pedro area of Jaffna district.
- The EU officially adds the LTTE to its terrorist blacklist, effectively freezing the outfit’s assets across the 25-nation bloc and hindering its ability to raise money for its armed movement.
- Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera informs that the LTTE funnel contributions through Malaysia and Singapore to buy weapons in Thailand and Cambodia.
- June 1 ‘Pistol gang’ cadres of the LTTE shot dead two members of the EPDP, Sebastian Irayappan and Arumugam Loganathan, in the Pandarikulam area of Vavuniya district.
- The LTTE confirms that they will attend the talks scheduled to be held on June 8-9 in Oslo.
- June 2 A civilian, identified as Rasiah Kanesan, is killed when unidentified assailants lobbed a hand grenade inside a house in the Puthur area of Batticaloa district.
- Police investigators probing the Omadiyamadu massacres of May 30 in which 12 civilians were killed have revealed that the killings had been part of the LTTE training for their child recruits.
- The All Party Conference (APC) endorses a proposal by President Mahinda Rajapakse to appoint a constitutional committee to evolve a political settlement ideally suited for Sri Lanka.
- The Government assures security guarantee to the LTTE, allowing them to attend talks in Oslo aimed at strengthening the monitoring of the cease-fire.
- The LTTE accepts an invitation by peace broker Norway for talks in Oslo on June 8-9 regarding the security of Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission personnel, but stressed that these would not be peace talks.
- June 3 Two civilians, E. Sittaravel and Nalliah Wimalendran, are shot dead by the LTTE for their refusal to pay ransom in the outfit-controlled area at Kaluwankerni in the Batticaloa district.
- The Government delegation led by head of the Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP), Palitha Kohona, left for Oslo for talks along with the LTTE team led by its political wing leader, S. P. Tamilselvan.

- June 5 LTTE cadres triggered an IED explosion targeting troops in the Batticaloa district. In the retaliatory fire, troops killed two LTTE cadres.
- One soldier is killed when LTTE cadres opened fire targeting the troops in the Nanattan area of Mannar district.
- June 6 Two Police personnel and a civilian are killed in an LTTE-triggered remote controlled claymore mine attack in the Bandarikulam area of Vavuniya district. A 12-year old boy and two police personnel were injured in the attack.
- 'Pistol gang' cadres of the LTTE kill two civilians in the Serunuwara area of Trincomalee district.
- A former member of the EPDP, identified as Keshaman Anandan, and his female cousin, Rathnasingham Podini, are shot dead by 'pistol gang' cadres of the LTTE in the Kayts area of Jaffna district.
- June 7 At least 15 cadres of the LTTE are killed in an attack by the breakaway faction of 'Colonel' Karuna in the Muttur area of Trincomalee district.
- At least six civilians and a LTTE cadre are killed in an explosion of a pressure mine at Vadumunai in Batticaloa district. While the LTTE blames the Sri Lankan Army for the explosion, the Army denies the accusation.
- Japan said that it would not reduce or stop economic and humanitarian aid to Sri Lanka, despite the escalation in violence.
- June 8 An entire family of four persons, including a nine-year old girl and a seven-year old boy, are hacked to death in the Vankalai area of Mannar district. The Government accuses the LTTE for the killing as the family was helping Government forces. However, the outfit's spokesperson, Daya Master, denies the allegation and accused the military for the killing.
- Two civilians are killed in a claymore mine attack allegedly carried out by the SLA personnel in the Periyamaduru-Pallamaduru area of Mannar district.
- The Sri Lanka Government in a statement issued in Colombo states that the LTTE who traveled to Oslo on June 5 for the two-day meeting scheduled to start on June 8 refused to meet with the Government delegation. The Sri Lankan Government has asked its delegation to come home after the LTTE refusal to meet the delegation.
- Erik Solheim, Norway's Minister for International Development, urges the LTTE to reconsider its rejection of European Union citizens as monitors.
- The SLMM spokesperson has stressed that the LTTE has no rights in the sea or in Sri Lanka's air space according to international law.

- June 9 The Norwegian Government said it would reconsider its role as a facilitator in the Sri Lankan peace process after failing in an attempt to arrange a meeting between the Government and LTTE.
- The LTTE political wing leader, S.P. Tamilselvan, said that the LTTE were firm in their decision that the EU members of a five-nation Nordic cease-fire monitoring mission should leave the Indian Ocean Island. He further added the countries sending monitors "must be seen to be neutral."
- Norway's Minister for International Development, Erik Solheim, told media that the scheduled talks between the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE to be held on June 8-9 were a "failure" and accused the LTTE for the breakdown.
- The Sri Lanka Government in a statement blames the SLMM and also accused its chief, Swedish Army Major General, Ulf Henricsson, of inciting violence.
- June 10 A top 'commander' of the LTTE, 'Lt Col' Mahenthi, and three of his associates are killed in a anti-personnel mine blast in the Mannar district.
- A gunman boarded a passenger bus and shot dead an ethnic Tamil man and a 10-year-old boy in the Muttur area of Trincomalee district.
- June 11 Two civilians are killed in a claymore mine attack allegedly carried out by the Sri Lanka Army inside the LTTE-controlled territory at Palaipani in the Vavuniya district.
- LTTE cadres shot dead a soldier, Lance Corporal H.B.S. Kumararathne, in the Vavunathivu area of Batticaloa district.
- The Norwegian Minister for International Development, Erik Solheim, told *BBC Sandesaya* that it is the responsibility of both the Government and LTTE to avoid a possible war situation in the country.
- June 12 LTTE cadres shot dead a former cadre of the outfit, identified as J. Podi Pulendran, in the Eravur of Batticaloa district area as he threatened to desert the outfit.
- The President Mahinda Rajapakse has appointed a committee to serve in an advisory capacity to the committee of representatives, from all parties to be appointed to work out the formalities for a lasting solution to the ethnic conflict. The Advisory Committee, headed by H. L. De Silva, an eminent civil and constitutional lawyer, comprises 12 members selected from various fields of discipline.
- June 13 Two cadres of the LTTE and a soldier are killed in an encounter between the outfit's cadres and the SLA personnel, who were allegedly planting claymore mine in the outfit's-controlled Nedunkerni area of Jaffna district.

- Unidentified assailants shot dead a home guard in the Kanugahawewa area of Anuradhapura district.
- June 14 Air Force authorities detain the LTTE delegation that went to Oslo at the Colombo airport as undeclared items were found in their possession.
- The LTTE stated that the outfit wants fair treatment in the country's peace process and would not give in to pressure tactics such as the EU declaring it a terrorist organization.
- The National Peace Council warns that if either the Government or LTTE seeks to defy the international consensus on peace in Sri Lanka, not only they but the whole country would be called upon to "pay a very heavy price". Sri Lanka is through a revival of the peace process."
- The United Nations refugee agency stated that almost 3,000 people have fled Sri Lanka for India since the start of 2006.
- June 15 At least 64 civilians, including 15 children, are killed and eighty-six others are injured when a state-run passenger bus carrying 150 passengers was destroyed in a twin side-charger claymore mine explosion in the Anuradhapura district. The Government's spokesperson on security issues, Keheliya Rambukwella, blames the LTTE for the attack saying, "There is no iota of doubt that it is the LTTE." Meanwhile, the LTTE denies its involvement and blamed the Government for the attack.
- LTTE cadres kill a civilian in the Bakkiela area of Ampara district and escapes with the deceased's one and a half-year-old child, who was found abandoned with wounds on the neck during subsequent search operation.
- The JVP urges the Government to ban the LTTE and take well-planned strategies to defeat terrorism without holding onto 'foolish' hopes of false negotiations.
- June 16 Three civilians are allegedly killed by the SLA personnel in the Welgampura area of Trincomalee district.
- The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister stated that the LTTE leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, should be tried for war crimes.
- The SLMM, while condemning attack in Kebithigollewa, said, "Targeting of a civilian bus is not only a barbaric act, but also jeopardizes the freedom of innocent people in their everyday life."
- Senator Steve Hutchins of the Labour Party in Australia in his speech to the Federal Parliament in Canberra urges the Australian Government to proscribe the LTTE as a terrorist organisation under domestic law.

- June 17 At least 30 Sea Tigers, six sailors and six civilians are killed in the Talaimannar islet of Mannar district as heavy fighting broke out between security forces and the LTTE. Eight sailors are missing in action. One civilian among those who sought refuge in a church in the aftermath of the sudden flare-up is also killed and several others are injured. The LTTE, however, claims that 12 sailors and two of its cadres are killed in the offensive.
- Five LTTE Sea Tigers are arrested on the outskirts of Colombo following a tip-off by civilians when they were planning to attack naval patrol craft with "magnetic sea mines."
- June 18 Three Police personnel are killed in a LTTE triggered claymore mine explosion targeting a bowser carrying water to Dutuwewa Police station on the Vavuniya- Kebithigollewa road.
- Two soldiers are killed by the LTTE in the Welioya area of Batticaloa district.
- The Sri Lankan Government describes the LTTE as an 'eternal killing machine' that kills innocent civilians without rhyme or reason and urges the outfit to instead re-enter inclusive talks with the Government.
- The LTTE issues handouts threatening people returning to Allaipiddi, at a time when the displaced are sheltered in two churches in Jaffna and are getting ready to return to their homes on the assurance given by Minister of Social Services and Social Welfare, Douglas Devananda.
- June 19 An unidentified civilian is shot dead by a LTTE 'pistol gang' cadre in the Arunagiri-Llyod Avenue Road junction area of Batticaloa district.
- The LTTE said that they would resort to any strategy, including suicide bombers, if all-out civil war resumes, and that the effects would be felt across the country.
- The Foreign Affairs Minister Mangala Samaraweera rules out parity of status between the Government and LTTE.
- June 20 Eight LTTE cadres are killed during an overnight clash with the 'Colonel' Karuna group cadres in the Trincomalee district.
- A civilian, identified as Nirmalakumaran, is shot dead by cadres of the 'Colonel' Karuna group in the Kommathurai area of Batticaloa district. Another civilian, Jeyaraj Suthaharan, is shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Urani area of Batticaloa district.
- The LTTE reaffirms their commitment to the truce, but said that the future of cease-fire monitors from Denmark, Finland and Sweden is still in the balance.

- June 21 Unidentified assailants shot dead a civilian, identified as Milred Roy Weld, and injured his father in the Jeyanthipuram area of Batticaloa district.
- The Sri Lankan Government states that it has no plans to ban the LTTE as demanded by the JVP party.
- The LTTE informs the Norwegian peace facilitators that cease-fire monitors from EU countries should leave.
- The LTTE said it wants India to “accept and recognise the freedom struggle of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka and extend its moral support” by condemning the “atrocities” of the Lankan Government.
- June 22 Two civilians, Kanthasamy Thavarajah and Shanmugam Jeyaratnam, who were abducted earlier in separate incidents, are shot dead by unidentified assailants in the respective areas of Santhiveli and Vinayapuram in the Batticaloa district.
- The Commanding Officer in charge of the Muhamalai road, Lt. Col. A. G. N. P. Ehelamalpe, is reported to have said that the LTTE has earned over Rupees 40 million by way of taxes imposed on goods sent to the North for civilians in Jaffna passing through the outfit’s checkpoint in Puliyankulam during the last four months.
- The UNICEF states that the LTTE breakaway faction led by ‘Colonel’ Karuna faction are abducting and recruiting children as soldiers.
- June 23 The Sri Lankan Government said that the LTTE demand to remove EU members from the SLMM is a violation of the CFA.
- June 25 An expatriate Tamil civilian from Switzerland, who was on a short visit to the country, is shot dead by unidentified cadres of the LTTE in the Valaichchenai area of Batticaloa district.
- ‘Pistol gang’ cadres of the LTTE shot dead a member of the PLOTE, identified as Jayahulabdeen Mohamad Wazeer, near the Jaffna Hospital.
- President Mahinda Rajapakse offers a two-week cease-fire to the LTTE.
- June 26 A suicide bomber kills the SLA Deputy Chief of Staff, Major General Parami Kulathunge, the third highest appointment in the SLA, and three others at Pannipitiya, a suburb of capital Colombo.
- Eight persons are wounded in the explosion. A civilian, identified as Kandiyah Yogeswaran, is shot dead by LTTE cadres in the Kayts area of Jaffna district.
- One soldier is killed and another wounded in a LTTE fire in the Kantale area of Trincomalee district.

- Norway stated that it would continue its mediation efforts in Sri Lanka despite the increasing violence in the country.
- June 27 Three civilians are shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Mailambaweli area of Batticaloa district. Four LTTE cadres are killed in an attack by the breakaway faction of 'Colonel' Karuna in the Vakarai area of Batticaloa district.
- Ambassador Alan Rock of Canada will serve as a special advisor to a UN fact-finding mission in Sri Lanka on the "continuing recruitment and use of child soldiers" by the LTTE. The SLMM stated that the June 26-assassination of Major General Parami Kulatunga had been carried out by the LTTE as the suicide bombing bore the hallmarks of the outfit.
- The SLA declares that it is reverting to security arrangements prevalent prior to the February 2002 CFA with the LTTE in the wake of the stepped up violence by the outfit.
- The LTTE said that it deeply regrets the May 21, 1991 assassination of the former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, and described it as a "monumental and historical tragedy."
- Indian Government says forgiving LTTE for the killing of Rajiv Gandhi would amount to endorsing the LTTE ideology of terror.
- June 28 At least 12 LTTE cadres and five SLN personnel are killed in the sea off Kalpitiya in Puttalam district.
- Three civilians are killed in a claymore explosion in the LTTE-controlled area of Musali in the Mannar district.
- LTTE denies that it had owned responsibility for the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- June 29 SLA personnel allegedly kill a woman, identified as Sathasivam Mathuri, and injured her father in the Athiyady area of Jaffna district.
- The Norwegian International Development Minister and former Special Peace Envoy to Sri Lanka, Erik Solheim, stated that Norway does not foresee a large Norwegian presence in Sri Lanka to replace the 37 SLMM members from EU countries, who are under pressure from the LTTE to vacate their posts.
- Sri Lankan Government decides to make knowledge of Sinhala and Tamil compulsory for new recruits to public service at all levels as part of its efforts to "faithfully" implement the dual language formula.
- June 30 One SLN personnel and a LTTE cadre are killed in an exchange of fire near the Jumma Mosque in Mannar town.
- July 2 The LTTE claims it had checked the list and determined that more than 800 of those child soldiers named in the UNICEF release are aged over 18.

- July 3 Seven persons, including five SF personnel, are killed and 14 wounded in a LTTE-triggered claymore mine explosion at Anuradhapura junction in the Trincomalee district.
- The LTTE sets September 1 as the deadline for cease-fire monitors from Denmark, Finland and Sweden to leave the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission.
- July 5 One soldier is killed in a landmine explosion targeting troops at Pirappamadu near Vavuniya town.
- Policy Planning Minister Keheliya Rambukwella announces that a 12-member multi-ethnic committee has been set up to advise President Mahinda Rajapakse on power sharing in the Tamil dominated north and east. Rambukwella informs that the new committee would study models from all over the world, including India and Canada.
- July 6 A fisherman belonging to the Malay Muslim community, Thuwan Vahid Ali, is shot dead by the LTTE along Ganesh road in Trincomalee district.
- The Sri Lankan Parliament is reported to have voted overwhelmingly to extend an emergency law for another month to counter rising violence by the LTTE.
- July 7 The house of a Norwegian journalist, Nina Johnsrud is attacked with gunfire in Oslo. Nina, who works for the daily Dagsavisen had earlier written about the LTTE leader, Yogaraja Balasingham, rigging the last Oslo municipal election.
- At least 245 Muslim families from the Musali area and 43 families from Mannar Island in Sri Lanka's Northern Province have fled their homes and reached the Kalpitty and Puttalam areas.
- July 8 M.I.M.Nizar, the bodyguard of Digamadulla District MP and Deputy Minister, Anver Ismail, of the ruling UPFA is shot dead by two unidentified men in the Amparai district.
- July 9 The number of Sri Lankan refugees, who have taken asylum in Tamil Nadu in India since January 12, has increased to 4,528, with arrival of the fresh batch of 139 refugees.
- July 11 Sri Lankan Navy personnel in a retaliatory fire destroyed a Sea Tiger boat in the Kilaly lagoon area of Batticaloa district, killing four LTTE cadres on board.
- The SLMM reveals that the LTTE has violated the cease-fire on 3,754 occasions since February 2002. Nearly half of the violations relates to child recruitment. In all, the SLMM has received 7,308 complaints against the LTTE up to-date.
- July 12 Two police personnel are killed and seven persons are wounded in a LTTE triggered claymore mine blast at Nallur in Jaffna.

- A PLOTE leader, Sebastian Irudarajan, is shot dead by the LTTE near Wembadi Girls School in Jaffna. A soldier, W.R.
- Weerasinghe, is killed by a LTTE sniper at Nagarkovil Forward Defence Line in the Jaffna district.
- July 13 Two soldiers are killed and another wounded by the LTTE in the Katkulem area of Vavuniya district.
- LTTE cadres abducted and later shot dead a leader of the PLOTE, R.S.S.Bavan, at Kappachchi in Vavuniya district.
- July 14 At least 12 soldiers and four LTTE cadres are killed in clash between the two sides in the Vakaneri area of Batticaloa district.
- The Government declares that it will not attempt to disarm the LTTE breakaway faction led by 'Colonel' Karuna, because it does not want to get entangled in another war.
- The Government SCOPP discloses that up to 20 per cent of foreign funds channeled to the Northeast have been siphoned off by the LTTE.
- July 16 Three civilians, identified as Joshep Jude, Anton Densil and Pakyarasa Aruldas, are hacked to death by unidentified assailants in the Arialai area of Jaffna district.
- Two civilians, Navarathnam Sasidharan and Nawarathnam Wasikaran are shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Point Pedro area of the Jaffna district.
- The SLMC Constitutional Affairs Committee finalizes its framework for solving the ethnic conflict in the country.
- A total of 64 Tamil refugees arrive at Arichamunai in the Ramanathapuram district of Indian state of Tamil Nadu, raising the total number of refugees who arrived in the country since January 12 up to 5,051.
- July 18 A civilian is killed and two others sustained injuries at Kodikamam in the Jaffna district in a LTTE-triggered claymore mine explosion. Four soldiers are also injured in the attack.
- July 19 Three Sri Lankan Army personnel are killed after their bus was hit by a claymore mine in Jaffna. Eleven others, including two police constables, are injured.
- Government authorities arrested four women suspected to be suicide bombers at Tissamaharama in the Hambantota district.
- The four are trained LTTE operatives, who were intending to carry out attacks in the south of the country. The LTTE is entrenched in Canada and uses a Toronto-based "front organization" called the

- World Tamil Movement (WTM) to raise money for arms, says a summary of an ongoing Royal Canadian Mountain Police (RCMP) investigation.
- The RCMP 58-page document released today refers the WTM as “the Canadian arm” of the LTTE.
- July 20 Five LTTE cadres are killed and three NGO officials are injured in a claymore mine explosion in the uncleared area (area not under Government control) of Silavathura in the Mannar district.
- A sympathizer of the EPDP, Selvar Yogan, is shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Valigamam East area of Jaffna district.
- July 21 A woman, identified as Murukaiah Sukirtha, is shot dead by unidentified assailants at Kanthapasegaram road in the Jaffna town. LTTE political wing leader, S.P.
- Tamilselvan, rejects the Swedish special envoy Anders Oljelund's demand of accepting the continuance of EU members as SLMM officials. He reiterates that the deadline issued by the outfit till September 1, 2006 with regard to the removal of the three officials from the EU countries from the SLMM would remain unchanged.
- July 23 A senior member of the EPDP, Emily Janoos, is shot dead by unidentified assailants at Uoorkavatturai in the Jaffna district.
- Two dead bodies of civilians are found in the Thonikkal area of Vavuniya district. Sunday Times quoting Eliyathambi Pararajasingham, in charge of the LTTE legal system, reported that the outfit is drafting their own anti-terrorism laws to deal with the Sri Lanka Military and Police personnel who enter their territory.
- The law is expected to be finalised by the end of year 2006.
- July 24 Two LTTE cadres are killed when a group of ‘Colonel’ Karuna faction cadres attacked them at an outfit-held village in the Ampara district.
- An activist of the EPDP, identified as Kanapathipillai, is shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Wellawatta area of Colombo district. Suspected LTTE cadres triggered a bomb blast killing one soldier and injuring two others in the Vavuniya district.
- July 25 SFs in a retaliatory fire kill two LTTE cadres who lobbed hand grenade towards troops near Urumpirai junction in the Jaffna district.
- July 26 The SLAF conducts air strike, using Kfir fighter jets, on known LTTE targets in the general areas (areas under Government control) of Verugal in the Trincomalee district where the outfit were keeping the sluice gate closed without allowing water to flow into thousands of Sinhalese, Muslims and Tamil villages since July 20.
- A person identified as Niranjana Claude Fabian, a member of the VVT, a Tamil gang active in the Toronto area, and described by Toronto

- Police in Canada as a gang leader and a “trained assassin” of the LTTE outfit is secretly deported to his native Sri Lanka after an eight-year court battle to stay in Canada.
- July 27 Sri Lanka Air Force fighter crafts struck selected LTTE targets in the east of Mullaitivu district, where the LTTE was reportedly constructing an illegal airstrip, killing six cadres and injuring five civilians.
- The UNHCR estimates there are 315,000 long-term internally displaced people in Sri Lanka due to the protracted conflict, 67,000 of whom live in camps and around 247,000 of whom live with relatives and friends. There are another 125,000 Sri Lankan refugees abroad, 68,000 of them in neighbouring India.
- July 28 The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation reports that 30 LTTE cadres are suspected to be killed in a suicide attack launched by the breakaway faction led by ‘Colonel’ Karuna in the Vavunathivu area of Batticaloa district.
- Three home guards are killed in a LTTE-triggered claymore mine explosion in the Kebethigollewa area of Anuradhapura district.
- Finland and Denmark announce that they will withdraw their observers from the SLMM, given the security situation on the ground, said the Finnish Foreign Ministry.
- July 29 Eight LTTE cadres are killed and 12 others sustain injuries in an air strike by the Sri Lanka Air Force at the outfit’s Thenaham conference centre in the Karadiyanaru area of Batticaloa district.
- July 30 Chief of the SLMM Major General Ulf Henricsson said that the four-year-old CFA is dead and far from a real cease-fire.
- July 31 In a fierce fighting between the LTTE and SLA close to the disputed Mavil Aru sluice gates in the Kallar area of Trincomalee district, 40 LTTE cadres and seven SLA personnel are killed.
- Sri Lanka Air Force jets destroy a Sea-Tiger base in the Vakarai area of Batticaloa district, killing at least 30 LTTE cadres.
- Suspected LTTE cadres ambush an army bus with a claymore fragmentation mine in the Trincomalee district, killing 18 soldiers.
- Four LTTE cadres were reportedly killed in Jaffna district. Defying the United States ban on the LTTE as a terrorist organisation, one of its fronts reportedly held a sports festival in New York last week and the event was marked by the hoisting of the official LTTE flag (Tamilleelam National flag).
- August 1 At least five SLN personnel are killed and 30 others sustain injuries when LTTE cadres fired artillery at the Trincomalee naval base and in the subsequent air strike the Government in the outfit-held Sampoor

area targeting Mavilaru, Verugalaru and Kathirveli claims to have killed 50 LTTE cadres.

The SLN reportedly repulsed a LTTE attempt to destroy a troop carrier transporting 854 unarmed military personnel when it was returning from Kankesanthurai harbour and entering the mouth of Trincomalee harbour.

The SLN boats blocked a fleet of Sea-Tiger boats approaching the troop carrier, destroying three and damaging another. However, the LTTE claims that it destroyed a SLN boat, killing eight sailors on board.

Sweden announces the withdrawal of its monitors from the SLMM, joining Finland and Denmark who announced their withdrawal on July 28. The United States embassy in Colombo states that US authorities couldn't have prevented the Tamil sports festival in New York, as there was no evidence to indicate the organization behind this event had any links with the LTTE.

- August 2 Troops repulse LTTE firing in the Kattaparichchan, Selvanagar and Mahindapura areas of Sampoor region in the Trincomalee district, killing 40 LTTE cadres and injuring 50 others.
- Four soldiers are also killed and 38 others sustain injuries in the clashes. Sri Lanka Navy foils a LTTE suicide attack in the seas off Pulmudai in the Welioya region of Moneragala district. However, no casualties were reported.
- August 3 15 civilians taking refuge at the Al-Nuriya Muslim School in Thoppur and Arabic School in Muttur are killed and more than 30 injured when LTTE cadres indiscriminately fire artillery at two different times.
- Government Defence Affairs Spokesman Minister Keheliya Rambukwelle said Muttur town is under total control of the SFs.
- August 4 The LTTE massacres over hundred civilians in the Trincomalee district who were fleeing fighting from the Muttur town.
- Troops foil a major LTTE attack on a strategic jetty in the Muttur area of Trincomalee district, killing 152 cadres of the outfit. 15 Tamils working for a French aid agency, Action Against Hunger, are found dead in the Muttur town of Trincomalee district.
- Five Muslim civilians are killed when a shell fell near them at the 64th milepost in the Pachchanoor area of Muttur town. President Mahinda Rajapakse has stressed that his Government is ready to solve any issue through negotiations at any time but would not allow anyone to solve any problem by using guns.
- The Government is compelled to take action to open the Mavil Aru anicut (irrigational channel) as the LTTE had deprived the basic rights of 15,000 families by forcibly closing the anicut, the President adds further.

- Norway announces a pledge of \$US1.5 million to help civilians caught in the latest violence.
- August 5 Intercepted LTTE radio transmissions reportedly confirmed that the LTTE has lost 330 cadres during fierce fighting that erupted during the past four days.
- Trincomalee LTTE military leader Soornam had been heard desperately calling for more reinforcements from Batticaloa, the transmissions have revealed. Security forces kill five LTTE cadres who infiltrated the security forces forward defence lines at Kothweli in the Kilali region of Jaffna district.
- August 6 The pro- LTTE website Tamil Net alleges that at least 15 Tamil civilians were killed when SFs fired on LTTE cadres controlling the Mavil Aru reservoir.
- The head of the SLMM, Ulf Henricsson, has a narrow escape when the Army opened artillery fire at the time he was approaching the Mawilaru sluice gate along with a LTTE leader to open the gate.
- August 7 Suspected LTTE cadres killed a top elite Police Commando, Senior Superintendent of Police Upul Seneviratne, in a claymore mine explosion in the Kandy region of Jaffna district.
- His driver is wounded in the incident. Heavy fighting is reported from Mawil Aru in the Kallar region of Trincomalee district as the Government forces continued its offensive in the area to open the sluice gates closed by the LTTE since July 20. Sri Lanka Government invites the LTTE to return to the negotiation table and expressed its commitment to find a solution for the ethnic conflict.
- Australia pledges an initial \$1,000,000 for immediate humanitarian relief supplies for displaced residents of Muttur in the Trincomalee district but voices concern about the ongoing violence in Sri Lanka.
- August 8 Three persons, including a two-year old child, are killed and eight others, including former EPDP Parliamentarian S. Sivadasan, are injured when a bomb planted by suspected LTTE cadres exploded, targeting the vehicle transporting Sivadasan at Milagiriya in the capital Colombo.
- Two more employees of a French charity are found dead in the Muttur town of Trincomalee district, raising the toll to 17. One soldier and a Police constable are killed when a claymore mine hit the water carrier truck along the Uganthai Poththuvil road in Amparai District.
- The LTTE unilaterally lifts the waterway blockade in the east even as the Army continued to target outfit positions in and around the waterway.

- August 9 Five civilians, including a doctor and two nurses, are killed when the LTTE explodes a claymore mine targeting an ambulance near Nedunkerny in the Vavuniya district.
- Sri Lankan Government announces that the military had re-opened the controversial sluice gates near the Mawilaru anicut (irrigational channel) around 8 p.m. on August 8.
- Earlier, the LTTE claimed that they have opened the gates around 5 p.m. but area people said that the military had re-opened the gates. The LTTE breakaway faction led by 'Colonel' Karuna opens an office in Colombo, aiming to eventually contest elections.
- August 10 At least 30 LTTE cadres are killed as troops retaliated LTTE mortar fire in and around Mawilaru in the Trincomalee district.
- Four soldiers are also killed and 31 others sustain injuries in the incident. However, the pro-LTTE website Tamil Net claims that the Army advancing into the LTTE-controlled areas has lost 41 soldiers and also alleges that Sri Lanka Air Force pounded civilian populated areas killing more than 40 civilians and injuring a large number of them.
- An unspecified number of troops fighting the LTTE in the Trincomalee district are feared dead or wounded after an ammunition dump at an army camp apparently exploded accidentally, military sources said.
- Norway said that it has worked out a temporary arrangement to tide over the crisis resulting from the expected exit of the EU members from the truce monitoring team following the September 1 deadline set by the LTTE.
- LTTE spokesperson Daya Master told the media that attacks by the Government in the Mawilaru area of Trincomalee district amount to a declaration of war.
- August 11 At least 128 people, including 28 army and navy personnel, are killed in the battle between the SLA and the LTTE in the east and north.
- Clashes occur when the LTTE attempted to overrun the army's FDL in the Jaffna peninsula. Five soldiers who were injured in a clash between troops and the LTTE on August 10 in the Mawilaru area of Trincomalee district succumb to their injuries today.
- The LTTE claims many of their cadres are killed as the Sri Lanka military opened a new front against them bombarding their camp in the Tharavai area of Batticaloa district.
- August 12 Kethesh Loganathan, Deputy Secretary-General of the Government's SCOPP and former EPRLF member, is shot dead by unidentified gunmen near Vandervet place in the Dehiwela area of Colombo district.

Loganathan had taken part in the negotiations between the Government and Tamil militant groups, from the Thimpu Peace talks of 1985 to the Mangala Moonesinghe Parliamentary Select Committee of 1992.

LTTE cadres open artillery fire on the naval base in Trincomalee district, killing one civilian and a sailor. Three civilians and three sailors are injured in the incident. One LTTE cadre commits suicide and another one is killed by troops after they failed to proceed to Jaffna defying the curfew enforced by SFs in the Kaithadi area of Jaffna district.

August 13

Twenty-five more LTTE cadres are killed raising the death tally of the outfit cadres to 125, while Army has lost four of its troopers raising the tally to 32 during the continued between troops and the LTTE in the Jaffna district.

SLN personnel foils a LTTE attempt to over run Allapiddy village in the Kayts area as a flotilla of about 50-60 LTTE Sea-Tiger boats attempted to over run the village.

A LTTE cadre commits suicide as Wattala Police in the Jaffna district arrested two LTTE suspects. Later, on the information revealed by the surviving cadre, Police recovers a cache of arms and ammunition packed inside a lorry.

The LTTE alleges that 15 civilians are killed as rockets and artillery shells fired by SFs hit a church in the Allaipiddy area of Jaffna district. It also alleges that seven more civilians are killed in a separate artillery fire by the SFs.

The Sri Lanka Peace Secretariat states that the SLMM has officially informed that it is withdrawing from monitoring the cease-fire between the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE. The Government has requested all child recruits and other LTTE cadres to surrender to the nearest security forces camp or Police Station and that the Government would take full responsibility for their safety.

August 14

At least seven persons, including four soldiers of the SLA, are killed and 17 others sustain injuries in a suicide attack carried out by the LTTE targeting Pakistan High Commissioner Bashir Wali Mohammad in the capital Colombo.

The envoy, returning from the Pakistan Independence day function at the mission, escapes unhurt though his vehicle suffered minor damage. The LTTE alleges that at least 61 school children were killed and 150 injured in an aerial attack by the SLAF in the outfit-controlled Mullaittivu district.

However, the Government claims that the SLAF attacked a LTTE training camp in Puthukudirippu and killed more than 50 LTTE cadres. According to Sri Lankan Army reports, 88 SF personnel are killed in fighting between the troops and LTTE since August 11 in Jaffna. Another 120 are injured in the confrontations. The

confrontations have also killed more than 200 terrorists and injured over 300, according to the reports.

August 15 The Sri Lankan Military said that at least 250 LTTE cadres are killed and another 300 injured in continued fighting in the Jaffna peninsula during the past 72 hours.

During search operations at the Velanithurai village in the Kayts area of Jaffna district, SLN personnel kill five LTTE cadres hiding in the Grama Sevaka (local village official) office of the village and subsequently recovered a cache of weapons, including T 56 weapons, GPS, ammunition and communication equipment and some maps.

Two medical students, identified as Sivasankar and Theepan, are shot dead by unidentified assailants inside the Jaffna University campus. The UNHCR informs that more than 135,000 people have fled renewed fighting in Sri Lanka between Government forces and LTTE since April 2006.

August 16 Troops kill at least 98 LTTE cadres in retaliation when the latter attacked the FDL in Kilaly area of Jaffna district. The SLA has reported that three soldiers are also killed and 15 others wounded in the incident.

An elite Police unit kills three LTTE cadres who had attacked a Police patrol in the Akkaraipattu area of Ampara district.

A one and a half year-old infant, identified as Nilushan, the son of a former LTTE cadre Nimalan, is killed in LTTE firing in the Sittandi area of Batticaloa district. Nimalan and his wife are also injured in the incident.

Two civilians are killed and another sustained injuries when LTTE cadres open fire at a tractor carrying civilians in the Morawewa area of Ampara district.

President Mahinda Rajapakse states that the Government is not engaged in a war and forces are retaliating against the LTTE offensive to safeguard the sovereignty of the country.

August 18 Two Sri Lanka Navy personnel who sustained injuries due to LTTE firing at Salliya Sambalathivu in the Trincomalee district succumbed to their injuries today.

SFs foil an attempt by the LTTE to abduct 50 child inmates from the Revatha Children's Home in Trincomalee.

Three SF personnel and a home guard sustained injuries in the exchange of fire. Iceland announces that it would increase the SLMM's Icelandic contingent from the existing 4 to 10.

The decision comes in the wake of Norway's decision to increase its SLMM contingent from 16 to 20. The Government announces that it

- will extend all facilities for medical treatment to injured LTTE cadres on humanitarian grounds.
- August 19 Three civilians are shot dead by unidentified assailants in separate incidents in the Jaffna district.
- August 20 Suspected LTTE cadres shot dead former Tamil Parliamentarian of the TULF, Sinnathamby Sivamaharajah, at his temporary residence in Tellippalai in the Jaffna district.
- A Sri Lanka Red Cross employee, Nagarasa Thavaranjitham, is shot dead at his residence at Chettikulam in the Vavuniya district.
- The Government arranged immediate humanitarian assistance to the internally displaced in the Jaffna peninsula in the wake of the conflict situation.
- A vessel carrying 3,800 tons of essential food items under the International Committee of the Red Cross flag is dispatched from Colombo to be distributed through the Government Agent in Jaffna.
- August 21 The former Norwegian Army chief, Major General Lars Johan Solvberg, will take over as head of the SLMM from Swedish Major General Ulf Henricsson by the end of August 2006.
- Solvberg retired from the post of Chief of Staff of the Norwegian Army in 2005. The Sri Lanka President Mahinda Rajapakse reaffirming commitment to the 2002 CFA told the envoys of Co-Chairs of the island nation that his Government will seriously consider any initiative incorporating a clear and explicit commitment to a comprehensive and verifiable cessation of hostilities to be made by the LTTE chief V. Prabhakaran.
- August 22 Three civilians are killed by unidentified assailants in separate incidents in the Trincomalee district. Unidentified assailants shot dead two civilians in separate incidents in the Jaffna district.
- According to the United Nations estimates, the number of the displaced has swelled to 1.7 lakh.
- 13 suspects with close links to the LTTE have been charged in the US for plotting to buy surface-to-air missiles, according to US federal prosecutors.
- Other charges include the use of "front" charitable organizations and U.S. bank accounts for money laundering and fund raising on behalf of the LTTE and attempts to bribe U.S. public officials to remove the LTTE from the U.S. State Department's list of officially designated foreign terrorist organizations.
- August 22-23 Two more Tamil Canadians, Ramanan Mylvaganam and Piratheepan Nadarajah, are arrested in an alleged conspiracy to buy weapons for the LTTE in Sri Lanka on August 22 and 23 respectively.

- August 23 A woman, identified as Manoharan Rajini, is shot dead by unidentified assailants in front of the welfare centre at Sakkotai in the Vadamaradchchi division of Jaffna district.
- Unidentified assailants shot dead a civilian, Thammugaraja Prabhakaran, in the Trincomalee town.
- One police personnel is killed and another one sustained injuries when LTTE cadres carried out a claymore mine attack and subsequently opened fire at a police foot patrol in the Ottamavady area of Batticaloa district.
- Chicago Tribune quoting law enforcement officials reports that the money for a trip to Sri Lanka in 2005 of a U.S. congressman, Danny Davis, and an aide allegedly came from the LTTE.
- The LTTE reiterates that it has no connection with the eight persons arrested by the U.S. authorities on charges of attempting to mobilise military and material support for it.
- The UNHCR informs that nearly 180,000 people in Sri Lanka were displaced by violence since April 2006.
- August 24 Five cadres of the LTTE and a STF personnel are killed in the Urani area of Batticaloa district.
- An aid worker attached to the United Office Project Firm, which is a New Zealand-funded aid agency working for Tsunami-affected civilians, identified as P. Lesly, is abducted and subsequently killed by the LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres in the Thirukkivil area of Ampara district.
- An attack launched by LTTE cadres towards the Mahakachchakodiya Forward Defence Line in Vavuniya district killed one soldier.
- Troops kill one cadre of the outfit in the retaliatory fire. The Sri Lanka Military informs that 159 soldiers and 487 LTTE cadres are killed in 11 days of fighting over the last fortnight on the Jaffna peninsula.
- The Sri Lankan Government has stated that it would consider a new CFA with the LTTE only if it is offered by their chief, Velupillai Prabhakaran. The outgoing SLMM head, Ulf Henricsson, criticizes the EU for imposing a ban on the LTTE.
- The US court documents alleges that the LTTE was filling a shopping list of deadly arms to be used to blow up Indian aircraft, ships and even submarines.
- A LTTE operative in Canada, identified as "Waterloo Suresh" Sriskandarajah, allegedly used student couriers to smuggle war-related items to the outfit. The FBI documents claim that he told the students to hide the contraband with "teddies and chocolates."

- August 25 Unidentified assailants shot dead a civilian, identified as C. Lingeswaran, near Kaddudai Junction in the Manipay area of Jaffna district.
- One LTTE cadre is killed when police personnel retaliated LTTE fire in the Thirukkivil area of Ampara district.
- The new chief of the SLMM, Lars Johan Sølvsberg, accompanied by the outgoing head of the SLMM, Ulf Henricsson, visits the LTTE-held Kilinochchi and held talks with the political head of the outfit, S.P. Tamilselvan. Following the meeting, the LTTE decides to release the third Sri Lankan police personnel, B.W. Bopetigoda, detained since October 11, 2005.
- Sri Lanka's Upcountry People's Front leader P. Chandrasekaran, who joined the Government and was sworn in as the Minister of Community Development and Social Inequity Eradication, told the media that prior to taking this decision, he discussed it with the LTTE leader S.P. Tamilselvan.
- August 26 Troops kill 12 cadres of the LTTE in a retaliatory fire following LTTE mortar fire targeting the Chenkalady Army detachment in the Batticaloa district, in which five civilians are injured as the mortars missed their intended target and fell on a nearby village.
- Six soldiers are killed and four others sustain injuries when an IED planted by the LTTE exploded in the Muhamalai area of Jaffna district. Troops were conducting clearing operation in the area.
- LTTE cadres shot dead a civilian, identified as Sinnaraja, and his sister Wimalakumari Komalan inside their home at Mavadiwembu in Batticaloa district.
- August 27 The death toll of soldiers in the LTTE-triggered Improvised Explosive Device blast at Muhamalai in Jaffna rose to nine.
- The LTTE hands over the Sri Lankan Police personnel, B.W. Bopetigoda, who was detained by the outfit since October 11, 2005 to the outgoing SLMM chief Major General Ulf Henricsson.
- The Sri Lanka's High Commissioner in Canada, W.J.S. Karunaratne, states that the LTTE is collecting funds in Canada using various front organizations, despite the ban against them.
- President Mahinda Rajapakse calls for a bigger role by India in Sri Lanka's peace process.
- The UNHCR informs that the number of people dislodged from their homes since April 2006 has surged to around two hundred and five thousand.
- The former Norwegian army chief, Lars Solvberg, will take over as the new chief of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission next week.

- August 28 At least 31 persons are killed and 105 are wounded, when troops backed by multi-barrel rocket launchers and artillery guns, retaliate a LTTE attack at Sampur in the Trincomalee district. Six soldiers are killed and 28 others injured due to LTTE artillery and mortar attacks as fighting continued.
- A British doctor, Murugesu Vinayagamoorthy alias Dr Moorthy, a senior LTTE intermediary is arrested in New York, for aiding the LTTE by facilitating the purchase of American rockets and British submarine technology.
- The SLMM said that they would remain in their present stations in all conflict affected districts including Kilinochchi, denying reports of alleged threats from the LTTE.
- August 29 At least 66 cadres of the LTTE and 13 SF personnel are killed in continued fighting between troops and the LTTE cadres in the Trincomalee district till last reports came in.
- Troops on duty at FDL in the Poovarasankulam area of Vavuniya district confronted more than 20 LTTE cadres who tried to infiltrate the FDL. During the subsequent search operation in the area in the area, SFs recover 16 dead bodies of LTTE cadres and one weapon.
- Five accused Sri Lankan gang members are behind bars in Canada in connection with a massive fraud scam that police suspect may have milked thousands of Mississauga residents. Detectives are probing the trail of stolen cash to determine whether loot was sent to Sri Lanka for the LTTE.
- August 30 LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres shot dead a woman home guard, identified as Jayasooriya Arachchige Sujeewa Damayanthi in the Mamaduwa area of Vavuniya district.
- The Indonesian police claim that it has arrested 13 LTTE suspects during a recent raid in the southern Java coast. The suspects were reportedly moving to Australia, the report added.
- Two more Sri Lankan men - bringing the total charged to seven – are arrested by the Toronto Police in connection with a massive fraud scam. Detectives are probing the trail of stolen cash to determine whether loot was sent to Sri Lanka for the LTTE.
- The UN threatens to end aid operations in Sri Lanka unless its Government discloses what it knows about the killing of 17 aid workers on August 4, 2006.
- The SLMM formally accuses the SFs of being behind the execution-style murders of 17 local staff of French aid agency, Action Contre La Faim. It blames that Sri Lankan authorities obstructed their efforts to investigate. The SLMM also accuses LTTE for the June 15 attack of a civilian bus at Kabitigollewa in the Anuradhapura district.

- Secretary to the Pakistan Interior Ministry, Kamal Shah, said that the Pakistani Government would consider the proscription of LTTE on its territory if there were evidence that the latter is engaged in assisting or is drawing assistance from terrorist groups in Pakistan.
- August 31 119 LTTE cadres and 14 soldiers are killed in the continued fighting between SFs and the outfit since August 28 in Trincomalee district.
- Military spokesperson Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe said that troops engaged in the operation to neutralise LTTE artillery and mortar gun positions in the Sampur region brought Kaddaparichchan, a stronghold for mortar and artillery gun positions of the outfit, under their full control.
- Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera calls for a “more independent and more impartial role” by the SLMM. He reiterates that there were no conditions for the LTTE to return to negotiations but there has to be a verifiable guarantee from the outfit chief V. Prabhakaran that the hostilities will be ceased.
- The Sri Lanka President Mahinda Rajapakse meets British Prime Minister Tony Blair in London and discussed the current situation in Sri Lanka.
- September 1 SFs find a heap of Tsunami relief items at the Kattaparichchan mortar location of the LTTE in the Trincomalee district. Defence spokesperson Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe said, “Those relief items have been pilfered by the LTTE from the areas affected by Tsunami waves in the North and East in December 2004.”
- The Sri Lanka Government enforces new controls on foreign aid workers. Local and foreign non-government organisations are told to obtain work permits for expatriate staff by September 1, before the deadline was extended by a week, the officials said.
- Three inmates of the Chenchola ‘orphanage’ as claimed by the LTTE, injured in the August 14 aerial bombing in Mullaitivu and undergoing treatment at a hospital in Kandy, told police that it was not an orphanage as claimed by the LTTE but a LTTE camp where hundreds of youth were given weapons training.
- September 1-2 The Sri Lankan military said it has sunk 12 boats of the LTTE and killed 80 of its cadres in a sea battle off the northern Jaffna peninsula in a retaliatory action as 20 LTTE boats, including five suicide boats laden with explosives, had attacked a patrol near the Kankesanturai harbour. Two Government boats are slightly damaged and two sailors are wounded.
- Four civilians are killed in the Jaffna peninsula by the LTTE.
- September 2 One soldier is killed and two others sustain injuries in a LTTE artillery fire targeting troops at Nagarkovil Forward Defence line.

A civilian, who was shot at and injured by an unidentified assailant at Chithra Lane in Colombo, succumbs to his injuries later.

September 3

Unidentified assailants shot dead three civilians - two in Jaffna and one in Batticaloa district - in separate incidents.

The Sri Lanka Navy has increased patrols off Mannar in the Palk Strait between Sri Lanka and India to curb the illegal migration of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees to the Southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu to upset the plans of the LTTE to use the refugee problem and the pro-LTTE politicians in Tamil Nadu to put pressure on the Indian Government.

The Sri Lanka Government freezes bank accounts of TRO, a non-government organisation and a registered charity with the Government with its head office at Kilinochchi that operates mainly in the northeast and is believed to be a front organisation of the LTTE. The Financial Intelligence Unit of the Central Bank has begun investigating the TRO financial transactions under the recently introduced Financing of Terrorism Law.

The Australian police has launched investigations into several Tamil organisations in the country after the United States FBI accused the Tamil community here of supporting LTTE in Sri Lanka.

President Mahinda Rajapakse said that the Government will invite an international independent commission to probe abductions, disappearances and extra-judicial killings in all areas in the country.

September 4

Three civilians are killed in separate incidents by unidentified assailants in the Jaffna district.

The Sri Lankan military claims that it had taken control of the strategically crucial town of Sampur in the Trincomalee district. The military backed by air support had launched an offensive to take control of Sampur over a week ago to halt attacks by the LTTE on the strategic port of Trincomalee harbour and the naval base.

The Sri Lankan Central Bank states that the probe on the TRO is triggered by the arrest of TRO members in several foreign countries for their suspected involvement in terrorist financing. The United States, United Kingdom and Australia have started investigating this internationally registered charity organisation, which is reported to run active branches in 28 countries, including Switzerland, France, Germany, Norway and Denmark, for any terrorist links.

President Mahinda Rajapakse formally announces the capture of the Sampur town. However, the LTTE spokesperson, S. Elilan, insists that the outfit has not relinquished control of Sampur and that fighting is continuing, adding, "The battle is going on. The army has come to the area and we are also there."

- September 5 One soldier is killed and eight others are injured when the bus they were traveling in struck a claymore mine at Siruppiddy junction in the Jaffna district.
- An active member of the EPDP, Nallathambi Punarathnam, is shot dead by LTTE cadres in the Valaichchenai area of Batticaloa district.
- According to sources from Muttur in the Trincomalee district, the people displaced due to the attack by the LTTE a month ago, are returning back home. More than 10,000 are believed to have returned to date, sources said.
- September 6 At least three civilians are killed and 10 others injured in artillery fire by SLA troops towards the LTTE held territories in the Kathiraveli town of Batticaloa district.
- LTTE cadres, hiding in jungles of Kadiraveli area in the Trincomalee district, south of Mavilaru, open artillery fire towards troops near the Mavilaru sluice gate, killing two soldiers and injuring 16 others.
- Heavy fighting erupts between LTTE and its breakaway faction led by 'Colonel' Karuna in the jungles in the Kanchankudi area of Ampara district in which six LTTE camps, including the Kanchikudichchuaru, Pavata and 73 Camp, are overrun by hundreds of Karuna cadres. However, the LTTE blames SFs for the incident.
- The LTTE political head, S.P. Tamilselvan states that with the capture of Sampur town by the SFs, the 2002 CFA has ended and there was no scope for talks unless the troops returned to pre-CFA positions. He also warned that the Sinhala population would soon have to face the consequences of the ongoing clashes between the LTTE and the security forces in the country's north and east.
- September 7 One soldier is killed and six others, including three officers, are wounded in a LTTE mortar and artillery fire in the Muhamalai, Kilaly and Neravilkulam areas of Jaffna district.
- A US Government report on Child Labour says that the LTTE recruited Tsunami-orphaned children into its fighting units picking them from survivor's camps in the North and East.
- The SLMM disputes the claim of the LTTE that it only responded to artillery strikes launched by the Government troops and that the Government triggered the recent Jaffna battle which claimed the lives of about 700 combatants and wounded about 1,000. The mission said, "Considering the preparation level of the operations it seems to have been a well prepared LTTE initiative."
- Army Headquarters reported that 180 soldiers died in action and about 500 were wounded. Over 500 LTTE cadres died in action, some of them during sea-borne attacks on heavily fortified security forces positions on Mandaitivu and Kayts islands.

- September 8 One civilian and a soldier are killed and three other civilians, including a woman and a child, sustain injuries when LTTE cadres activated an explosive device using a remote control in the Chenkalady town area of Batticaloa district.
- Police recover two bullet-riddled dead bodies of civilians, identified as Karadeepan Anandan and Karadeepan Mawanseelan, from the Savukkadi area in Batticaloa district.
- The LTTE warns the Government to immediately withdraw from Sampur or face war.
- September 9 Two soldiers are killed and 15 sustain injuries when SFs launch an attack on LTTE artillery and mortar positions near the de facto border between Government and the outfit-held areas in the Jaffna peninsula.
- Two LTTE cadres, Sutha and Viji. P. Thayamohan, are killed by SFs in the Valaichenai area of Batticaloa district.
- September 9- 10 At least 150 LTTE cadres are killed in the continuing battle between SFs and the outfit at Muhamalai, the northern gateway to the Jaffna peninsula on the A-9 main supply route, and its surroundings areas. 28 soldiers are killed while 120 others sustain injuries in the incident.
- September 10 Three soldiers are killed in a LTTE-triggered-pressure mine explosion in the Asikkulama area of Vavuniya district.
- Unidentified assailants shot dead a Tamil civilian, identified Thiruchelvam Sebastian, along the Nanattan-Vankalai road in Mannar.
- The LTTE leadership has ordered three months of compulsory combat training for Ordinary and Advanced Level students in Sri Lanka's North and East and also rejected sending more cadres to the East.
- September 11 Two soldiers are killed in LTTE artillery fire towards Army detachments in and around Muhamalai, Kilaly, Kodikamam in the Vidattapalai area of Jaffna district.
- Unidentified assailants in the Trincomalee district kill an aid worker, identified as Rangunathan Ramalingam, for the Seattle-based non-profit group, World Concern.
- Two female cadres of the LTTE, arrested from Nelliady in the Jaffna district, swallowed cyanide capsules and tried to commit suicide while in Police custody. One of them died later.
- The Sri Lankan Army said that at least 163 persons, including 130 LTTE cadres and 33 soldiers, were killed in the confrontations in Jaffna since September 8. Reports added that 130 LTTE cadres are among the 260 wounded.

September 12 An infant and her father were shot dead by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) cadres at their home in the Adikovil area of Jaffna district.

A civilian, Sellaiyana Nadaraj, is stabbed to death by LTTE cadres in the Nelliady area of Jaffna district.

A LTTE cadre who tried to lob a hand grenade towards troops in the Ganeshapuram area of Vavuniya district is overpowered and killed by troops.

A Government official stated that 185 combatants are killed over the past six days of battle between SFs and LTTE in the Jaffna district. Military spokesperson Brig. Prasad Samarasinghe said that SFs and LTTE cadres traded artillery fire across their front lines at Muhamalai on Jaffna Peninsula since September 7 and sporadic exchanges of fire continued on September 12. He added that the 35 soldiers and 150 cadres were killed in the fighting. However, the LTTE peace secretariat leader, Seevanatnam Puleedevan, claims that only 12 of the outfit's cadres were killed and said the military's toll was 78.

The Sri Lanka Government denies that it had agreed to unconditional peace talks with the LTTE and criticises the Norwegian peace facilitators for announcing a possible time frame for the talks.

September 13 The dead bodies of two of the three home guards, who went missing since September 11-afternoon after LTTE terrorists opened fire at them while they were on duty in the Kuriniyankulam area of Trincomalee district, are recovered. Another missing Home Guard is found lying injured beside the two dead bodies.

Two police personnel who are shot at and wounded by two LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres who boarded a bus on its way from Kalawanchikudy in the Batticaloa district, disguised as passengers, on September 12, succumb to their injuries today.

LTTE cadres attack SFs foot patrol in the Nagarkovil area close to Muhamale in Jaffna district, killing two soldiers.

SFs kill two LTTE cadres when they attacked a military camp in the Vavuniya town.

The Sri Lanka Government states that it remains fully committed to participating in peace talks with the LTTE, but said the specific modalities relating to dates and venue must be discussed and agreed on by the Government and the Norwegian peace facilitators.

The LTTE political wing leader S. P. Tamilselvan states that it is the responsibility of the Norwegian facilitators and international community to ensure that the Sri Lankan Government adheres to the territorial demarcations, terms and conditions of the cease-fire agreement and thereby create a conducive atmosphere for talks.

- September 14 Three civilians are shot dead by suspected LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres in the Mathawathakulam area of Vavuniya district.
- Unidentified assailants shot dead two civilians at Manipay road in the Jaffna town.
- The 'Colonel' Karuna faction states that any talks between the LTTE and the Government should be restricted to strengthening the truce and ending the outfit's "violent conduct."
- Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickramanayake, reiterating the Government's commitment to resume peace talks, says that if the LTTE was willing to resume negotiations with the Government it should first lay down its weapons.
- The Government officially lodges a complaint against the arbitrary statement by Norwegian Minister, Erik Solheim, and the Co-Chairs imposing a deadline for peace talks, with the facilitator's Chief of Mission.
- September 15 A Naval personnel was killed by LTTE cadres in the Trincomalee town.
- Unidentified assailants shot dead a member of 'Colonel' Karuna faction, identified as Samithambi Thirumal, in the Chenkalady area of Batticaloa district.
- The newly appointed chief of the SLMM, Larse Solveberg, visits the LTTE administrative headquarters at Kilinochchi and hold discussions with the head of the outfit's political wing leader, S.P. Tamilselvan.
- President Mahinda Rajapakse appoints Mahanama Tillekeratne, a retired High Court Judge, to inquire into the increasing instances of abduction, disappearances and killings in the country.
- The LTTE imposes conditions for the proposed talks between them and the Government by saying that the Government should fully implement the CFA before commencing the talks and that the Government withdraw from the areas captured recently, including the strategically important Sampur.
- September 16 One civilian is killed and two others sustain injuries when unidentified assailants attacked a pick-up truck carrying Ceylon Electricity Board workers near Chunnakam power station in Jaffna district.
- One LTTE cadre is killed by troops in a retaliatory fire in the Valachchenai area of Batticaloa district.
- September 17 The Sri Lankan Navy and Air Force in a coordinated attack on September 17 sank an suspected LTTE ship carrying weapons in the sea off Kalmunai in the Batticaloa district. Unconfirmed reports suggest that 12 to 15 LTTE cadres were on board the ship, when it sank.

Two civilians, including a child, are killed and three others, including a woman, are injured when unidentified assailants opened fire at them in a house located along Ambal Road in the Anpuvallipuram area of Trincomalee district.

September 18 At least 11 civilians, belonging to the Muslim community, are killed at Pottuvil town in the Amparai district. Both the LTTE and Sri Lankan Army accuse each other of being involved in the killing.

The Sri Lankan Government asks for a personal assurance from the LTTE chief, Velupillai Prabhakaran, on the outfit's commitment to peace and requested the global community to play a more active role in checking LTTE's international operation.

September 19 A group of journalists escape unhurt but four soldiers are killed when the LTTE fired mortars at a vehicle convoy carrying journalists in the Muhamalai area of Jaffna district.

Unidentified assailants shot dead two civilians, V. Mathiaparanam and M. Sanoon, in the Kantalai area of Trincomalee district.

President Mahinda Rajapakse during his talks with Switzerland President Moritz Leuenberger, express hope that the Swiss Government will take measures to curb disinformation and fundraising activities by the LTTE in Switzerland.

The Sri Lankan Government states that the LTTE ship that was destroyed by the Navy on September 17 in the sea off Kalmunai in the Batticaloa district originated in Indonesia.

The new U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Robert O. Blake Jr, says in Colombo that Norway is persuading the LTTE to return to the negotiating table with credible guarantees that it would not use fresh talks to strengthen itself militarily. He adds the Co-Chairs are not in position to furnish guarantees on behalf of the outfit and such guarantees would be credible only when they came from the LTTE.

September 20 Three LTTE cadres are killed by the police in an encounter that lasted for five hours at Isamalai in the Murunkan area of Mannar district.

14 Muslim civilians are injured in a gunfire incident in the Pottuvil town of Ampara district when a group of Muslim civilians had been protesting near the anicut (irrigational channel) where a massacre of 11 Muslim youths occurred on September 17.

President Mahinda Rajapakse calls on the LTTE to give up violence and embrace democracy and the peace process, including international negotiations brokered by Norway.

The President told the U.N. General Assembly that the LTTE is a ruthless terrorist outfit that devotes its full force to violence, suicide bombings, massacre of civilians, indiscriminate armed assaults, and conscription of young children for war.

- September 21 The dead bodies of three civilians, identified as Ilambaram Lewd Kumara, Selvadorei Kadeeshwaran and Kumar, are recovered by troops from the Illavali area in Jaffna district.
- A woman, identified as Rajendran Yaso, is shot dead by LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres while she was in the general area (area under Government control) of Petale-Valaichchenai in the Batticaloa district.
- The Sri Lanka Government said that it will hold any future peace talks only with the LTTE leader Vellupillai Prabhakaran and will not hold talks according to the outfit's wishes.
- The APRC set up to formulate a political solution to the ethnic problem unanimously resolved that the Muslim community is a stakeholder in Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict entitled to be represented at future peace negotiations.
- September 22 Two LTTE suspects are killed when they detonated a hand grenade while the Police were trying to arrest them in the Udappuwa area of Puttalam district.
- Police arrests a suspected LTTE cadre at a checkpoint in the Medawachchiya town of Vavuniya district along with two suicide explosive belts, a claymore mine, detonators, remote controls and timers while on the way to the capital Colombo in an alleged plot to attack high-ranking Army or Government officials, the military said.
- Elections for the local bodies in the districts of Jaffna, Vavuniya, Kilinochchi, Batticaloa, Mullaitivu and Mannar district, which did not have local bodies elections this year, will be held on June 30, 2007.
- September 24 At least 70 LTTE cadres are killed by the SLN as they attacked a flotilla of 24 boats of the LTTE and sunk eight of them loaded with outfit's cadres and weapons in a fierce sea- battle that started on late September 24-night and lasted for five hours.
- The battle occurred off the coast of the eastern town of Pulmoddai in the sea 50-miles north of the Trincomalee harbour. Police chief Percy Perera said that a top LTTE commander is believed to be killed or injured during the clash, adding, the boats were bringing in reinforcements.
- At least 15 LTTE cadres are killed as SFs launched artillery fire on a group of LTTE cadres who had opened fire towards troops in the Pulipanchikal area of Batticaloa district. Troops retaliate LTTE fire in the Iluppkulam area of Trincomalee district and recovered the dead bodies of two outfit cadres from the incident site during the subsequent search operation.
- President Mahinda Rajapakse states that he is ready to share power with minority communities.
- The Sri Lankan Government informs Norway that it would participate at the proposed meeting demanded by Sri Lanka's key financial backers, including Japan, the United States, Britain and European Union, who threatened to cut off aid.

According to reports, thousands of Muslims are fleeing their homes in Muttur after a previously unknown suspected rebel front, Tamileela Thayaga Meedpu Padai, distributed leaflets in the town warning residents to leave immediately. "The final preparations have begun to recapture Muttur," the leaflet said, adding, "Do not remain in Muttur. You will only face destruction." Meanwhile, the LTTE denies any involvement in the distribution of leaflets warning residents to leave immediately.

- September 25 A civilian, identified as Mohammed Musur, is shot dead by a suspected LTTE cadre in the Trincomalee town.
- September 26 One soldier is killed in a LTTE fire in the Eluthumadduval area of Jaffna district.
- A LTTE suspect, identified as Piratheepan Nadarajah, who faces extradition to the U.S. on terrorism charges is granted bail in Canada.
- Nadarajah is alleged in U.S. court documents, as a scientist and technical expert who intentionally conspired to provide material support to the LTTE.
- The Government said they would explore possibilities of opening the Puttalam-Mannar-Pooneryn road as an alternative to the A-9 main Jaffna-Colombo highway.
- September 27 Unidentified assailants shot dead a civilian, Arumugam Puvanendran, who was working in a tourist hotel located along the Nilaveli coast in the Trincomalee town.
- A civilian, identified as Keyzer Rome Dias, is shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Pesalai area of Mannar district.
- September 28 One soldier is killed and two others sustain injuries when LTTE cadres fire artillery towards the SF Forward Defence Line at Muhamalai in the Jaffna district.
- The Sri Lankan government states that the LTTE has informed them that the outfit chief, V. Prabhakaran, has agreed to resume the stalled peace talks.
- Commenting on the closure of the A-9 highway Defence spokesperson, Minister Keheliya Rambukwella, said that it is the LTTE that forced the closure of the highway by attacking the troops in the Muhamalai area, the last entry point from South of cleared areas to uncleared Wannai.
- He rejects the LTTE's demand for opening the A-9 highway, but proposed to open a land route through Mannar.
- President Mahinda Rajapakse said that the country's population in the East should decide their own future through a referendum. He emphasised that the people in the East have to decide their own future and it is a crystal clear established fact that a referendum should be held in accordance with the India-Sri Lanka Pact, he adds.

September 29 Three soldiers and a civilian were killed as cadres of the LTTE launch a mortar attack on the Black bridge Army camp in the Chenkaladi area of Batticaloa district.

Two more soldiers sustain injuries in the incident. The SLN claims to have destroyed a Sea-Tiger boat killing four cadres and recovered a large cache of armament from the Velanithurai area of Jaffna district.

The bullet riddled dead bodies of three civilians, identified as Sellaiya Navaratnaraja, Chandralingam Devaneshan and Kandasami Sri, are recovered from the Vinayagapuram area in the Batticaloa district.

Police said one of the victims is beheaded and that a group calling itself 'People's Tamil Organization' has claimed responsibility for the killings in a note near the bodies. According to federal officials, arms brokers for the LTTE and other customers in Indonesia are charged with trying to buy surface-to-air missiles and other weapons through undercover agents in Maryland.

The Government decides to withdraw visas issued to members of four INGOs, which through their alleged clandestine dealings with the LTTE are posing a threat to national security. The committee has recommended withdrawal of the visas issued to MSS France, MSS Spain, MDM France and Doctors of the World USA.

September 30 Government officials claim that 16 LTTE cadres, including its Koaveli leader Kannan, are killed in an encounter with the STF at the Pillumale Police post in the Amparai district.

However, the LTTE military spokesperson, Irasiah Ilanthirayan, states that 11 outfit cadres were killed in an ambush carried out by the STF inside outfit-held territory in the Batticaloa district and that the bodies of the dead cadres were transferred in Military vehicles into the STF-controlled area.

Eight LTTE cadres, including a senior cadre identified as Malarvan, who led the attack, are killed and 15 others wounded by SFs in a retaliatory fire at the Thamparaveli outfit base following a LTTE attack on the Chenkaladi Army camp in the Batticaloa district.

Three Police personnel are killed when suspected LTTE cadres detonated a claymore fragmentation mine in the Vavuniya district. SLN personnel kill three LTTE cadres in an encounter at Kannathivu island in the Jaffna district.

The dead bodies of three civilians are recovered from the Uthankulam and Tharanikulam areas in the Vavuniya district. A former member of the EPDP, Ponnaiya Srikanan, is shot dead by suspected LTTE cadres in the Point Pedro area of Jaffna district.

The Sri Lanka Government states that any future peace talks with the LTTE would hinge on its chief, Velupillai Prabhakaran, agreeing in writing or verbally to three major conditions.

The conditions include a specific time frame to resume and conclude talks, an assurance to the Donor Co-chairs that it will not use sea routes to smuggle in military hardware and a commitment not to resort to any violence during the period of talks.

October 1 A curfew is imposed following a clash between two Muslim factions at Kathankudi in the Batticaloa district in which at least three civilians are injured and nearly 32 houses are damaged.

The leader of the LTTE breakaway faction party Tamileela Makkal Viduthalai Puligal (TMVP), 'Colonel' Karuna, has said that the majority of the LTTE military commanders are becoming old and infirm and Prabhakaran has lost good calibre recruits and committed leadership. The failure was due to lack of leadership, he maintained. He added that TMVP is not for a separate state of Eelam, but for a united Sri Lanka under a federal constitution.

October 2 Suspected LTTE cadres shot dead a police officer at Pottuvil police station in the Amparai district.

The Interpol is reported to have unanimously adopted a resolution proposed by Sri Lanka to fight against recruitment and use of children as combatants by non-state actors.

October 3 Police personnel retaliate LTTE firing in the Murunkan area of Mannar district and during subsequent search operation recovers the dead body of one LTTE cadre.

The Government accuses the LTTE of having links with six organised criminal gangs and being responsible for the series of recent abductions in Colombo. It also stated that a Presidential Commission of Inquiry is probing the matter.

LTTE states that they have agreed to unconditional peace talks with the Sri Lankan Government but warned that they would pull out of the 2002 cease-fire agreement (CFA) altogether if the Government continues with its Military campaign.

October 4 A civilian is abducted along with his vehicle and subsequently shot dead by LTTE cadres in the Kondavil area of Jaffna district.

Federal prosecutors at Baltimore in Indonesia announce that six men, who were charged with attempting to export weapons to Indonesia and to the LTTE, are facing additional charges.

The Sri Lanka Government agrees to hold unconditional peace talks with the LTTE in Geneva.

October 5 LTTE cadres trigger a claymore mine explosion targeting troops on route clearing duty at Kokkeliya in the Vavuniya district, killing one soldier and injuring two others.

Nine soldiers sustained injuries in LTTE mortar and artillery fire towards troops in the Eluthumadduval, Nagarkovil and Muhamalai areas of Jaffna district.

Peace talks between the Sri Lanka Government and LTTE will be held on October 28-29 in Switzerland.

October 6-7 At least 60 LTTE cadres are killed and an unspecified number of them injured when clashes between SFs and the LTTE in the Batticaloa district erupted on October 6 when the outfit cadres launched a heavy ground attack using artillery, mortar and small arms on Army detachment at Mankerni and Kajuwatta. 2 soldiers are also killed and 15 others sustained injuries, while 12 others are reported missing.

A fleet of five LTTE Sea-Tiger boats transporting additional cadres and weapons to Mankerni are blocked and attacked by the SLN craft in the seas off Kadiraweli in the Trincomalee district destroying two of them completely with LTTE cadres on board.

LTTE cadres blast the Panichchankerni Bridge causing inconvenience nearly to 30,000 civilians.

October 7 A former member of the EPDP, Nagarasa, is shot dead by LTTE cadres at Mallakam in the Jaffna district.

LTTE cadres fire upon troops who were on a route clearing operation in the Thirunaveli junction area of Jaffna district, killing one soldier.

October 8 Five SLA soldiers are killed and four others sustain injuries when cadres of the LTTE launch an artillery and mortar attack towards troops in the Muhamalai area of Jaffna district.

The LTTE hands over the dead bodies of 11 SLA personnel, who went missing during the continued clashes between SFs and the LTTE in the Batticaloa district which erupted on October 6 when the outfit cadres launched a heavy ground attack using artillery, mortar and small arms on Army detachment at Mankerni and Kajuwatta to the ICRC.

SFs re-capture areas west of Muttur in the Trincomalee district, where LTTE activities were confined to since the military regained control of Sampur last month.

October 9 Addressing the Sri Lanka-based Ambassadors of the Peace Process Co-Chairs, President Mahinda Rajapakse reiterates his firm commitment to a negotiated settlement and to make the forthcoming talks with the LTTE and expresses the hope that the Co-Chair countries would be able to persuade the LTTE to abandon their violent approach and return to negotiations.

LTTE cadres shot dead a civilian, identified as Selvarajah Idayarajan, in the Kokuvil area of Jaffna district.

- A soldier on duty at Averikadu in the Jaffna district is killed in a LTTE mortar fire.
- The Sri Lanka Government states that it wants the new round of talks with the LTTE, scheduled to be held on October 28-29 in Oslo, to focus on core issues such as human rights and development.
- October 10 Three civilians are killed and three others injured when LTTE cadres allegedly detonate a claymore mine fixed inside a van in the Poonthottam area of Vavuniya district.
- LTTE cadres detonate a claymore mine and subsequently open fire towards troops in the Vandaramoole area of Batticaloa district. In retaliatory fire, two LTTE cadres are killed and five others are wounded.
- Troops after observing a large gathering of LTTE cadres who were poised to attack the Kiran Army camp, pounds artillery and mortars successfully on their movements causing death to two of their cadres and injuring three others.
- The LTTE informs Norwegian Ambassador Hans Brattskar in Kilinochchi that they are ready to resume peace negotiations with the Government but if security forces continue the offensive they would reconsider.
- Following an in-depth inquiry, the HRC in their report rules that the Senchola Camp in the Mullaitivu was in fact an LTTE recruitment station and the 500 children and young adults had been receiving motivation training on August 14, the day of aerial attacks. The HRC report points out that their evidence proves the State supported education system is exploited by the LTTE for child recruitment and combatant training as it provides a ready made 'pool' of vulnerable children.
- October 11 At least 50 SLA personnel, including seven officers, are killed and another 214 are injured in continued fighting between Government troops and LTTE at the Muhamale and Kilaly FDLs of SFs.
- An 81-year old woman, Manniyakka, sustains injuries in a LTTE artillery fire and later succumbed to her injuries in the Kodikamam area of the Jaffna district.
- Chief Government negotiator, Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva, states that the LTTE has no right to lay claim to any part of Sri Lankan soil, which is sovereign territory under the Sri Lanka Government.
- Norwegian Ambassador, Hans Brattskar, informs the Government that the LTTE is ready for unconditional talks though should Government forces capture any territory occupied by the LTTE, the latter would withdraw from the peace process.
- The Government confirms to Norway, official facilitator of the peace talks, that it is agreeable to meeting the LTTE for talks on October 28

- and 29 and said the exact location of the talks in Switzerland would be determined later.
- October 12 The Sri Lankan Military claims that at least 478 persons, including 78 soldiers and 400 LTTE cadres, were killed in a five-hour battle in the Jaffna peninsula along the FDLs in the Kilani and Muhamalai sectors on October 11.
- LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres shot dead four civilians, including three EPDP members, on the Electricity Board road in Jaffna town.
- Three civilians and two police personnel are killed when a LTTE laid claymore mine on Kachcheri road in the Jaffna district, targeting a vehicle that was carrying EPDP members, hit the victims standing nearby.
- The ruling SLFP, led by President Mahinda Rajapakse, and opposition UNP under the leadership of the former Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe, agrees to pursue a national consensus on all issues, including federal solution to the ethnic issue.
- October 13 The SLA confirms that it lost 129 soldiers in fighting with the LTTE in Jaffna peninsula on October 11. It also confirmed that the outfit buried 196 of its cadres in the uncleared areas (area not under Government control) of Sunokkai, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Omanthai and Mullaithivu. 283 soldiers and 312 LTTE cadres were injured in the confrontation.
- The SLA informs that the outfit has handed over 74 dead bodies of the soldiers to the Red Cross.
- The LTTE chief, Velupillai Prabhakaran, refuses to meet the Japanese special peace envoy, Yasushi Akashi, who is scheduled to hold talks with the outfit on October 18.
- In the annual Human Rights Report issued by the British Government, the Government of Sri Lanka and LTTE are blamed for carrying out violations of basic human rights in Sri Lanka.
- October 14 Three civilians, Vaithilingam Mahenthiran, Nadarasa Navarasa and Navaneethan, are killed and another injured by unidentified assailants at Samalankulam in the Vavuniya district.
- Two persons are killed and an equal number of them injured when an unidentified assailant opened fire at a group of civilians in the Oluvil area of Jaffna district.
- LTTE launches artillery attacks to Muhamale, Nagarkovil and Kilaly areas in the Jaffna district, killing two soldiers and wounding 13 others.
- October 15 The SLN destroys a LTTE trawler transporting weapons, ammunition and explosives, about 35 nautical miles in the seas off Arippu West in the Mannar district, killing six of the outfit's cadres.

Three Sinhalese civilians, identified as P.K. Gunawardane, P.K. Upali and Ranjith, who along with two Muslim civilians were on a van collecting fruits in the Madavaithyakulam area of Vavuniya district are dragged inside a jungle patch and shot dead by LTTE cadres. The Muslim civilians are set free.

Germany officially froze any new aid for projects in Sri Lanka in a bid to put pressure on the Government and LTTE to restart peace talks.

October 16 At least 98 sailors of the navy are killed and 100 injured as suspected LTTE cadres rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into a naval convoy at Digampatana in the Habarana area of Matale district.

Sri Lanka's Supreme Court declares the temporary merger of the northern and eastern provinces, effected in 1987 and extended annually, "null and void and illegal." It said the President has no powers to effect a merger of provinces under Emergency Regulation, and only Parliament could decide on the subject.

October 18 Suspected LTTE cadres carries out a suicide mission on Dakshina Naval Base in Galle. Troops, however, successfully repulse the attack killing 15 LTTE cadres, while one sailor also died in the incident. Another 15 sailors and 14 civilians are injured in the confrontation.

Yasushi Akashi, Japanese peace envoy, after meeting Tamilselvan in Kilinochchi said, "We obtained commitments from Mr. Thamilselvan that LTTE has prepared to go to Geneva for talks on the 28th October... I was able to get LTTE's willingness and preparedness to go to Geneva."

October 19 Two SF personnel are killed in a LTTE triggered mine attack at Thandikulam in the Vavuniya district.

The LTTE administration in Kilinochchi bans the use of mobile phones in uncleared areas (area not under Government control).

LTTE agrees to attend the peace talks scheduled to be held at Geneva on October 28-29.

President Mahinda Rajapakse asserts that for the first time ever, political parties in the South are now prepared to set aside political differences, sit together, reach a consensus and formulate a framework through which all could work on resolving the ethnic crisis to reach a sustainable and honourable peace.

The annual publication of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London, 'Military Balance 2005/2006', refers to emerging links between the LTTE and al Qaeda.

October 20 Sri Lankan navy boats destroy seven vessels of the LTTE in a sea battle off the coast of Jaffna peninsula, killing at least 35 cadres of the outfit. Two sailors are wounded in the battle.

- Unidentified assailants shot dead three civilians, Kulasingham Kunarasa, Vellupillai Thiyagarajah and Illayathamby Kirupanathan, at Rasa Veethy in the Jaffna district.
- October 21 A 17 year-old boy, Suresh Kumar, who was earlier abducted by the LTTE, is killed by its cadres when he attempted to escape in the uncleared areas (area not under Government control) of Batticaloa district.
- October 22 The dead bodies of two civilians, Savarian Robinson Koonja and Sahayam Ajith Croos, are recovered from the Pesalai area of Mannar district.
- The head of Government's Peace Secretariat, Palitha Kohona, said that the LTTE is trying to intimidate the Sri Lankan Government ahead of peace talks scheduled to be held on October 28-29 in Geneva by launching high-profile attacks.
- President Mahinda Rajapakse and leader of the Opposition Ranil Wickremesinghe on October 22-evening agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation on six points pertaining to crucial issues facing the country.
- October 23 Suspected LTTE 'pistol group' cadres shot dead a lorry driver and injure another at Poonthodam in the Vavuniya district.
- 'Pistol gang' cadres of the LTTE shot dead a civilian, Nadarajah Indran, in the Serunuwara area of Trincomalee district.
- A civilian, Sewapada Sharma, is shot dead by a LTTE cadre in the Poontottam area of Vavuniya district.
- The SLFP and the opposition UNP sign a Memorandum of Understanding on collaboration on key national issues, at Temple Trees in the capital Colombo.
- October 24 Troops on route clearing patrol shot dead a LTTE cadre when he attempted to lob a hand grenade towards them in the Velvetithurai area of Jaffna district.
- The Sri Lankan Government has released casualty figures showing nearly 3000 deaths in fighting between the Army and the LTTE over the past eleven months. The breakdown lists more than 1300 outfit cadres killed, with Government losses over seven hundred. The period covers from December 1, 2005 until October 10, 2006. There were also above six hundred civilian deaths. The figures exclude some recent incidents, which claimed another two hundred lives, according to the report.
- The Sri Lanka Navy issuing a special announcement totally bans all dinghies and other small boats in the sea along the coastal zone from Wellawatta, south of Colombo to Uswetakeyiyawa, north of Colombo.

- The Government and LTTE delegations on October 24 left for talks to be held on October 28-29 at Geneva. Health Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva leads the Government delegation, while the LTTE delegation is led by their political wing leader, S.P. Tamilselvan.
- October 25 LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres shot dead a Sinhalese civilian, D. M. Padma Kumara, on Galwalamatha Kovil road in Vavuniya.
- A hartal (strike) is observed in the Trincomalee, Mannar, Batticaloa, Ampara and Vavuniya districts in the north and east of Sri Lanka to protest the de-merger of the Northern and Eastern Provinces.
- Switzerland authorities will not allow the LTTE to raise funds or carry out any campaign against the Government and people of Sri Lanka in Switzerland after the peace talks this time, said official sources.
- October 26 Three cadres of the TMVP, a LTTE breakaway faction led by 'Colonel' Karuna, are killed and eight others sustain injuries in a LTTE attack on the TMVP political office on the Chenkalady-Badulla road in Batticaloa.
- Two civilians are shot dead by suspected LTTE cadres in the 3rd Mile Post area of Trincomalee district.
- Indonesian Defense Minister Juwono Sudarsono is reported to have said that Sri Lanka has expressed its suspicions that weapons supplied for the LTTE were illegally sent through Indonesia.
- October 27 'Pistol gang' cadres of the LTTE shot dead a civilian, identified as Weerasinghem Chandra Mohan, at Anjisandi in Jaffna town.
- British newspaper The Times, quoting international and local aid workers, reported that the LTTE-breakaway faction led by 'Colonel' Karuna has abducted between 300 to 900 children - some as young as 12 - since March, 2006.
- October 28 LTTE cadres shot dead two soldiers in the Mirusuvil area of Jaffna district. Troops retaliate as LTTE cadres opened fire towards them in the Ampara district.
- During subsequent search operations, two dead bodies of LTTE cadres and two weapons are recovered.
- The two-day peace talks between the Sri Lanka Government and the LTTE begins in Geneva with a message from Norway that the former faced the danger of losing the goodwill and foreign aid if the situation did not improve.
- Head of the Sri Lankan delegation Nimal Siripala de Silva issues a 6,600-word statement at the inaugural of the peace talks, blaming the LTTE for the current situation.
- In his 3,000-word counter, the LTTE political head and leader of the delegation, S. P. Tamilselvan sought to hold the Sri Lankan

- Government responsible for the ground situation and declared the peace talks were contingent upon implementation of the 2002 CFA.
- October 29 Five civilians and a suspected LTTE cadre, carrying the bomb, are killed and two more civilians sustain injuries when a claymore mine fixed to a bicycle exploded in the Uduuppiddy area of Jaffna district.
- LTTE cadres shot at and injured four members of a family, including an infant, one 11-year old girl and a woman, in the Eravur area of Batticaloa district. The 11-year old girl, identified as Pathmanathan Vinodini, succumbed to her injuries later.
- The two-day talks between the Sri Lanka Government and LTTE concludes in Geneva without an agreement on any of the issues or future engagement. The dialogue reportedly collapsed on the subject of the closure of the A9 Highway, which links Jaffna peninsula and the rest of Sri Lanka. The LTTE insisted that the peace process was contingent on re-opening of the highway, while the Government said it was compelled to close the highway for security reasons and that the LTTE was raking up the issue as it was not serious about discussing "core political issues."
- October 30 A Pradesiya Sabha member (local councilor) of Illangai Tamil Arasu Katchi party, identified as Kopala Sundaram, is shot dead by unidentified assailants near Serunuwara Junction in the Trincomalee district.
- The UNCEF in a report has said that the prolonged conflict between the LTTE and Sri Lankan Government has affected nearly six lakh people in the country's Jaffna Peninsula who are now facing food and fuel shortages due to closure of many businesses.
- October 31 STF soldiers kill two LTTE cadres, Pavakkannan and Satha, belonging to the outfit's political wing at Vinayagapuram in the Ampara district.
- Two of the six persons wounded in the bomb blast on October 26-morning in a vegetable field located on Chelvi Cinema Theatre road at Chenkalady in the Batticaloa district have reportedly succumbed to their injuries.
- November 1 A family of three, Sivarajah Yathavan, his wife Abirami Yathavan and, P. Senthuran, father-in-law of Yathavan, has reportedly taken full control of the LTTE operations in the state of Victoria in Australia.
- Government Defence spokesperson, Keheliya Rambukwella, states that the Government will assist LTTE cadres deserting its ranks and surrendering to the SFs by offering them foreign employment after they are provided a few months of rehabilitation and vocational training. According to Army statistics, more than 500 LTTE cadres have surrendered to the SFs following the signing of the cease-fire agreement in 2002.

Troops retaliate when four LTTE cadres opened fire towards them in the Vakaneri area of Batticaloa district, killing two of them, while the other managed to escape.

The number of Sri Lankan refugees to India has crossed the 15,000-mark despite a drop in arrivals in October 2006. The total number of refugees in camps in Tamil Nadu is now 15,912, sources said. It includes 6,027 men, 5,451 women, 2,312 male children and 2,122 female children.

November 2 Seven LTTE cadres are killed and ten others sustain injuries during a clash between the SFs and LTTE cadres in the Kiran area of Batticaloa district.

Five civilians are killed when SLAF jets dropped four shells near a hospital around 3-km from the LTTE headquarter in Kilinochchi.

Government chief negotiator, Nimal Siripala de Silva assured the Co-Chairs of the Tokyo donor conference that it would seek an alternative land route to ensure an unrestricted flow of essential items to the North within a couple of days if the LTTE delays the reopening of the A9 highway with continuing attacks.

Essential Services Commissioner, S.B. Divaratne, said that the closure of the A9 highway has not caused any breakdown in the supply of essential food items to the Jaffna peninsula since the Government has supplied essential food items to Jaffna by sea since August 17.

The UNP decides to participate in the All Party Conference called by the President Mahinda Rajapakse to make a southern consensus to seek a solution for the ethnic conflict.

November 3 Unidentified assailants shot dead a civilian, Marimuthu Chandrasegaram, inside his house at Aachikulam in the Samalankulam area of Vavuniya district.

The Indonesian Government is to investigate claims that its waters are being used to ship illegal weapons to the LTTE in Sri Lanka.

November 4 One STF soldier, identified as M. Jayawardana, is killed and two others sustain injuries when LTTE cadres trigger a claymore mine explosion and subsequently opened small arms fire targeting a STF jeep near the 12th mile post on Ampara-Pothuvil road in the Ampara district.

LTTE releases 22 underage recruits who lied about their age to join the separatist campaign. The outfit claims that the youths "joined the movement by lying about their age."

November 5 LTTE cadres kill a woman, Nagamani Rajani Devi, employed in the EPDP office at Putur in the Jaffna district.

An EPDP supporter, identified as Raju, is killed by LTTE cadres in the Valaichchenai area of Batticaloa district.

The SLMM states that Sri Lanka Government has violated the CFA by the closure of A-9 highway and its continued air attacks on the LTTE-held territory. The SLMM also notes that the LTTE has violated the CFA by launching claymore mine attacks against Government troops.

India has reportedly agreed to a recent request by the Sri Lanka Government for supply of relief goods to internally displaced persons in the North and East in the aftermath of the closure of the A-9 highway since August 11. The supplies would be undertaken through the Indian Red Cross and Sri Lanka Red Cross.

The Sri Lankan Defence Ministry states that 3300 people have died in Sri Lanka since December 2005 due to the escalation of violence as fighting erupted between Government SFs and the LTTE. Between November 17, 2005 and October 25, 2006, 860 SF personnel and 549 civilians have been killed, the Defence Ministry said. The number of LTTE cadres killed by the SFs has been estimated at 1880. Another 1303 are believed to have been injured.

November 6 Dead bodies of three civilians, including two identified as Yogarajah Jayalan and Abdul Jabar Mohamed Mansoor, killed by the LTTE are recovered by the Uppuveli Police in Trincomalee district.

Troops retaliate as two LTTE cadres open fire towards them in the Thirunaveli area Jaffna district. Both of them are killed during the encounter.

A suspected LTTE front organisation has threatened to attack civilian targets, including hospitals and water reservoirs, in southern Sri Lanka in retaliation against military strikes on LTTE areas. The High Security Zone Residents' Liberation Force, which claimed responsibility for a series of attacks on troops in the north earlier this year, said it is giving the military a final warning to halt attacks on LTTE territory.

A former Chief Justice of India, P. N. Bhagwati, has been nominated to head an international panel to supervise a human rights investigation in Sri Lanka.

November 7 The SLMM spokesperson, Helen Olafsdottir, said 1,076 civilians have been killed since violence escalated at the start of 2006.

Parliament votes to extend an emergency law to deal with the surge in violence by one month.

The CID said that according to information available to them, nearly 1000 people have disappeared throughout the island since the recent upsurge in violence between the LTTE and Government forces.

- November 8 More than 45 civilians are killed at Vakara in the Batticaloa district as a welfare centre was allegedly hit by the retaliatory fire of the military. The SLMM spokeswoman Hellen Ollafsdottir said that monitors who visited the incident site had counted 23 bodies at hospitals where also 135 injured were treated. However, the LTTE claimed that 50 to 100 civilians are killed when "indiscriminate fire" by the military hit a school building where the displaced are housed.
- The LTTE has reportedly rejected the Government proposal for an "alternate route" to the A-9 highway. The outfit claims it is not fit for travel.
- November 9 The SLN foils a major LTTE attack on the civilian passenger vessel 'Green Ocean I' with 300 Jaffna bound civilians from Trincomalee in the sea off Nagarkovil destroying a flotilla of Sea-Tiger boats, including three suicide boats. "We believe more than 40 LTTE cadres were killed in the attack," told SLN spokesperson Commander D.K.P. Dasanayaka, adding, two suicide boats rammed into to two Dvora fast Attack Craft escorting 'Green Ocean I', destroying one and damaging the other. However, LTTE's military spokesperson, Irasiah Ilanthirayan, claims that a Sea-Tiger flotilla clashed with the SLN, killing 25 SLN soldiers, capturing four alive and destroying two Dvora Fast Attack Crafts when Sea-Tigers engaged in training activities were provoked by the SLN vessels.
- LTTE cadres activate a claymore mine targeting an army motorbike in the Anaipathi area of Jaffna district, killing two soldiers, identified as Sergeant G.A.S. Ganepola and Corporal Bandara.
- The Sri Lanka Government expresses its regret over the killing of civilians in Vakara and accused the LTTE of using civilians as a human shield. Denying media reports, it said that only 23 civilians died and 125 others were injured.
- November 10 Unidentified assailants shot dead Jaffna district TNA parliamentarian, Nadarajah Raviraj, and his personal security officer near his home at Borella in the capital Colombo. TNA is regarded to be a proxy party of the LTTE.
- The SLN destroys one weapon laden LTTE suicide craft and captured another that were sailing in the seas off Nilaveli coast in the guise of ordinary fishing boats in the Trincomalee district. At least six Sea-Tigers aboard are killed, according to the SLN. Sources confirm that one of the boats was also carrying the remains of Ariv Charles, a senior military leader attached to the Charles Anthony Brigade of the outfit, who was killed in a security forces retaliatory fire in the Batticaloa district a few days back.
- United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan emphasizes the urgent need to end the spiraling violence in Sri Lanka and called on both sides to immediately return to the peace process.
- November 11 LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres shot dead one civilian, Swarna Kumara, and injured another on the Tihppankulam road in the Jaffna district.

LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres shot dead one civilian, identified as Egodawatte Aratchchige Podimahathmaya, at Kantale in the Palauththu area of Trincomalee district.

Suspected LTTE cadres shot dead a civilian, Krishnapiallai Mohandas, and injured another in the Kaththankudi area of Batticaloa district.

November 12 Two civilians, identified as Thumb Ayyahjegan and Kangarupan Kelli, are shot dead by the LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres in the Anaipanthu area of Jaffna district.

The civilian influx from Uncleared areas (area not under Government control) to cleared areas (area under Government control) is continuing in the North and East, as the LTTE has intensified their military preparations for more attacks on the security forces.

A suspected LTTE frontal organization, High Security Zone Residents' Liberation Force, vows to kill majority Sinhalese civilians in southern Sri Lanka in retaliation for the alleged Army bombing of a refugee camp in the Batticaloa district on November 8. It claims to represent Tamils displaced by Army high security zones in the Jaffna peninsula.

LTTE military spokesperson Rasaiah Ilanthirayan says that the Government's plan to bring food from India to Jaffna was a clever device to divert attention from the issue of re-opening the A-9 main highway at Muhamalai, adding, the best solution would be to lift the barriers at Muhamalai and allow food to come from the Wanni and South Sri Lanka. Opening the A-9 would obviate the need to get supplies from abroad, he claims.

November 13 One soldier, Private L.R M. Sampath Kumara, is killed and two others sustain injuries when LTTE cadres opened mortar fire towards troops at Ponnar in the Kodikamam area of Jaffna district.

Alan Rock, Special Advisor to the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict accuses elements within the SFs of helping the breakaway faction of the LTTE led by 'Colonel' Karuna to abduct children to recruit as child soldiers and said that there is 'credible evidence' that the Government soldiers have forcibly rounded up the children for the Karuna group.

November 14 SLN destroys a large trawler carrying massive quantities of arms, ammunition and explosives and killed eight LTTE cadres on board in the seas off Kalpitiya, West of Kudiramale, in the Puttalam district.

Three soldiers are killed in a LTTE-triggered improvised explosive device explosion at Mantottam roadblock in the Mannar district.

The architect of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, which ended the subversive activities of the IRA, Paul Murphy, reportedly arrives in

Sri Lanka to assist the peace negotiations between the Sri Lankan Government and LTTE.

A newly released UNICEF report states that as of October 31, 2006, there were 142 outstanding cases of under age recruitment by the LTTE and all of them were boys. According to UNICEF statistics, as of October 31, 2006, there were 1598 outstanding cases of under age recruitment by the LTTE. Of these, 649 are under the age of 18, and 949 were recruited while under 18 but have now passed that age.

November 15 Four LTTE cadres are killed and one is wounded by SFs at Ethawetunuwewa in the Welioya area of Moneragala district.

President Mahinda Rajapakse states that India "need not play a direct role" in the peace process in Sri Lanka. He said, "India need not intervene directly. It will be enough if it carries out a global campaign against the collection of funds and arms by the LTTE", adding, "We are determined to devolve power to the Northern and Eastern Provinces. We are examining various models, including the Indian model (of federalism). We are ready to talk about the Panchayati Raj system, which devolves power to the villages."

November 16 18 LTTE cadres are killed and three soldiers wounded in three separate clashes between troops and LTTE cadres in the Batticaloa district.

Security forces in a retaliatory action killed nine LTTE cadres when they opened fire towards troops' forward defence line at Kadjuwatta in the Batticaloa district.

President Mahinda Rajapakse urges the LTTE to lay down their arms and resume talks to pursue peace, democracy and development in the country. He cites increased violence for the spike in spending.

British peace envoy Paul Murphy, the architect of Irish peace talks, urges parties to keep the lines of communication open and says that there is striking similarity conflicts in Northern Ireland and Sri Lanka.

Defence spokesperson and Minister, Keheliya Rambukwella, said at a media briefing that it had been proved that the LTTE harassed Indian fishermen and used their trawlers to transport war material to strengthen its bases. "Since January 2006 there have been eight such sea attacks, six of them in the seas off Mannar. This shows how the LTTE cadres are harassing and making use of Indian fishermen. The Indian Government should move fast and act to protect their fishermen," he added.

November 17 The LTTE rejects President Rajapakse's offer to lay down their arms and resume talks to pursue peace, democracy and development in the country, calling it "joke."

Sri Lankan High Commissioner to India, C.R. Jayasinghe, accuses the LTTE of "spreading misinformation globally to hide the reality that the violence in Sri Lanka was solely instigated by it."

The IDMC of the Norwegian Refugee Council, releasing a report on displacement in Sri Lanka, announced that some 130,000 internally displaced people - more than half of those uprooted by the current intensification of violence in Sri Lanka - are cut off from international assistance and exposed to serious human rights abuses.

According to statistics, 1623 civilians have entered into the Government-controlled areas since November 2006, said Military spokesperson Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe.

November 18 At least 23 persons are killed in continuing fighting between the Sri Lanka military and LTTE in the northern and eastern parts of the country. The military sources claim to have destroyed three LTTE gunboats, killing at least 15 cadres at Mannar. However, the LTTE claims that its cadres sank two navy boats, leaving 10 sailors dead.

An explosion targeting a military truck killed four soldiers and four students from a nearby agriculture institute in Vavuniya.

November 19 The dead bodies of four unidentified civilians are recovered from the Trincomalee district.

Three bodies are recovered from Allesgarden, a suburb in Trincomalee town, and one from Pattithidal in the Muttur division.

Two civilians, Sebasthiyan Moisath Sivakumar and I. M. Rohith Laxman, are shot dead by LTTE cadres in the Varadayanagar area of Trincomalee district.

The SLMM states that Sri Lankan troops opened fire on a group of agriculture students at close range in Vavuniya district on November 18, killing five, after a LTTE ambush on Government forces. The Sri Lankan Government orders opening of the A 9 highway that links rest of the country to the Jaffna peninsula for transportation of essential commodities.

November 21 Unidentified assailants trigger a claymore mine explosion at Gnaniyar Valavu in the Varani Thenmaradchi area of Jaffna district, killing one soldier and injuring three others.

The Co-Chairs of the Tokyo Donors Conference, the U.S., European Union, Japan, and Norway, issuing a joint statement after meeting in Washington in U.S., condemns the systematic ceasefire violations by both the Sri Lanka Government and LTTE and urges both parties to immediately cease hostilities.

The TNA parliamentarians from Batticaloa district have written a letter to the Parliamentary Speaker, saying they have received death threats over the phone and were informed specifically that if they did not resign from being Members of Parliament, they would be killed.

November 22 Suspected LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres shot dead two civilians, identified as Ponnadorai Ramakrisnan and Kannanthambi

Sathrarajah, close to the rail tracks at Sangama in the Trincomalee district.

The Sri Lankan Government states that it is willing to immediately resume stalled peace talks with the LTTE, but accused the outfit of not cooperating. The political wing of the LTTE-breakaway faction led by 'Colonel' Karuna, TMVP, announces that it is ready to lay down arms provided the 'repressive acts' of the LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran are brought 'under control'.

The 'Colonel' Karuna group has officially been added to the U.N. Secretary General's "list of shame", that aims to discredit Governments and armed groups committing grave crimes against children.

The LTTE rejects a Government request for a guarantee that a convoy of essential items to be sent to the northern Jaffna peninsula by road would be allowed to pass safely through the LTTE-held territory. Government spokesperson Rambukwella said that Nordic truce monitors and a U.N. envoy have misled Sri Lanka's main financial donors about cease-fire violations by the Military.

The LTTE ideologue, Anton Balasingham, is reportedly suffering from an advanced stage of cancer and is battling for his life. He was the chief negotiator for the LTTE in all major negotiations until his illness worsened.

November 23 Three home guards are killed when cadres of the LTTE opened small arms fire towards home guards on duty at Atambagashandiya in the Vavuniya district.

At least 12 LTTE cadres are killed when the STF opened fire on a group of LTTE cadres who shot dead three Police personnel and a home guard in the Ampara district. Five security force (SF) personnel sustained injuries in the incident.

The Sri Lankan Military foils a major LTTE attack on SF's defence positions in the Kirimichchi and Kadjuwatte areas of Batticaloa district, in which seven soldiers are injured.

The LTTE has reportedly planted thousands of anti-personnel mines in and around Vakarai in the Batticaloa district to block civilians leaving the area, reveals a surrendered LTTE cadre to the SFs.

Troops kill at least nine LTTE cadres following the killing of two civilians by LTTE in Batticaloa. Four policemen died in the encounter.

Four SF personnel are killed and five others injure in an LTTE attack at Bakkiella in Ampara.

Three SF personnel guarding a checkpoint at Kebitigollawa are killed by the LTTE.

- November 24 The dead bodies of five LTTE cadres are recovered from Piramanayankulam area in the Vavuniya district on November 24. The slain terrorists are suspected to have been killed in retaliatory firing after they opened fire on a Sri Lankan military foot patrol on November 23-night.
- November 25 Elite police commandos kill four LTTE cadres in an encounter in the eastern district of Ampara. The outfit, however, claims four soldiers are killed.
- November 26 Sri Lankan Army shot dead at least 21 LTTE cadres in separate incidents in the Batticaloa district.
- A sympathiser of the EPDP, Shankarpilla Senasaran, is killed by LTTE in the Northern Province.
- November 27 In his annual Heroes' day statement delivered at an undisclosed location in the northern part of the country, the LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran accuses the Sinhala leaders of "duplicity" and said this left the Tamils with no choice but to strive for "political independence." According to copies of his speech made available to the media, Prabhakaran said, "Both our liberation movement and our people never preferred war to a peaceful resolution. We have always preferred a peaceful approach to win the political rights of our people. We have never hesitated to follow the peaceful path to win our political rights. That is why we held peace talks, beginning in Thimpu right through to Geneva, on several occasions, at various times, and in many countries." He asserted that the LTTE will continue the 'freedom struggle', and claimed that President Mahinda Rajapakse had rejected his final call in his Heroes' Day statement last year to find a resolution to the Tamil national question with urgency.
- Sri Lankan Naval troops destroy a LTTE trawler engaged in smuggling weapons and ammunition and claim to have killed six of its cadres on board at Negombo in the Colombo district.
- November 28 Suspected LTTE cadres shot dead a civilian, identified as Somasuntharam Inban, and injure two others at sixth mile post in the Trincomalee district.
- The LTTE kills one SF personnel and injure two others at Kadjuwatta, in the Batticaloa district.
- November 30 Two unidentified gunmen shot dead Gilbert Anandarajah, a Grama Sevakar (local government official), at Jaffna divisional secretariat in the Jaffna district.
- The Cambodian Prime Minister, Hun Sen, has promised the Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickremanayake to choke the flow of weapons from his country to the LTTE, during the latter's visit to Cambodia. Hun Sen reportedly admitted that for the first time in 2005 arms were smuggled out of his country for terrorist activities in Sri

Lanka, and assured Sri Lankan Prime Minister to trust Cambodia that "no more weapons would enter Sri Lanka."

- December 1 A suicide attack by the LTTE targeting the Defence Secretary, Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, who is also the brother of President Mahinda Rajapaksa, at Dharmapala Mawatha in Colombo injure seven army personnel and seven civilians. Two of the injured army personnel subsequently succumb to their injuries. The suicide bomber rammed his three-wheeler into the convoy of the Defence Secretary. Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, who was en route to the Presidential Palace for an official meeting, escapes unhurt. The headless body of an unidentified person, believed to be the suicide bomber, is recovered from the incident site. At least eight vehicles, including that of the Defence Secretary, are damaged in the attack.
- Two Sri Lanka Police constables are killed in a claymore mine attack by unidentified assailants near the junction of Clock Tower road and Hospital road near Jaffna town.
- December 2 One soldier, Private A.M.H. Athapaththu, is killed and another sustains injuries when LTTE cadres hurl a hand grenade at an Army foot patrol in Velvettithurai in the Jaffna district.
- SLAF bombs a civilian settlement in the Mullathivu district, a day after the unsuccessful attempt on the life of Defence Secretary Gothabaya Rajapakse by a suspected LTTE suicide bomber. One civilian is reportedly killed during the aerial raid.
- December 3 A woman, Pakkianathan Calista Nirmala, is shot dead by unidentified gunmen in her house along Antony Road at Palaiyootu in the Trincomalee district.
- December 4 At least six LTTE cadres are killed in retaliatory fire when the outfit cadres ambush the STF personnel at Sangaman Kanda in the Ampara district. One soldier succumbs to his injuries while four others sustain bullet injuries during the ambush.
- December 5 Sri Lankan troops kill at least 16 LTTE cadres in the Vaharai region of Batticaloa district. Two soldiers are reported to have died in the incident.
- LTTE cadres shot dead two civilians in the Vavuniya district.
- December 6 Four civilians are killed and another injured when LTTE cadres trigger claymore mine explosions targeting SF personnel and hit civilians instead, at the Telecommunication Department in the Jaffna district.
- At least three civilians, including a teacher, are killed and nine students sustain injuries, when the LTTE cadres fire artillery targeting the Somadevi School and Kallar village in the Trincomalee district.
- Two soldiers are killed when LTTE cadres trigger a claymore mine explosion targeting an army tractor at Putukkulam in the Vavuniya district.

- December 7 Two civilians, identified as Bernard Kingsely and Velu Jeyakanthan, are shot dead by unidentified gunmen at Aathimoddaï village along the Trincomalee-Nilaveli road.
- The Sri Lankan Government rejects the SLMM's request for a clarification regarding the re-imposition of the PTA.
- At least 2203 civilians has crossed over to the un-cleared areas in the Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts through Manthai and Uyilankulam checkpoints while an estimated 2539 civilians has arrived in Vavuniya from un-cleared areas from between December 1 to December 7.
- December 8 A civilian, Sithamparapillai Pathmanathan, is shot dead by unidentified gunmen at Sithandy under Eravur police division in the Batticaloa district.
- The Sri Lanka Government has allowed the Norwegian special envoy Jon Hanssen-Bauer and Norwegian Ambassador Hans Brattskar to visit Kilinochchi.
- December 9 At least 45 people are reported to have died during clashes between Sri Lankan troops and LTTE cadres in the northeastern district of Trincomalee.
- A suspected LTTE cadre shot dead a civilian, Sellaiya Thangarasa, at Vadukodal in the Jaffna district.
- December 10 At least 19 civilians are killed and 25 others sustain injuries when SLA personnel fire artillery shells at Kandalady Government School in the Vaharai area of Batticaloa district.
- At least 12 soldiers are killed and 51 others sustain injuries when the LTTE cadres directed heavy artillery and mortars towards Kaddimuravikulam, Kadjuwatta, Kirimichchiya and Madurankerni in the Batticaloa district. A Sri Lankan military spokesperson said that a large number of LTTE cadres are also killed and many more are reportedly injured when the troops retaliated.
- December 11 Government troops clashed with the LTTE in the Eastern province leaving at least 24 soldiers dead and 69 injured. Unconfirmed reports quoting civilians who are in the process of leaving LTTE-held areas, adds that as many as 50-60 LTTE cadres also died in the retaliatory fire by the troops and similar numbers sustain injuries.
- December 12 LTTE cadres trigger a claymore mine explosion leaving one soldier dead and injuring two others at Kallady area in the Mannar district.
- A soldier is shot dead by suspected LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres at a newspaper office in the Jaffna District.
- December 13 Troops clashed with the LTTE cadres leaving at least five cadres dead at Meeyankulam and Welikanda area in the Batticaloa district.

During a subsequent search operation, 11 of the 12 soldiers who went missing after a clash with the LTTE cadres on October 5 were found dead, and one among them, Sergeant K.M.S. Rathnayake, was found injured and abandoned by the LTTE at the incident site.

Troops found bunkers constructed and abandoned by the LTTE cadres using canopies supplied by the UNHCR meant to provide shelter for IDP at Kajuwatte and Panichchankerni in the Batticaloa district.

The SLA chief Sarath Fonseka has said that the LTTE would be driven out of the Eastern province "so that civilians could pursue their daily lives peacefully."

The SLA said that the strength of the LTTE has been weakened since the Karuna faction broke away in March 2004. "But, this is not the first instance the LTTE has lost its hold in the Eastern province. During the period 1993 - 1994, LTTE influence was swept away under then Commander Eastern province Brigadier Lucky Algama," it said.

December 14 The UNICEF officials in the Batticaloa district hand over at least 12 LTTE cadres, including five injured, who had been forcibly recruited, to the Batticaloa Police.

Hindustan Times quoting the pro-LTTE Website Tamil Net reports that the LTTE had lost 818 cadres (including 250 women cadres) during various operations this year alone. Since the death of 'Lieutenant' Sanker, the first LTTE cadre to be killed in military action on November 27, 1982, the LTTE has lost 18,742 cadres, the report added.

Anton Balasingham, political adviser of the LTTE, passes away in London after a spell of illness. A close associate of LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran, Balasingham had participated as chief negotiator of the LTTE in almost all political negotiations, beginning with the Thimpu talks in 1985.

December 15 Seven internally displaced civilians traveling from Kathiraveli to Vaharai in the Batticaloa district in a tractor are killed when an artillery shell fired by the SLA explodes their vehicle.

Four unidentified assailants shot dead a civilian, identified as Ambikaipahar Manickavasagar, in the Vepankulam area of Vavuniya district.

December 17 The LTTE is believed to be facing its worst shortage of ammunition, particularly mortar and artillery rounds, as troops continue to intensify pressure on the outfit in the Eastern region. Quoting a recent LTTE signal monitored in the East, an unnamed official said the LTTE is desperately seeking to smuggle in fresh consignments of ammunition. Senior military officials said the LTTE would not be able to mount major offensives in the Eastern province due to a shrinking arsenal.

The CID investigating the mysterious disappearance of the Eastern University V.C., Sivasubramaniam Ravindranath, since December 15, has uncovered that his temporary driver had maintained links with the LTTE.

SLA states that a total of 13,910 civilians have vacated the un-cleared areas (areas not under Government control) of Vakarai in Batticaloa district and reached troops at Riditenna and Valachchenai since November 1.

The U.S. is to release financial aid to Sri Lanka to meet with the unexpected refugee situation in the country, the White House announced.

December 18 Three civilians are shot dead by 'pistol gang' cadres of the LTTE at Chenkaladi in the Batticaloa district.

The LTTE warns the Army that they would resort to pre-emptive strikes if the military pushes ahead with a declared plan to drive them out of the outfit-held territory in the East.

The Army accuses the LTTE of forcibly detaining the refugees and civilian population in the areas under its control and using them as "human shields".

The military has hemmed the LTTE in to a 14-mile (22-km) stretch of coastline around Vakarai and has already driven the outfit out of territory near the strategic northeastern port of Trincomalee further north.

Australian Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, addressing a gathering on terrorism and Islamic extremism at the IISS in London stated that Australia is considering a ban on the LTTE.

December 19 LTTE cadres lob a hand grenade at the Kalmunai political office of the TMVP in the Ampara district, the political wing of the outfit's breakaway faction led by 'Colonel' Karuna, killing two of the TMVP cadres and injuring another.

The LTTE breakaway faction led by 'Colonel' Karuna warns it would be forced to take its fight against the LTTE to Government-controlled areas in the East if the Government failed to assure the security of political cadres of the group.

December 20 At least three cadres of the LTTE breakaway faction led by 'Colonel' Karuna are killed in a clash with the LTTE in Vavuniya district.

Military spokesman Brig. Prasad Samarasinghe accuses LTTE of abducting at least 455 underage combatants from Government-controlled areas this year and asked the outfit to stop the practice.

- December 22 The LTTE warns that ongoing violence in Eastern Sri Lanka would escalate into a full-scale war.
- The Media Center For National Security said that troops are determined to drive out the outfit from Vakarai, Kadiraweli, Komathalamadu, Palchanai and Panichchankerni north in the Eastern Province 'until the last civilian is freed from the clutches of the LTTE.
- The establishment of the IIGEP of Sri Lanka has come to the final stage with the EU announcing its nominee for the monitoring panel. EU Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner has nominated former French Minister Bernard Kouchner as the EU nominee for the IIGEP.
- December 23 Unidentified assailants shot dead two civilians, identified as Navaratnam Sivendran and Sellathamby Gunasingham, injure six others in the Puthukudiruppu area of Batticaloa district.
- The Northern Province Governor, Rear Admiral (Retd) Mohan Wijewickrama confirms that the de-merger of the northeast province is proceeding as planned.
- December 24 Two local LTTE cadres, Jegan and Maradijaan, are killed and six others sustain injuries in a retaliatory fire by STF personnel in the Kanchanakuda area of Ampara district.
- Suleiman, the general manager of the Jordanian ship, Farha III, owned by the International Al Salam (Peace) Company for Trade and Transport, states that the ship's 25 crewmembers have been released and are handed over to the ICRC and would be heading to the Sri Lanka capital of Colombo.
- The SLN brushes off speculation that the Jordanian ship, which drifted towards Mullaitivu seas following a technical failure, was carrying arms to the LTTE.
- December 25 Three soldiers, identified as Lance Corporal P.A.A. Pushpa Kumara, Private H.R. Dayarathna Bandara, and Private A.M.P.K. Ariyaratne are killed when the LTTE cadres trigger a claymore mine targeting an Army patrol in the Kudamiyan north area of Jaffna district.
- Security forces retaliate when LTTE cadres lob two hand grenades towards troops who were conducting a search and clear operation at Nayanyurai, injuring nine soldiers. During subsequent search, troops recover four dead bodies of the outfit cadres.
- The LTTE releases the 25-member crew, including 13 Jordanians, 11 Egyptians and an Iraqi captain, of the captured Jordanian ship Farha 111, which was carrying rice from India to South Africa.
- December 27 Two LTTE cadres are killed in a clash that ensued between SFs and the outfit's cadres when they attempted to infiltrate the Muhamalai FDL in the Jaffna district.

December 28 Three soldiers are killed and an equal number of them are injured in a LTTE-triggered claymore mine explosion at Chavakachcheri in the Jaffna district.

The TULF President, V. Anandasangaree, urges President Mahinda Rajapakse to put the de-merger of the northeast province on hold on the plea that it would only strengthen the LTTE.

According to the MCNS figures, 23095 civilians have arrived to the Government controlled areas in the Eastern Province since November 1.

December 29 Galgamuwa Police in the Puttalam district recovers the dead bodies of two PLOTE members, abducted earlier by the LTTE on December 27, from the Simbalangamuwa area on the Kurunegala – Anuradhapura main road.

December 30 LTTE cadres, hiding inside the IDP's camp, open fire towards a group of soldiers distributing foodstuff and medicine to the refugees at the Parangiyamadu IDP centre in the Kiren area of Batticaloa district. In the retaliatory fire, troops kill three LTTE cadres.

One soldier is killed and two others sustain injuries in a LTTE artillery fire towards Kaddu Murivikulam in the Welikanda region of Polonnaruwa district.

December 31 President Mahinda Rajapakse states that his Government was committed to keep the process of negotiations with the LTTE open in order to solve the ethnic separatist conflict.

The SLMM said it would curtail its monitoring activities for a "short period" as it re-groups and reconsiders its operations in the wake of continuing hostilities between Government troops and the LTTE. All SLMM district offices will remain open during the workshop early this month but the monitoring activities will be reduced though not completely suspended, an SLMM spokesperson said adding that the monitors were yet to fix a date for the regrouping in Colombo. [37c]

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Annex C: Political organisations

Some information on political parties in Sri Lanka can be also found at:
<http://www.slections.gov.lk/parties.html> [39b]

Akhila Illankai Tamil United Front (AITUK)

Founded in 2006; Tamil; advocates federal solution to ethnic conflict. [1b]

All Ceylon Tamil Congress (ACTC)

Founded in 1944. It contested the December 2001 and the April 2004 elections as part of TNA. [8] (p563) (See also TNA)

Ceylon Workers' Congress (CWC)

The CWC is both a trade union (with its main strength being among Tamil workers of Indian origin on tea plantations), and a political party seen as representing the community of Indian descent. It has held the rural development portfolio in the Government since 1978 through changes of administration. [8] (p437) As noted in the final report of the European Union's Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to Sri Lanka's Parliamentary Elections [of 2 April 2004] "Its strongholds are the estate tea plantations in the central regions. The improvement of the estate Tamil workers' conditions represents the key issue of its manifesto." [40] (p10)

Communist Party of Sri Lanka (CPSL)

Founded in 1943 and advocates the establishment of a socialist society. It supports the national unity of Sri Lanka. The party contested the April 2004 election as part of the winning coalition UPFA (United People's Freedom Alliance) winning only one seat. [8] (p560)

Democratic People's Liberation Front (DPLF)

Has operated as a national political party since 1988 and is the political wing of the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE). [8] (p560)

Democratic United National Front (DUNF)

Formed in 1992 by a dissident group of UNP politicians. Supports the People's Alliance coalition. [8] (p561)

Democratic Workers' Congress (DWC)

Formed in 1939 as a trade union and in 1978 as a political party. Aims to eliminate discrimination against the Tamil-speaking Sri Lankans of recent Indian origin. [1b]

Deshapriya Janatha Viyaparaya (DJV)

(Patriotic People's Movement) Militant Sinhalese group associated with the JVP. [1b]

Desha Vimukthi Janatha Party (DVJP)

(National Liberation People's Party) Has operated as a national political party since 1988. [1b]

Eelavar Democratic Front (EDF)

Founded in 1989 by a majority of Eelam Revolutionary Organisation (EROS), which joined the LTTE. [56]

Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF)

Tamil; supports 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord; has operated as a national political party since September 1988. [1b]

Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) <http://www.epdpnews.com/>

A Tamil group formed in 1986 as a split from ERPLF. [56] The party gained one seat at the 2 April 2004 elections for the National Assembly and supported the government subsequently formed by the UPFA. [8] As noted in the final report of the European Union's Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to Sri Lanka's Parliamentary Elections [of 2 April 2004] The Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP - Veena) is ...a Tamil based party and has fought since 1990 against the LTTE. Their stronghold is Jaffna." [40] (p10) As recorded in Jane's Sentinel Security Assessments, Country profile - At a glance, Sri Lanka, 3 November 2006 "Several ex-Tamil militant groups help the government to counter the continuing Tamil insurgency. Of particular note is the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP). This once-separatist Tamil group which fought for a separate Tamil state is now recognised as a political party. Its leader, Douglas Devananda...is now a parliamentarian representing the northern Jaffna Peninsula, and was minister of northern rehabilitation in President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga's People's Alliance government formed after the October 2000 general election, a position he held until the November 2005 presidential election led to a new cabinet. The EPDP is allowed to maintain arms, and Delft, an outlying island in the northern peninsula, is administered and policed by the EPDP on behalf of the government. These concessions were allowed since the EPDP became a provider of a substantial volume of intelligence by co-operating with local intelligence bureaux in identifying and interrogating Tamil Tiger guerrilla suspects. The vast majority of personnel in Sri Lanka's intelligence services, being Sinhalese, do not know how to read or write Tamil and are aided by EPDP members who help in translation and interrogation. Since the recapture of the northern Jaffna Peninsula, the EPDP has been allowed to function as a political party." [5a] (Security and foreign forces, 18 January 2006, Non-State Armed Groups)

Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF)

The EPRLF now functions as two groups – the Suresh wing (on the TNA list) and the Varatharaja wing (on the EPDP list. [8] (See also TNA)

Eelam Revolutionary Organisation (EROS)

Founded in 1990 by a minority of the original EROS, led by Shankar Raji, the party supported EPDP in the parliamentary election of 2 April 2004. [56]

Illankai Tamil Arasu Kachchi (ITAK) See TNA

Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU)

Founded in 2004; Buddhist; Sinhalese nationalist. [1b]

It obtained nine seats at the 2 April 2004 elections for the National Assembly. [39a] As noted in the EU EOM June 2004 report "Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU - Conch shell) is a Buddhist monks' party, whose aim is the protection of the Buddhist Sinhalese identity and values and the national unity. The party candidates were all monks. The issue of monks getting involved into politics has divided that community." [40] (p10)

Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) <http://www.jvpsrilanka.com/>

(People's Liberation Front)

Founded in 1964; banned following a coup attempt in 1971, regained legal status in 1977, banned again in 1983, but regained legal status in 1994; Marxist; Sinhalese support. [1b] For the April 2004 election, the JVP entered into an alliance with President Kumaratunga's a member of the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) and gained

40 seats. [8] As noted in the final report of the European Union's Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to Sri Lanka's Parliamentary Elections [of 2 April 2004] "The People's Liberation Front (JVP – Bell) is a marxist-oriented party that grew out of disaffected educated Sinhalese youth...The party enjoys increasing support among students and in poor rural areas of the country." [40] (p10)

Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP)

(Lanka Equal Society Party) The LSSP originated in the 1930s and has been a rare example worldwide of a Trotskyist party with a significant political influence, participating in left-wing Governments from 1964. It supported the UPFA coalition in the parliamentary election of 2 April 2004 but won no seats. [8] (p561)

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) <http://www.eelam.com>
<http://www.eelamweb.com/ltte/>

LTTE front organisations include:

World Tamil Association (WTA)

World Tamil Movement (WTM)

Federation of Associations of Canadian Tamils (FACT)

The Ellalan Force

According to the research institute ICT:

"Founded in 1976, the LTTE is the most powerful Tamil group in Sri Lanka and uses overt and illegal methods to raise funds, acquire weapons, and publicize its cause of establishing an independent Tamil state. The LTTE began its armed conflict with the Sri Lankan Government in 1983 and relies on a guerrilla strategy that includes the use of terrorist tactics. The group's elite Black Tiger squad conducts suicide bombings against important targets, and all rank-and-file members carry a cyanide capsule to kill themselves rather than allow themselves to be caught. The LTTE is very insular and highly organized with its own intelligence service, naval element (the Sea Tigers), and women's political and military wings. The Tigers control most of the northern and eastern coastal areas of Sri Lanka but have conducted operations throughout the island. Headquartered in the Wanni region, LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran has established an extensive network of checkpoints and informants to keep track of any outsiders who enter the group's area of control.... Approximately 10,000 armed combatants in Sri Lanka; about 3,000 to 6,000 form a trained cadre of fighters. The LTTE also has a significant overseas support structure for fundraising, weapons procurement, and propaganda activities." [61]

As recorded in Jane's Sentinel Security Assessments, Country profile - At a glance, Sri Lanka, 3 November 2006 "Estimates in late 2005 were that the group's strength numbered between 8,000 and 10,000." [5a] (**Security and foreign forces, 18 January 2006, Non-State Armed Groups**)

As highlighted in the South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP):

"Under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 (POTA) in India, the LTTE is a proscribed organisation. On October 4, 2003, the United States re-designated the LTTE as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) pursuant to Section 219 of the US Immigration and Nationality Act. The LTTE has been proscribed, designated or banned as a terrorist group by a number of governments – India, Malaysia, USA, Canada, UK, Australia – countries where the LTTE has significant terrorist infrastructure for disseminating propaganda, raising funds, procuring and shipping supplies to support

their terrorist campaign in Sri Lanka.... The LTTE leadership is organized along a two-tier structure: a military wing and a subordinate political wing. Overseeing both is a central governing committee, headed by the LTTE chief, Velupillai Prabhakaran.... This body has the responsibility for directing and controlling several specific subdivisions, including, an amphibious group (the Sea Tigers headed by Soosai), an airborne group, (known as the Air Tigers), an elite fighting wing (known as the Charles Anthony Regiment, named after Anthony, a close associate of Prabhakaran and is headed by Balraj), a suicide commando unit (the Black Tigers headed by Pottu Amman), a highly secretive intelligence group and a political office headed by Thamilselvam and Anton Balasingham, widely regarded to be the political advisor and ideologue of the LTTE. The central governing committee also has an International Secretariat, which is in charge of the outfit's global network.... The LTTE has also set up a parallel civil administration within its territory by establishing structures such as a police force, law courts, postal services, banks, administrative offices, television and radio broadcasting station, etc." [37a]

In the UK the LTTE is one of the proscribed organisations under Part II of the Terrorism Act 2000. [35c]

As noted in the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on his Mission to Sri Lanka (28 November to 6 December 2005), published on 27 March 2006:

"The LTTE plays a dual role. On the one hand, it is an organization with effective control over a significant stretch of territory, engaged in civil planning and administration, maintaining its own form of police force and judiciary. On the other hand, it is an armed group that has been subject to proscription, travel bans, and financial sanctions in various Member States. The tension between these two roles is at the root of the international community's hesitation to address the LTTE and other armed groups in the terms of human rights law. The international community does have human rights expectations to which it will hold the LTTE, but it has long been reluctant to press these demands directly if doing so would be to 'treat it like a State'". [6x] (Paragraph 26)

"Ministers of the EU on May 29 [2006] formally added the LTTE to a list of banned terrorist organisations, which meant a bar on LTTE fundraising and that the group's financial assets would be frozen in all 25 EU member states. LTTE officials would also be prevented from visiting the EU." (Keesing's Records of World Events, May 2006 – Sri Lanka) [23d]

As recorded in Jane's Sentinel Security Assessments, Country profile - At a glance, Sri Lanka, 3 November 2006:

"The heightened global concern over terrorist activities since 2001 has reduced the international community's level of tolerance and, in April 2006, the Canadian government became the latest previously tolerant government to proscribe the LTTE. The European Union followed suit in May 2006. However, the LTTE's main concern now is with Karuna... Nevertheless, the LTTE remains the only Tamil organisation that maintains the capacity for pressuring and intimidating the government of Sri Lanka into granting significant concessions towards the demand for autonomy for the northeast of the country. Much more important, the LTTE has oligopolised the monopoly of force in Sri Lanka. If the peace process is to succeed according to the wishes of the government, the LTTE will have to be persuaded to relinquish control over the 'uncleared' areas. This is a far from likely scenario, which makes a political solution somewhere along the federalist-separatist continuum the only realistic outcome..." [5a]

(Internal Affairs, 14 July 2006, Post-Independence ethnic tension; Secessionist campaign and LTTE 2004 revolt)

For the Karuna faction, see under TMVP.

See also Annex B, E and H

Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (MEP)

Founded 1956; Sinhalese and Buddhist support; left-wing; advocates economic self-reliance. [1b]

Nava Sama Samaja Party (NSSP)

(New Equal Society Party) A Trotskyist party founded in 1977. [1b]

People's Alliance (PA) aka Podujana Eksath Peramuna (PEP)

Formed in 1993 as a left-wing alliance which includes the LSSP, the SLFP (President Kumaratunga's party) and the SLMP. [8] (p438) This was the ruling party in Sri Lanka from August 1994 until December 2001. (See also UPFA)

People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE)

Formed in 1979 as a split from the LTTE. [56] The USSD 2005 report included PLOTE amongst the paramilitary groups, suspected of being linked to the government or security forces. [2g] (Introduction) Its political wing is the Democratic People's Liberation Front (see above).

Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP)

"Founded in 1951, the SLFP campaigned for the attainment of republican status for Sri Lanka prior to adoption of the 1972 constitution. With a democratic socialist orientation, the party advocated a non-aligned foreign policy, industrial development in both the State and private sectors, and safeguards for national minorities. One family has led the party throughout its history. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike (originally a leading figure in the United National Party) was the party's founder and first Prime Minister from 1956 until his assassination in September 1959. His widow, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, in 1960 became the world's first woman Prime Minister, holding this post until 1965 and again from 1970-1977. Following the party's return to power after 17 years in the August 1994 elections, she was again Prime Minister (the post by now being largely ceremonial) from November 1994 until her death in October 2000. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, the daughter of S.W.R.D. and Sirimavo, was Prime Minister from August – November 1994, becoming the elected President in November 1994, and is the leader of the SLFP. The SLFP returned to power in August 1994, heading the People's Alliance (PA) coalition. The PA secured another victory in general elections in October 2000, but lost power in the December 2001 general elections." In January 2004 it formed an electoral pact with JVP dubbed the UNPFA [see below][8] (p561-562) As noted in the final report of the European Union's Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to Sri Lanka's Parliamentary Elections released on 17 June 2004: "The SLFP is strong in most of the provinces, except in the Northern and Eastern regions." [40] (p10)

"President Mahinda Rajapakse was on June 28 [2006] elected president of the ruling Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) without a contest, replacing former President Chandrika Kumaratunga. He was the first leader of the party from outside the Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga family since the SLFP was founded in 1951 by Kumaratunga's father, and it was reported that the former president had resisted being

ousted by Rajapakse, even though she was currently domiciled in the UK.” (Keesing’s Records of World Events, June 2006 – Sri Lanka) [23e]

Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC)

The SLMC was formed to represent the Tamil-speaking Muslim population of the Eastern province and was organised as an all-island party in 1986. Led by Rauf Hakeem. At the 2 April 2004 elections for the National Assembly the party won five seats. [8] (p562) As noted in the EU EOM June 2004 report: “The Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC – Tree) is the other [together with NUA] officially recognised party representing the Muslim minority community. Their electorate is largely based in the East, Kandy and central Colombo. The SLMC is a member of the UNF [formed for the General Elections of 2 April 2004]; some of its candidates stood under the UNP in central areas while others ran alone in the East.” [40] (p10)

Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) <http://www.telo.org/> [13]

Formed in 1974, it is on the TNA list. [56] It has operated as a national political party since 1988. [1b] (See also TNA)

Tamil National Alliance (TNA)

Founded in 2001 as an alliance of Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), All Ceylon Tamil Congress (ACTC), EPRLF[V], TELO. [56]

As noted in the EU EOM June 2004 report: “The Tamil National Alliance (TNA – House), a Tamil-based alliance, is the political proxy of the LTTE. The alliance includes the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO). The TNA’s strongholds are the LTTE controlled areas in the North and some areas in the East. The TNA’s primary aim is the creation of a “Tamil homeland” in the North and East. [40] (p10) The party gained 22 seats at the 2 April 2004 elections for the National Assembly. [8] (p562)

Tamileela Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (Tamil People’s Liberation Party) (TMVP)/Karuna faction

Launched in October 2004 [37c] is the political front of the Karuna faction. [22g] On 9 August 2006 Reuters reported that the breakaway rebels had opened an office in the capital, aiming to eventually contest elections once registered as a recognised political party. “Karuna split from the Tigers, taking an estimated 6,000 loyal fighters with him, in early 2004 after accusing the leadership of discriminating against Tamils in the east -- his traditional stronghold. Most of his followers are believed to have either returned to civilian life or rejoined the Tigers, and his force is now estimated to number a few hundred at most.” [4a] As reported on 3 July 2006 on the website of TELO (Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation) “The TMVP is registered as a political party in Sri Lanka and already operates an office in the Batticaloa town under tight security owing to threats from the LTTE.” [13a]

As recorded in Jane’s Sentinel Security Assessments, Country profile - At a glance, Sri Lanka, 3 November 2006:

“Effectively, Karuna with the alleged support of the Sri Lankan government and the Indian intelligence services has developed an insurgency against the LTTE, especially in the east. The success of the strategy to use insurgency tactics against the insurgents now poses the single greatest threat to the integrity and authority of the LTTE as the sole and primary representative of the rebellion for a separate ‘Eelam’. The impact of Karuna on the security situation in Sri Lanka should not be underestimated, not least because the threat from Karuna is surely a main motivating factor in the LTTE decision to jeopardise the future of the peace process in favour of a

commitment to join the 'final war'...Following the initial shock of the revolt led by Colonel Karuna, Prabhakaran launched a carefully planned counteroffensive that succeeded in evicting renegade troops from their main encampments located in the coastal areas of Batticaloa and Ampara districts...Karuna and a small group of loyalists evidently escaped to Colombo and went into hiding while directing the remnants of his troops in Batticaloa in both defensive and offensive guerrilla operations. Even more intriguing than the failure of the LTTE to suppress the revolt was Karuna's decision to ostensibly abandon the armed rebellion against the government and enter the democratic mainstream, forming a new political party [TMVP] in collaboration with other anti-LTTE groups. It is not entirely clear where the Karuna faction is now. The east itself has descended into low-level violence, a lack of governance and widespread criminality. The LTTE has largely lost control over the east but still maintains a presence there. Unable to maintain previous levels of political and ideological support, the LTTE has now resorted to tactics based upon sheer fear and violence to maintain whatever influence is left. Elsewhere, the Karuna hierarchy is thought to be based in safe houses close to Ratmalana airfield, protected by the Sri Lankan security forces. However, the CFA has allowed the LTTE to deploy across the island, and most notably to Colombo, where its intelligence capability is extremely good. Colombo has several Tamil suburbs where the incidence of Tamil-on-Tamil violence has risen markedly since the Karuna defection. In July 2004 eight top Karuna aides were shot dead in a presumed safe house in Kottawa, close to Colombo. This and several subsequent incidents may have convinced the Karuna faction that Colombo is unsafe and many are now thought to have taken refuge in the Gulf, especially Doha." [5a] (Internal Affairs, 14 July 2006, Secessionist campaign & LTTE 2004 revolt)

Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF)

Founded in 1976 following the merger of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress and Federal Party. [1b] It contested the April 2004 general election as part of TNA. (See also TNA)

United National Party (UNP)

The conservative UNP was founded in 1947. It advocates the development of the country through free markets and inter-communal co-operation. The UNP formed the Government from 1947-1956 and again from 1965-1970. In 1977 it secured a landslide victory under J.R. Jayawardene, holding office for the following 17 years. The party lost power in 1994, but regained power in the December 2001 elections. It came second (with 82 seats) in the April 2004 general election. [8] (p563) As noted in the EU EOM June 2004 report: "The United National Party (UNP – Elephant) is the party of the former Prime Minister, Mr. Wickremesinghe. The UNP has governed the country for 30 years since independence and it enjoys the confidence of the business community." For the General Elections of 2 April 2004 the United National Front (UNF) was formed as a coalition composed of the centre-right United National Party (UNP), the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) and the Ceylon Workers' Congress (CWC). [40] (p10)

United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) <http://www.freedomalliance.lk/>

Founded in 2003, it is an alliance of Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), JVP, LSSP, CPSP, SLMP, DVJP, MEP and National Unity Alliance (NUA). It won 105 seats in the April 2004 general election. [56]

"The Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), the President's party, represents the main force within the alliance... The alliance between the SLFP and the JVP was very controversial. Although both parties support a larger role of the state in economic and social life, there are substantial ideological differences between them. In addition, the JVP is considered responsible for the assassination of the [former] President's husband in 1988. The UPFA political platform is based on issues such as the improvement of the state worker's conditions, the subsidizing of the agricultural sector,

the amendment of the constitution (through the abolition of the executive presidency and the change of the electoral system) and measures to reduce the cost of living.” (EU EOM June 2004 report) [40] (p10) “Minister Ratnasiri Wickremanayake a former Prime Minister has been nominated to lead the ruling United People’s Freedom Alliance.... The position of UPFA leadership fell vacant after [former] President Kumaratunga’s decision to step down due to pressure of work on Wednesday 4th August.” Official website of the government of Sri Lanka on 6 August 2004 [44e]

Up-Country People’s Front

Represents the interests of workers, mainly of Indian Tamil origin, on tea plantations. [1b] At the 2 April 2004 elections for the National Assembly it gained one seat [39a]

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Annex D: Prominent people

BALASINGHAM Anton

As noted by BBC News on 14 December 2006:

“Anton Balasingham, whose death from cancer was announced on Thursday [14 December 2006], was the ideologist of the Tamil Tigers of Sri Lanka. Officially know as the group's political adviser and theoretician, for over 25 years he played a unique role in the political struggle of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority. Over the years, this normally reticent man was the public face of the Tamil Tigers. Living in London, it was his job to communicate with the outside world about the aspirations of his people... Many commentators believe Balasingham was the moderating force - always on the search for a political solution - within one of the most belligerent rebel organisations in the world... He was able to live in Britain even though his organisation is proscribed by the UK government.” [9p]

KARUNA Colonel (nom de guerre of Vinayagamoorthi Muralitharan)

As highlighted by BBC News in a profile of 5 March 2004, Colonel Karuna was once a bodyguard of the LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

“He joined the militant outfit in 1983 and, within a few years, became the top commander in his native eastern province.... Colonel Karuna's importance in the Tamil Tiger hierarchy became clear when rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran elevated him to the rank of special commander for the eastern Batticaloa-Amparai districts in 2003. He replaced special commander Karikalan, who was ousted following his remarks over the communal situation in the district. Prabhakaran later made Colonel Karuna part of the team that negotiated with the Sri Lankan government during several rounds of peace talks in Bangkok, Oslo and Tokyo.... He felt his personal promotion was not enough for the east and has been seeking better representation for eastern cadres within the Tamil Tiger hierarchy.” [9cr] On 4 March 2004, BBC had reported that Colonel Karuna, had broken ranks after facing the threat of disciplinary action. “He was thought to be unhappy that the bulk of the rebel fighters come from the east and yet all the top leadership comes from the north of Sri Lanka.” [9bs] According to a BBC News report of 5 March 2004, Tamil Tiger rebels in Sri Lanka had expelled the renegade commander but he had stated he would not relinquish control of his 6,000 troops. [9bu] According to BBC News reports of 12 and 13 April 2004, he was reported to have fled after his troops were defeated and dispersed by the LTTE main faction in April 2004 in the east. [9bl] [9bm] As noted in BBC News reports dated 21 and 24 June 2004 and 1 July 2004, Tamil Tigers rebels had accused the Sri Lankan security forces of aiding and abetting Colonel Karuna but President Kumaratunga had rejected allegations that the government had authorised military activities in the Eastern Province in support of the Karuna faction. [9bp] [9bq] [9bbr]

As recorded in Jane's Sentinel Security Assessments, Country profile - At a glance, Sri Lanka, 3 November 2006:

“Karuna is a hardened strategist commanding the loyalty of a substantial number of cadres that were ensconced in Kokkadicholai, a rebel pocket off Batticaloa in the east immediately after their defection from the LTTE. These

cadres have now dispersed. They are believed to be in protected houses in and around Colombo or may have gone further afield to join Tamil diaspora communities or to find work in the Gulf states... Over the course of the ceasefire, Karuna felt that the east had become overlooked and ignored. This resentment was the main motivation for his defection. The LTTE attacked the Karuna defectors in the east soon after the early 2004 split and the dissident movement quickly fell apart. However, a corps of supporters remains loyal to him. The LTTE has pledged to kill Karuna and claims that he remains closely protected by the Sri Lankan government. Karuna's wife and family are thought to live in Malaysia and his wife is also thought to be a key to the close links between Karuna and the Indian intelligence services." [5a] (Vinayagamoorthi Muralitharan (alias Colonel Karuna)

See also Section 3 on History and Annex H

KUMARATUNGA Chandrika Bandaranaike

Former President of Sri Lanka. As outlined in a BBC News profile dated 3 April 2004:

"Chandrika Kumaratunga was came to power as president of Sri Lanka for the first time in 1994.... The victory of her Peoples' Alliance (PA) coalition ended 17 years of rule by the United National Party (UNP)". She was almost killed in an attack by a suspected Tamil Tiger suicide bomber on the final day of campaigning for presidential elections in 2000 but she went on to be re-elected for a second successive term as Sri Lanka's president. "In December 2001, Mrs Kumaratunga suffered a setback when her political opponent Ranil Wickramasinghe took office as Sri Lanka's new prime minister.... In February 2002, Mr Wickramasinghe's government and Tamil Tiger rebels signed a permanent ceasefire agreement, paving the way for talks to end the long-running conflict.... But Mrs Kumaratunga has been a vociferous opponent of the way the peace initiatives with the rebels have been conducted...Mrs Kumaratunga's belief that Mr Wickramasinghe was too lenient with the Tamil Tiger rebels came to a climax in November, 2003, when she took over control of three ministries in his government, including defence." [9cr] As reported by BBC News on 14 January 2004, President Kumaratunga had told the nation on the previous day that a secret swearing-in ceremony had extended her term by a year – until the end of 2006. [9bd] On 4 April 2004 BBC News reported that President Chandrika Kumaratunga's party had won the country's parliamentary elections, but without enough seats for a majority. [9az] As recorded in Europa World Online, "[In August 2005] there was controversy over when the country's next presidential election was scheduled to take place. While, under the terms of the Constitution, the next election was due to be held in December 2005, President Kumaratunga claimed that the holding of an undisclosed swearing-in ceremony in 2000 [in fact it happened in January 2004] had actually extended her second term until December 2006...In August the Supreme Court brought an end to the controversy, ruling that the election should be held by 22 November 2005. In September it was announced that the election would take place on 17 November. [1b]

(See also Section 3 on History)

PRABHAKARAN (PIRAPAHARAN) Velupillai

Leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). As outlined in a BBC News profile dated 25 November 2003:

“From a secret jungle base in the north-east of Sri Lanka, Velupillai Prabhakaran heads the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). He has a reputation as a fearless and ruthless guerrilla leader, and under his leadership, the LTTE, or Tamil Tigers, have become a highly-disciplined and highly-motivated guerrilla force.... To his followers, he is a freedom fighter struggling for Tamil emancipation from Sinhala oppression. To his adversaries he is a megalomaniac with a brutal disregard for human life...His movements between his various jungle hideouts are the subject of great secrecy, and he is reported to have narrowly avoided assassination or capture on numerous occasions.... He soon became heavily involved in the Tamil protest movement, and in 1975 was accused of being responsible for the murder of the mayor of Jaffna....The killing of the mayor of Jaffna is not the only high-profile murder for which Mr Prabhakaran is the prime suspect. He has also been accused by India of playing a key role in the murder of the former prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, in 1991.... Despite the conflicting views surrounding Mr Prabhakaran, there is one point on which both the Sinhala and Tamil communities agree: he is the dominating force in the rebel movement, and without his consent peace in Sri Lanka will never be attainable.” [9ae]

RAJAPAKSE Mahinda

President. “On 17 November 2005 14 candidates contested the presidential election. Mahinda Rajapakse secured a narrow victory over his closest rival, Ranil Wickremasinghe, winning 50.29% of the vote, compared with 48.43% for Wickremasinghe.” (Europa World Online) [1b]

As recorded in Jane’s Sentinel Security Assessments, Country profile - At a glance, Sri Lanka, 3 November 2006:

“Mahinda Rajapakse, born on 18 November 1945, was educated at several reputed schools in Galle and Colombo. Although not proceeding from school to tertiary education, he went on to obtain qualifications as an Attorney through examinations offered by the Sri Lanka Law College. Rajapakse hails from a well-known family in southern Sri Lanka of which several members have figured prominently in politics... It was as the representative of the parliamentary constituency of Hambantota District which his father had represented from 1947 to 1960 that Mahinda Rajapakse first entered parliament in 1970. Rajapakse was one of the most active and articulate members of the SLFP throughout the United National Party (UNP) regime of 1977-94... when the UNP was ousted in 1994, Rajapakse was therefore appointed to only relatively unimportant cabinet posts such as those of labour and vocational training, and fisheries, despite his senior position within the party. During the tenure of the United National Front (UNF) government (2001-04) Rajapakse made further headway as an anti-UNP leader, surpassing in political stature most of the old guard of his party, often remaining neutral in inner-party disputes. After the elections of April 2004 Rajapakse was able to muster a broader spectrum of support than any of the other contenders to the premiership. His appointment as prime minister strengthened his claim to succeed Kumaratunga as party leader and become its nominee at the presidential election of 2005. By August 2005 it was apparent that Rajapakse had gained the backing of his party, despite Kumaratunga’s personal preference for her younger brother Anura Bandaranaike. Rajapakse was elected president in November 2005 by a slim margin over rival candidate Ranil Wickremasinghe. Rajapakse’s victory owed much to a LTTE boycott, as the insurgent group apparently preferred to have a president with a hardline

policy towards the conflict in order to induce a 'final war' rather than the more compromising policy of Wickremasinghe." [5a] (President Mahinda Rajapakse)

TAMILSELVAN (THAMILCHELVAN) Sinniah Paramu

S.P. Tamilselvan was mentioned BBC News on 11 July 2004 (and on many other occasions) as the head of the Tigers' political wing. [9cx] Pro-LTTE website TamilNet referred to Thamilchelvan as head of the Tigers' political division on 14 May 2004 [38n] and as head of the Liberation Tigers' political wing on 17 June 2004. [38o]

WICKREMASINGHE Ranil

Leader of the main opposition party, United National Party (UNP). He was Minister of Industries, Science and Technology under President Premadasa and was appointed Prime Minister following the latter's assassination in 1993. As leader of the UNP, he again became Prime Minister in December 2001 after his party's victory in the general election. (BBC News of 7 December 2001) [9q] The United National Party of Ranil Wickremasinghe was defeated by the UPFA in the general election of 2 April 2004. He came second in the presidential election of November 2005, obtaining 48.43% of the vote. [1b] In January 2006 he was confirmed as leader of the UNP. [9f]

WRIKEMANAYAKE Ratnasiri

Formerly Minister of Agriculture, Public Security, Law and Order and of Buddha Sasana, Ratnasiri Wickremanayake was appointed Prime Minister soon after the former prime minister Mahinda Rajapakse became president in November 2005. [1b]

As recorded in Jane's Sentinel Security Assessments, Country profile - At a glance, Sri Lanka, 3 November 2006:

"Ratnasiri Wickremanayake, born on 5 May 1933, is the 14th prime minister of Sri Lanka and a veteran politician. He was sworn in as prime minister of Sri Lanka by President Mahinda Rajapakse on 21 November 2005. The decision to appoint Ratnasiri Wickremanayake as the prime minister appears to have been taken at the last minute, as his name did not appear in the context of potential candidacy until the night of his appointment. However, this is not the first time Wickremanayake has held the post of prime minister. His first tenure (August 2000-December 2001) came about as he succeeded the late Sirimavo Bandaranaike after she resigned from the position at the age of 84. He is also a senior vice-president of the ruling Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP)... After the SLFP won the 2004 parliamentary elections, Wickremanayake was appointed minister of Buddhist affairs, public security, and law and order, and deputy minister for defence. He held both posts until being made prime minister in 2005. Wickremanayake is seen by many as taking a hard line on the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. During his previous term as prime minister, he refused to consider talks with the main Tamil militant group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), until they unambiguously renounced terrorism. He has called for Sri Lanka's family planning policies to be modified, to encourage people to have more children and thereby produce more recruits for the Sri Lankan Army. As an opposition politician, he also spoke against the 2002 ceasefire agreement at the time." [5a] (Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickremanayake)

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Annex E: Fatalities by district

The following charts produced by SATP (South Asia Terrorism Portal) cover the number of fatalities divided by district for 2007 (with data until 28 March 2007) and the year 2006.

A) Fatalities District-Wise 2007

http://www.satp.org/satporqtp/countries/shrilanka/database/fatilitiesdisticwise_2007.htm [37g]

State	Civilians	SFs	Terrorists	Total
Ampara	7	10	27	44
Anuradhapura	4	10	0	14
Badulla	3	0	0	3
Batticaloa	29	37	228	294
Colombo	5	3	0	8
Galle	16	0	0	16
Gampaha	6	0	0	6
Hambantota	0	0	0	00
Jaffna	38	17	42	97
Kalutara	0	0	0	0
Kandy	0	0	0	0
Kegalle	0	0	0	0
Kilinochchi	0	0	00	0
Kurunegala	0	0	0	0
Mannar	4	13	24	41
Matale	0	0	0	0
Moneragala	0	0	8	8
Mullaitivu	0	0	0	0
Matara	0	0	12	12
Nuwara Eliya	0	0	0	0
Pollonaruwa	0	1	1	2
Puttalam	0	0	14	14
Ratnapura	0	0	0	0
Trincomalee	22	10	34	66
Vavuniya	49	41	34	124
Total	183	142	424	749

*Data March 28, 2007

B) Fatalities District-Wise 2006

http://www.satp.org/satporqtp/countries/shrilanka/database/FatilitiesDisticwise_2006.htm [37f]

State	Civilians	SFs	Terrorists	Total
Ampara	27	19	55	101
Anuradhapura	69	09	00	78
Badulla	00	00	00	00

Batticaloa	169	107	348	624
Colombo	25	17	08	50
Galle	00	00	15	15
Gampaha	01	00	00	01
Hambantota	00	00	00	00
Jaffna	242	319	1170	1731
Kalutara	00	00	00	00
Kandy	00	00	00	00
Kegalle	00	00	00	00
Kilinochchi	05	00	00	05
Kurunegala	00	00	00	00
Mannar	30	30	104	164
Matale	00	00	00	00
Moneragala	00	01	04	05
Mullaitivu	00	00	08	08
Muttur	00	00	00	00
Nuwara Eliya	00	00	00	00
Pollonaruwa	16	11	20	47
Puttalam	03	13	28	44
Ratnapura	00	00	00	00
Trincomalee	319	219	519	1057
Vavuniya	75	81	40	196
Total	981	826	3219	4126

*Data December 31, 2006

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Annex F: Incidents of violence between the LTTE and the Karuna faction

The following chart produced by SATP (South Asia Terrorism Portal) covers incidents between the LTTE and the Karuna faction for the period 9 April 2004 – 4 March 2007).

Incidents of violence between the LTTE and Tamil National Front (rebel faction led by Vinayagamorthy Muralitharan alias 'Colonel' Karuna) since March 2002

<http://www.satp.org/satporqtp/countries/shrilanka/database/violenceincidents.htm>

[37e]

Date	Place and District	Description	Fatalities-LTTE	Fatalities-Karuna faction
April 9, 2004	Verugal River, Batticaloa	LTTE launches attacks against the forward positions of 'Colonel' Karuna	0	22
April 25, 2004	Vavunithivu, Batticaloa	LTTE cadres are shot dead by the Karuna faction inside an area under the former's control	4	0
July 5, 2004	Batticaloa town	LTTE's political wing leader for Batticaloa town, Senadhi, is shot at and wounded	0	0
July 5, 2004	Batticaloa town	LTTE cadre, Murunkan Mama, is shot dead by the Karuna group	1	0
July 14, 2004	Punanai, Batticaloa	A Karuna group cadre is killed during an ambush by one of LTTE's special jungle warfare units	0	1
July 15, 2004	Batticaloa	Two Karuna faction cadres are killed in an attack by a LTTE cadre inside the Batticaloa prison	0	2
July 23, 2004	Kandaladi, Batticaloa	LTTE cadre, Seenithamby Mahalingam, is shot dead by the Karuna faction	1	0
July 25, 2004	Kottawa, Colombo	Seven suspected Karuna cadres and a Sinhalese person are shot dead by the LTTE	0	7
August 10, 2004	Kaluwaanchikudy, Batticaloa	Senithamby Yogarajan of the Karuna group is shot dead by the LTTE	0	1
August 11, 2004	Kiran, Batticaloa	Sivrajah Sivaseelan of the Karuna faction is shot dead by the LTTE	0	1
August 20, 2004	Valaichchenai, Batticaloa	Two LTTE leaders are shot dead and two cadres sustain injuries during an ambush by the Karuna group	2	0
August 24, 2004	Akkaraipattu Batticaloa	A Karuna group cadre is shot dead inside the Akkaraipattu court premises	0	1
September 23, 2004	Illuppadichchenai Batticaloa	LTTE cadres kill Reggie, elder brother of 'Colonel' Karuna	0	3
September 29, 2004	Vakarai sector, Batticaloa	Karuna cadres fire rocket propelled grenades targeting a LTTE sentry point	5	0
October 1, 2004	Vakaneri, Batticaloa.	Ruben, a Karuna cadre, is shot dead by a LTTE special jungle warfare unit	0	1
October 2, 2004	Omadiyamadu, Batticaloa	LTTE cadres of the Jeyanthan Regiment attack a group of heavily armed Karuna cadres	0	2
October 11, 2004	Nagastenne, Batticaloa	Two Karuna cadres are killed and six others sustain injuries during an attack by the LTTE special forces group	0	2
October	Iyankerny,	LTTE supporter, Kathirgamathamby	1	0

19, 2004	Batticaloa	Ganeshamoorthy, is killed by cadres of the Karuna faction		
October 20, 2004	Anpuvallipuram, Trincomalee	The LTTE kills a suspected Karuna faction cadre	0	1
October 25, 2004	Wellawatte, Colombo	A Karuna faction cadre is killed and two others sustain injuries as suspected LTTE cadres open indiscriminate fire	0	1
November 17, 2004	Valaichenai, Batticaloa.	A political worker of the LTTE is shot dead by suspected Karuna faction cadres	1	0
November 25, 2004	Akkaraipattu Batticaloa.	An LTTE political activist, identified as Umakanth, is killed by suspected Karuna group cadres	1	0
December 22, 2004	Arasady Junction Batticaloa.	A LTTE cadre is killed by suspected Karuna faction gunmen at Pioneer Road	1	0
February 7, 2005	Poonani, Batticaloa	LTTE's Eastern Political wing leader, Kaushalyan, his deputy Nedimaran and three other LTTE cadres are killed in an ambush by the rival Karuna faction	5	0
February 12, 2005	Mannar	One civilian is killed and two persons, including an LTTE activist, are wounded when suspected Karuna faction cadres lobbed a grenade targeting the LTTE's office	0	0
February 20, 2005	Muththukkal, Polannaruwa	Suspected LTTE cadres kill a Karuna faction cadre and injure another in an ambush	0	1
March 5, 2005	Welikanda, Polonnaruwa	Six persons are shot dead by the LTTE. Among the dead is a suspected cadre of the Karuna faction and four Muslims	0	1
March 5, 2005	Vanthaarumoolai, Batticaloa	A Karuna group cadre, identified as Mylvaganam Pulenthiran, is shot dead by the LTTE	0	1
March 5, 2005	Batticaloa district	A LTTE cadre, 'Major' Pushparaj, is shot dead by cadres of the Karuna faction. Two others were injured in the attack	1	0
March 14, 2005	Karapola, Polannaruwa	Two LTTE cadres, Sinnaturai Selvanaathen and Subramanium Gunsekaram, are shot dead by suspected Karuna faction cadres	2	0
March 21, 2005	Welikanda, Polonnaruwa	Two LTTE cadres are killed during a factional clash	2	0
March 26, 2005	Tharavai, Batticaloa	Five LTTE cadres are killed by the rival Karuna faction	5	0
March 28, 2005	Vavuniya	Suspected Karuna group cadres throw grenades targeting a LTTE office, wounding at least three people	0	0
April 8, 2005	Poonagar, Trincomalee	Two LTTE cadres are killed in an attack at a LTTE checkpoint by cadres of the Karuna faction	2	0
April 14, 2005	Welikanda, Polonnaruwa	Nine Karuna faction cadres are killed in an attack on their camp by the LTTE	0	9
April 21, 2005	Kanjikudichcha Aaru, Ampara	Five LTTE cadres are killed and seven others sustain injuries in a pre-dawn attack by the Karuna faction	5	0
April 21, 2005	Valaichenai, Batticaloa.	LTTE cadres kill a suspected Karuna group cadre	0	1
April 25, 2005	Karapola, Polannaruwa	One Karuna faction cadre is killed while one of his colleagues is abducted	0	1
May 6, 2005	Welikanda, Polonnaruwa	Two LTTE cadres, believed to be 'intelligence operatives', are killed during a clash with the Karuna faction	2	0

May 23, 2005	Manampitiya, Polonnaruwa	A LTTE cadre is shot dead by suspected gunmen of the Karuna faction	1	0
June 5, 2005	Aalankulam, Batticaloa	A Karuna group cadre is killed by rival LTTE cadres	0	1
June 8, 2005	Sangamankandy, Batticaloa	Two LTTE cadres are killed in an explosion triggered by the Karuna faction	2	0
June 21, 2005	Muttur, Trincomalee	A Karuna faction cadre is shot dead by suspected LTTE cadres.	0	1
July 6, 2005	Batticaloa	Suspected LTTE cadres kill, Selvaraja, a 'Colonel' Karuna group cadre	0	1
July 10, 2005	Trincomalee	Four LTTE cadres, including two top leaders Dikkan and Sinnavan, are killed by rival 'Colonel' Karuna faction.	4	0
July 26, 2005	Colombo	A suspected LTTE cadre, identified as Krishnapillai Kiribarathnam, is shot dead by a member of a rival 'Colonel' Karuna faction.	1	0
August 15, 2005	Polannaruwa	Suspected LTTE cadres shot dead, Mahathevarajah, a 'Colonel' Karuna group cadre.	0	1
September 2, 2005	Wennappuwa, Puttalam	Suspected LTTE cadres shot dead a former member of the 'Colonel' Karuna group.	0	1
September 4, 2005	Kaluwanchikudy, Batticaloa	Cadres of the 'Colonel' Karuna group lob a hand grenade towards the LTTE political office and subsequently shot dead a LTTE cadre, identified as K. Arulnesan.	1	0
October 26, 2005	Polonnaruwa	Two cadres of the LTTE are killed by the 'Colonel' Karuna faction.	2	0
November 14, 2005	Akkaraipattu, Ampara	Cadres of the 'Colonel' Karuna faction abduct and subsequently kill two top leaders of the LTTE, including Amparai district 'military commander' of the outfit, identified as Suresh.	2	0
December 5, 2005	Siyambalanduwa, Ampara	Four cadres of the 'Colonel' Karuna faction, including a senior commander identified as Iniyabarathy alias Barathy, are killed by the LTTE.	0	4
December 15, 2005	Kudapokuna, Polonnaruwa	Suspected cadres of the LTTE shot dead a cadre of the breakaway 'Colonel' Karuna faction, identified as Sivapulandu Passirasa alias Thran.	0	1
January 26, 2006	Vadamunai, Batticaloa	At least 10 LTTE cadres are killed and an unspecified number are injured when 'Colonel' Karuna faction cadres attacked a vehicle carrying LTTE cadres.	10	0
January 26, 2006	Vadamunai, Batticaloa	A senior LTTE cadre, 'Major' Kavilan, is allegedly killed by cadres affiliated to 'Colonel' Karuna.	1	0
February 22, 2006	Pulipaynthakal, Batticaloa	Six suspected 'Colonel' Karuna cadres shot dead a LTTE 'National Auxiliary Force' cadre, identified as Shanthakumar Narayanapillai.	1	0
April 5, 2006	Panichchankerni, Batticaloa	Two 'Colonel' Karuna faction cadres, including a key operative Chooty, are injured in a counter-attack by the LTTE.	0	0
April 13, 2006	Vakaneri, Batticaloa	Two LTTE cadres are killed and four others wounded in an ambush by cadres belonging to the 'Colonel' Karuna faction.	2	0
April 18, 2006	Kiran, Batticaloa	The LTTE announces that they had killed three paramilitary cadres and captured another in the LTTE-controlled area.	0	3
April 30, 2006	Welikanda, Polannaruwa	The LTTE raided three camps of 'Colonel' Karuna faction.	0	20

May 2, 2006	Batticaloa	Cadres of the 'Colonel' Karuna faction attack the LTTE camp, killing eight of the outfit's cadres.	8	0
May 7, 2006	Sampoor and Ravulkulee, Trincomalee	'Colonel' Karuna faction cadres kill 12 cadres of the LTTE in an attack at the outfit's camp.	12	0
May 19, 2006	Sampur, Trincomalee	Cadres of the 'Colonel' Karuna group in the district kill five LTTE cadres.	5	0
May 21, 2006	Batticaloa and Trincomalee	Cadres of the breakaway 'Colonel' Karuna faction in the Batticaloa district kill a top 'commander' of the LTTE, identified as Ramanan. A spokesperson for the Karuna group, T. Thuyavan, claims they killed Ramanan who was deputy head of the LTTE 'Military wing' of the Batticaloa district. He also claimed that their cadres attacked an LTTE camp near Trincomalee, killing at least 10 cadres of the outfit.	11	0
May 26, 2006	Pattiaddy, Trincomalee	A counter-ambush commando unit of the LTTE killed three 'Colonel' Karuna faction cadres and captured two others, when it allegedly launched an attack on the infiltrating five-member Karuna group from the Sri Lanka Army camp.	3	0
June 7, 2006	Muttur, Trincomalee	At least 15 cadres of the LTTE are killed in an attack by the breakaway faction of 'Colonel' Karuna.	15	0
June 20, 2006	Trincomalee	Eight LTTE cadres are killed during an overnight clash with the 'Colonel' Karuna group cadres in the Trincomalee district.	8	0
June 27, 2006	Vakarai, Batticaloa	Four LTTE cadres are killed in an attack by the breakaway faction of 'Colonel' Karuna in the Vakarai area of Batticaloa district.	4	0
July 24, 2006	Ampara	Two LTTE cadres are killed when a group of 'Colonel' Karuna faction cadres attacked them at an outfit-held village.	2	0
July 28, 2006	Vavunathivu, Batticaloa	The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation reports that 30 LTTE cadres are killed in a suicide attack launched by the breakaway faction led by 'Colonel' Karuna.	Unconfirmed	0
August 29, 2006	Sittandy, Batticaloa	A woman, allegedly with the 'Colonel' Karuna faction, is shot dead by cadres of the LTTE near Murugan Kovil in the Sittandy area of Batticaloa district.	0	1
September 5-6	Kanchankudi, Ampara	Heavy fighting erupts between LTTE and its breakaway faction led by 'Colonel' Karuna in the jungles in the Kanchankudi area of Ampara district in which six LTTE camps, including the Kanchikudichchuaru, Pavata and 73 Camp, are overrun by hundreds of Karuna cadres.	0	0
October 26	Chenkalady-Badulla road, Batticaloa	Three cadres of the TMVP, a LTTE breakaway faction led by 'Colonel' Karuna, are killed and eight others sustain injuries in a LTTE attack on the TMVP political office on the Chenkalady-Badulla road in Batticaloa.	0	3
December 19	Ampara	LTTE cadres lob a hand grenade at the Kalmunai political office of the TMVP in the Ampara district, the political wing of the outfit's breakaway faction led by 'Colonel' Karuna, killing two of the TMVP cadres and injuring another.	0	2

December 20	Vavuniya	At least three cadres of the LTTE breakaway faction led by 'Colonel' Karuna are killed in a clash with the LTTE in Vavuniya district.	0	3
2007				
January 9	Valaichenai/Batticaloa	Armed men ambushed two camps belonging to the breakaway faction of the LTTE led by 'Colonel' Karuna, killing several cadres of the Karuna faction. The LTTE claimed that unidentified assailants killed at least 10 members of the breakaway Karuna faction and wounded four more in the ambush. An official at the Defence Ministry in Colombo confirmed the attacks, but said only two Karuna faction members died and that two were wounded	0	2
February 5	Kaluthavalai, Batticaloa	At least two civilians were killed and another wounded in an encounter between the LTTE cadres and the Karuna faction in Kaluthavalai in the Batticaloa district.	0	0
March 4	Batticaloa	At least four civilians received injuries when LTTE cadres triggered a claymore mine and destroyed TMVP political office of LTTE (Karuna faction) in Batticaloa. The claymore explosion completely destroyed the office injuring one of the party supporters inside the office	0	0

[37e]

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Annex G: List of abbreviations

AHRC	Asian Human Rights Commission
AI	Amnesty International
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CID	Criminal Investigations Department
CPJ	Committee to Protect Journalists
ERs	Emergency Regulations
EU	European Union
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (UK)
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FH	Freedom House
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GOSL	Government of Sri Lanka
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
HRC	Human Rights Commission
HRW	Human Rights Watch
ICG	International Crisis Group
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
MSF	Médecins sans Frontières
NESOHR	North East Secretariat on Human Rights
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NPC	National Police Commission
NCPA	National Child Protection Authority
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
ODPR	Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees
OECD	Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PTA	Prevention of Terrorism Act
RSF	Reporters sans Frontières
SCOPP	Sri Lankan Government's Secretariat for Co-ordinating the Peace Process
SLMM	Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission
STC	Save The Children
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
TB	Tuberculosis
TI	Transparency International
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USSD	United States State Department

WFP World Food Programme
WHO World Health Organization

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Annex H: References to source material

The Home Office is not responsible for the content of external websites.

Numbering of source documents is not always consecutive because some older sources have been removed in the course of updating this document.

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