

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INFORMATION REPORT

SRI LANKA

31 OCTOBER 2006

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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 30 September 2006. The 'latest news' section contains further brief information on events and reports accessed from 1 October 2006 to 30 October 2006.
- 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

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Latest News

EVENTS IN SRI LANKA, FROM 1 OCTOBER 2006 TO 30 OCTOBER 2006

- 30 October Heavy artillery shelling between the Sri Lankan forces and the Tamil Tiger rebels resumed in northern Jaffna peninsula, just a day after peace talks failed over the issue of the main A9 highway connecting Jaffna to the rest of the country.
BBC News, Sri Lanka clash after talks fail, 30 October 2006
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/6098592.stm
Date accessed 30 October 2006
- 29 October The two-day talks in Geneva between Sri Lanka's government and Tamil Tiger rebels ended without an agreement. The Norwegian mediators announced that no deal had been reached on how to address the humanitarian crisis and no dates had been set for new negotiations.
BBC News, Sri Lankan talks end in failure, 29 October 2006
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/6090866.stm
Date accessed 30 October 2006

Norway – Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Statement by the Norwegian Facilitator, Geneva 29 October 2006
<http://odin.dep.no/ud/norsk/aktuelt/nyheter/032171-430041/dok-bn.html>
Date accessed 30 October 2006

BBC Sinhala, Parties debate 'A9 or sea route', 29 October 2006
http://www.bbc.co.uk/sinhala/news/story/2006/10/061029_kohona_tamil.shtml
Date accessed 30 October 2006
- 26 October The ICRC called on the parties in Sri Lanka to discuss humanitarian strife during the talks in Geneva after fighting in recent months left nearly 3,000 dead and 200,000 people displaced. It was also reported that 600,000 people in the Jaffna peninsula were severely affected by the closure of the main A9 access road and uncertain access by sea.
Reliefweb (quoting AFP), Sri Lankan talks should address humanitarian strife: ICRC, 26 October 2006
<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/AMMF-6UXGX2?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=lka>
Date accessed 18 October 2006

It was reported that the Karuna faction had abducted between 300 and 900 children since March 2006 and that there had been allegations of some complicity by the government.
Times Online, Men in black arrive in a white truck and children disappear, 26 October 2006
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,3-2421834,00.html>
Date accessed 26 October 2006
- 23 October It was announced that The Sri Lankan 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.
BBC News, Sri Lanka parties in talks pact, 23 October 2006
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/6077066.stm

Date accessed 23 October 2006

20 October Sri Lanka's navy said it had destroyed two Tamil Tiger rebel boats in a sea battle off the north coast and that at least twenty rebels had been killed in the battle.

BBC News, S Lankan navy 'sinks rebel boats', 20 October 2006
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/6070976.stm

Date accessed 23 October 2006

The UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions Philip Alston, urged the General Assembly to call upon the United Nations Secretariat to establish a full-fledged international human rights monitoring mission in Sri Lanka.

United Nations, General Assembly, Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Executions Urges Establishment of Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Sri Lanka, 20 October 2006

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/qashc3859.doc.htm>

Date accessed 18 October 2006

The pro-LTTE website TamilNet reported that three abducted Tamils had been found shot dead in Colombo. According to People Vigilance Committee (PVC), nine Tamils had been killed and 33 disappeared in the previous few weeks in Colombo.

TamilNet, 3 abducted Tamils found shot to death in Colombo, 20 October 2006

<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=19989>

Date accessed 18 October 2006

18 October Suicide attack carried out by the Tamil Tigers on a naval base in the southern Sri Lankan tourist city of Galle.

BBC News, Port hit in S Lanka tourist city, 18 October 2006

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/6061184.stm

Date accessed 18 October 2006

Reuters, LTTE suicide raid on Sri Lanka navy base kills

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/DEL120480.htm>

Date accessed 19 October 2006

Tigers raise stakes in tourist belt bombing, 19 October 2006

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,,1925431,00.html>

Date accessed 24 October 2006

16 October A Tamil Tigers suicide attack on a military bus convoy in northern Sri Lanka left 99 people dead and at least 100 hurt. Sri Lankan government launched retaliatory airstrikes on Tamil Tigers positions in the north.

BBC News, Sri Lanka attack causes carnage, 16 October 2006

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/6054470.stm

Date accessed 17 October 2006

BBC News, Blast sparks Sri Lanka air raids, 16 October 2006

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/6057240.stm

Date accessed 19 October 2006

13 October The Civil Monitoring Committee (CMC) to monitor extra-judicial killings, abductions and disappearances reported that 29 persons were still missing in Colombo, six persons were reported killed and eight persons were released.

TamilNet (pro-LTTE website), 29 reported missing in Colombo – Civil Monitoring Committee, 14 October 2006

<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=19913>

Date accessed 19 October 2006

11 October At least 129 Sri Lankan army soldiers were killed in violent fighting with Tamil Tiger rebels close to Jaffna in a clash described as a setback for the army. It was also reported that a disputed number of Tamil Tigers rebels (200 according to the government; 22 according to the Tigers) were also killed.

BBC News, Sri Lanka clashes kill 129 troops, 12 October 2006

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/6044664.stm

Date accessed 19 October 2006

5 October Peace talks between the Sri Lankan Government and LTTE were agreed to be held on 28-29 October in Switzerland.

BBC News, Tamil Tigers agree to talks dates, 5 October 2006

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/5410778.stm

Date accessed 19 October 2006

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REPORTS ON SRI LANKA PUBLISHED OR ACCESSED SINCE 1 OCTOBER 2006

LTTE Peace Secretariat

<http://www.ltteps.org>

Civilian casualty as the two parties prepared for talks in Geneva Oct 15 to 27, 27 October 2006

<http://www.ltteps.org/mainpages/images/2006/10/SinceOct15.pdf>

Date accessed 27 October 2006

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) – Sri Lanka

http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/sri_lanka?OpenDocument

Sri Lanka – ICRC Bulletin No. 06 / 2006, 25 October 2006

<http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/sri-lanka-news-251006!OpenDocument>

Date accessed 27 October 2006

Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO)

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029390554>

2006 Annual Report on Human Rights, 12 October 2006

http://www.fco.gov.uk/Files/kfile/hr_report2006.pdf

Date accessed 17 October 2006

The International Mission (comprised of the following international press freedom and media development organisations: ARTICLE 19; FreeVoice; International Federation of Journalists (IFJ); International Media Support (IMS); International Press Institute (IPI); International News Safety Institute (INSI); Reporters Without Borders (RSF); South Asia Press Commission (SAPC); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC); World Association of Newspapers (WAN); World Press Freedom Committee (WPFC))

International Fact-Finding and Advocacy Mission to Sri Lanka, 11 October 2006

http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=19142

Date accessed 12 October 2006

Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA)

<http://www.humanitarian-srilanka.org/CPRP/index.php>

Human Security Report, October 2006

http://www.humanitarian-srilanka.org/eResources/PDFdocs/HSR/HSR2006_JulSep.pdf

Date accessed 19 October 2006

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Background Information

GEOGRAPHY

- 1.01 As recorded in the CIA World Factbook, Sri Lanka (last updated 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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ECONOMY

- 2.01 As recorded in the CIA World Factbook, Sri Lanka (last updated 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 12 September 2006 was £1 = 192 Sri Lankan rupees. [33]

HISTORY

- 3.01 As recorded in the Foreign & Commonwealth country profile of Sri Lanka (last reviewed on 18 May 2006):

“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. (FCO Sri Lanka country profile) [15j] (Recent Political History)

- 3.07 “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)

- 3.08 “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)
- 3.09 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]
- 3.10 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]

- 3.11 “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)
- 3.12 On 2 April 2002 Reuters News Service reported that Nordic Observers, known as the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM), would begin monitoring the cease-fire. Representatives from Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark would carry out the monitoring, working with local observers in six Districts in the North East Province. [4s]
- 3.13 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)
- 3.14 In December 2002, “At peace talks in Norway the government and rebels agree to share power. Under the deal, minority Tamils would have autonomy in the mainly Tamil-speaking north and east.” In February 2003, “Peace process talks get under way in Berlin.” In April 2003, “Tamil Tigers suspend their participation in peace talks, saying they are being marginalised.” (BBC News Timeline: Sri Lanka) [9fo]
- 3.15 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]
- 3.16 “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)
- 3.17 “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)

- 3.18 On 9 April 2004, BBC News reported that heavy fighting had broken out between two Tamil Tiger rebel factions in north-eastern Sri Lanka. "Members of the main Tiger movement exchanged fire across the Verugal river with fighters controlled by a breakaway commander, Colonel Karuna. At least nine fighters are thought to have been killed and another nine people injured. The International Committee of the Red Cross said thousands of civilians were fleeing from the area. The battle comes days after a new government took office and is the first between the rival rebel factions." [9bk]
- 3.19 On 12 April 2004, it was reported by BBC News that rebels loyal to a breakaway Tamil Tiger group in Sri Lanka were abandoning their fight against the mainstream faction. "One military official in the east told Reuters there was a "mass exodus" from the ranks of Colonel Karuna's faction. International peace monitor Eric Solheim said his sources indicated that "Karuna seems to have given up".... The UN Children's Fund, Unicef, which is working in the area, confirms there has been a spontaneous release of Tamil Tiger cadres from the camps of the eastern faction. Thousands of civilians who had fled their homes when the two factions began fighting are also now returning to their villages." [9bl]
- 3.20 As noted in a BBC News report of 13 April 2004, the main faction of Tamil Tiger rebels was reportedly in full control of eastern areas after defeating the breakaway group. "The renegade leader, Colonel Karuna, is said to have fled the area and his forces have dispersed. The main faction also freed more than 100 child soldiers who had been with Col Karuna's group.... Hagrup Haukland, deputy head of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission, said monitors met the man the Tigers have installed as Col Karuna's replacement, Ramesh, in the area on Monday" [9bm]
- 3.21 On 9 May 2004, BBC News reported that in a major policy shift, Sri Lanka's governing Freedom Alliance had said it would recognise the Tamil Tiger rebels, by implication as the sole representatives of the country's Tamil minority. [9cd]
- 3.22 "From June 2004 onwards the cease-fire between the LTTE and the Government came under increasing pressure. During discussions with Hagrup

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. 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)

- 3.23 On 4 October 2004 BBC News reported that Tamil Tiger rebels had dismissed the peace panel which the government said it had formed to help revive stalled talks. "Tamil rebels insist that their proposal for an interim administration should be the basis for peace talks. The government has set out its own version of interim self-rule, which the Tigers have rejected." [9dy] On 17 October 2004, BBC News reported that the Tamil Tiger rebels had dismissed new government proposals to restart peace talks. "Tamil Tiger rebels have already submitted their Interim Self-Governing Authority (ISGA) proposals for the country's war-torn northeast region. Tigers have been insisting that ISGA should be the basis for resuming peace talks." [9ea]
- 3.24 On 19 November 2004 BBC News reported that a high court judge and his bodyguard had been shot dead in Colombo. "Judge Ambepitiya sentenced the leader of the Tamil Tiger rebels, Velupillai Prabhakaran, to 200 years in jail in absentia over a 1996 bomb attack. The judge had also just given a life sentence to a woman drug trafficker.... His killing came hours after he gave a life sentence to a woman heroin trafficker." [9di] On the following day the BBC reported that the Sri Lankan government was setting up a special security unit to protect the judiciary after the killing of a judge and that President Kumaratunga had also reaffirmed her country's commitment to capital punishment, saying it applied for murder, rape and drugs trafficking. [9dj] On 27 November 2004, the Daily News reported that Judge Amepitiya's murder was a revenge killing by a drug dealer who had been arrested with other suspects. [16bp]
- 3.25 On 27 November 2004 BBC News reported that the Tamil Tiger rebels had threatened to return to war unless the government agreed to peace talks based on a rebel blueprint for self-rule. [9ed] On 1 December 2004, BBC News reported that Sri Lanka's government had rejected demands from Tamil Tiger rebels to unconditionally resume peace talks. [9ee]

- 3.26 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. [9dl]
- 3.27 The BBC News report At-a-glance: Countries hit, updated on 8 April 2005, summarised the subsequent situation:
- “Impact: Sri Lanka suffered more from the tsunami than anywhere else apart from Indonesia. Southern and eastern coastlines have been ravaged. Homes, crops and fishing boats were destroyed. The International Labour Organisation estimates that at least 400,000 people lost their jobs. Toll: At least 31,000 people are known to have died, and more than 4,000 are missing. The number of homeless people is put at between 800,000 and one million.... Aid: Foreign troops have been helping to clear the wreckage. The government is set to begin rebuilding seaside towns – some from scratch – as part of a \$3.5bn reconstruction drive. There have been lingering tensions between the government and Tamil Tiger rebels over the distribution of aid.” [9dm]
- 3.28 “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. Talks intended to resolve the dispute held at the end of January [2005] ended without agreement. The situation deteriorated further in the following month, when it was revealed that around 70% of the survivors of the tsunami disaster had yet to receive any government relief, apparently owing to a combination of bureaucratic incompetence and corruption. The Tamil Relief Organization (TRO), controlled by the LTTE, alleged that only one-third of the aid was reaching the Tamil-controlled northern and eastern areas, despite government claims that two-thirds of the aid was destined for these areas.” (Europa World Online) [1b] (Recent History)
- 3.29 As reported by BBC News on 8 February 2005:
- “The shooting dead of a top Tamil Tiger and five others has raised fears that Sri Lanka could return to civil war. E Kaushalyan, a rebel political leader, is the most senior Tiger killed since a ceasefire began in February 2002. Sri Lanka’s government has condemned Monday’s ambush, saying it increased the risk of a return to conflict. The rebels, who blame the attack on paramilitaries working with the army, say it is a major blow to peace efforts. The army denies involvement.... The Sri Lankan authorities deny having anything to do with the attack and say they suspect supporters of a renegade Tiger commander, Colonel Karuna, who split from the rebels in March 2004.” [9em]

- 3.30 As reported by BBC News on 21 February 2005, "At least two people have been killed and more than 30 injured in a blast in a courtroom in southern Sri Lanka. Police say a hand grenade exploded in the magistrate's court in the town of Embilipitiya, 175km (110 miles) southeast of the capital, Colombo. "We suspect this to be the work of a man held in prison custody at the court premises," a senior police official, Kingsley Ekanayake, told AFP. More than two dozen prisoners reportedly escaped after the blast." [9dk]
- 3.31 On 22 February 2005 BBC News reported that the Tamil Tiger rebels had warned that a truce with the government was under threat after the recent killing of one of its leaders.
- "E Kaushalyan was the most senior Tiger killed since the ceasefire began in February 2002.... In the northern rebel-held town of Kilinochchi, the Tamil Tigers' political wing leader, SP Thamilselvan, accused the government of engaging in a 'secret war'. "The present incidents indicate that the ceasefire is at breaking point," Reuters news agency quoted him as saying. The rebels have blamed the government for carrying out the killing. The government has denied the accusation and has said it was carried out by a rival rebel faction." [9ei]
- 3.32 As stated by the head of the SLMM Head of Mission in a press release dated 22 February 2005:
- "Today, the 22nd February marks the 3rd anniversary of the Cease Fire. I would like to use this opportunity to commend the Sri Lanka Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's pure willingness to act with restraint in situations that could have escalated. SLMM can confirm, as a matter of fact, that there have been no clashes between the Parties' military forces after the signing of the CFA. Assassinations and killings are, however, still jeopardising the CFA. I strongly condemn these horrible acts, as they undermine and pose a serious threat to the peace process. They have without a doubt poisoned the atmosphere between the Parties and lead to an unsafe environment creating fear among the general public. The killings must be stopped and SLMM urges both sides to find the perpetrators and bring them to justice.... Lack of peace talks is putting a serious strain on the Cease Fire and creating dangerous uncertainty. The two Parties will inevitably have to return to the negotiating table. SLMM will do its utmost to assist both sides in upholding the CFA by continuing our work and confidence building measures." [22e]
- 3.33 On 1 March 2005, BBC News reported that an attack on a top female Tamil Tiger leader in Sri Lanka had raised more fears of a return to violence threatening a fragile three-year truce.
- "Unidentified gunmen shot and wounded the female rebel leader, Kuveni, in the eastern district of Ampara on Monday, along with two other female rebels. European monitors say they are concerned about the violence.... The rebels have blamed the military for carrying out the attack. '[The] attack took place in an area very close to a Sri Lankan army checkpoint, so there is no doubt in our mind that it is the Sri Lankan military', S Puleedevan, head of the Tiger's peace secretariat, told Reuters. The army dismisses the rebel allegation." [9fa]
- 3.34 On 18 April 2005 BBC Sinhala.com reported that the Tamil Tigers had said they agreed for the joint tsunami mechanism. "According to Norwegian

- proposals the regional bodies to have ten members; five Tamils, three Muslims and two Sinhallas.” [9en]
- 3.35 “In June 2005 the Government finally signed an agreement — the Post-Tsunami Operational Management Structure (P-TOMS) — that would allow the LTTE to participate in the distribution of aid for the reconstruction effort. The agreement had been reached only following the withdrawal from the ruling coalition of the JVP, which had remained stringently opposed to any deal with the LTTE. The JVP’s withdrawal left the Government with a minority in the legislature, although the opposition UNP had assured the Government of its support for the aid-sharing mechanism. In the following month, however, in response to a petition from the JVP and the JHU, the Supreme Court suspended the implementation of the P-TOMS, ruling that several of its clauses were illegal. Meanwhile, increasing tensions between the LTTE and government forces, complicated by the former’s ongoing clashes with the rebel Karuna faction, led to an upsurge in violence that prompted international donors to warn the two sides that the ongoing cease-fire was under threat. At the end of May the chief of military intelligence in Colombo, Maj. Nizam Muthalif, had become the most senior official to have been assassinated by the LTTE since the agreement of the cease-fire in February 2002.” (Europa World Online) [1b] (Recent History)
- 3.36 On 23 June 2005, it was reported by BBC news that Sri Lanka’s tsunami-affected Muslims had expressed their dismay and anger over not being made a signatory to the proposed tsunami reconstruction agreement. [9eq]
- 3.37 “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. Later in August Kumaratunga announced the appointment of her brother, Anura Bandaranaike, already Minister of Tourism in the Cabinet, as Kadirgamar’s successor. Bandaranaike continued to hold the tourism portfolio. Meanwhile, there was uncertainty over the venue at which talks between the LTTE and the Government could take place. In September [2005] the LTTE declined a Norwegian proposal that the talks should be held at the international airport near Colombo, while the Government rejected the LTTE’s suggestion that they be held in Kilinochchi, the political centre of LTTE-controlled northern Sri Lanka. Later in the same month the European Union (EU) issued a statement banning LTTE delegations from visiting any of its member states. Sporadic violence continued throughout the following months.” (Europa World Online) [1b] (Recent History)
- 3.38 “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)

3.39 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.” [9f1]

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

3.40 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]

- 3.41 "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." (Europa World Online) [1b] (Recent History)
- 3.42 The USSD 2005 reported that:
- "During the year [2005] both the government and the LTTE frequently violated the 2002 peace accord. According to Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) statistics, the LTTE committed 14 cease-fire violations for every 1 committed by the government... There were numerous reports that armed paramilitary groups, suspected of being linked to the government or security forces, participated in armed attacks during the year. These groups included the Karuna faction of the LTTE, the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP), and the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE)." [2g] (Introduction)
- 3.43 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. On Jan. 2 a suicide bomb attack on a naval patrol vessel off the east coast, by a boat packed with explosives, killed 13 sailors... There were suggestions that it might have been revenge for the killing of five Tamil students at the beginning of the month, which the LTTE blamed on the army. In a gun battle on Jan. 8 in the eastern district of Trincomalee one soldier and two LTTE fighters were killed. A landmine killed nine sailors and injured 10 on Jan. 12 when it exploded under their bus near the village of Chettiukulam in northern Vavuniya district. Although the LTTE disclaimed responsibility for these attacks, analysts said that they were probably an attempt to provoke the government into massive military retaliation. A landmine under another bus in the eastern town of Batticaloa on Jan. 17 injured 12 navy personnel, triggering a gun battle in which two civilians were killed. Nordic peace monitors of the Sri Lankan

Monitoring Mission (SLMM) pulled out of the district, the first time they had done so, after one of their (empty) vehicles was blown up by a mine.” [23a]

3.44 “It was reported on Jan. 18 that 136 people had been killed since the election in November 2005 of President Mahinda Rajapakse [see pp. 46930-31]. The LTTE claimed that the army or paramilitaries had killed some 40 Tamil civilians, blaming some attacks on a breakaway Tiger faction led by a former LTTE commander called Col Karuna. Karuna’s group announced on Jan. 31 that it was offering a unilateral ceasefire. The police in Colombo announced on Jan. 1 that they had detained for questioning 50 people out of 900 Tamils rounded up in a district of the city two days previously. It was announced on Jan. 25 that President Rajapakse and LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran had agreed to a session of talks in February in Geneva, Switzerland. The talks would be aimed solely at restoring the ceasefire rather than a final peace settlement.” (Keesing’s Records of World Events, January 2006 – Sri Lanka) [23a]

3.45 As recorded on the official website of the Sri Lankan Government’s Secretariat for Co-ordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP), the first session of Ceasefire Talks was held on 22 and 23 February 2006 at the Chateau de Bossey, Celigny, Switzerland. Delegations from GOSL (government of Sri Lanka) and from the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) both with their advisors, took part in the talks together with the Norwegian facilitators and members of the SLMM (Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission). The statement issued further to these talks (referred to as the ‘Geneva Statement’ reaffirmed that:

“The GOSL and the LTTE are committed to respecting and upholding the Ceasefire Agreement, and reconfirmed their commitment to fully cooperate with and respect the rulings of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM). The GOSL and the LTTE are committed to taking all necessary measures to ensure that there will be no intimidation, acts of violence, abductions or killings. The LTTE is committed to taking all necessary measures to ensure that there will be no acts of violence against the security forces and police. The GOSL is committed to taking all necessary measures in accordance with the Ceasefire Agreement to ensure that no armed group or person other than Government security forces will carry arms or conduct armed operations. The GOSL and the LTTE discussed all issues concerning the welfare of children in the North East, including the recruitment of children. The SLMM will report on implementation on [sic] the above agreements at the next session of talks. The parties requested the Swiss Government to host the next round of talks in Geneva on 19 – 21 April 2006.” [41i]

3.46 As reported in Keesing’s Records of World Events, March 2006 – Sri Lanka:

“Norway announced on March 17 [2006] the appointment of Jon Hanssen-Bauer, an academic and experienced peace and reconciliation adviser, as its new special envoy for the peace process in Sri Lanka. Erik Solheim, the Norwegian Overseas Development Minister, would, however, retain overall responsibility for organising the peace process... 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]

See also Annex A, Timeline – Year 2005 [37d]; Timeline – Year 2006 [37c]

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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- 4.01 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 started with a positive atmosphere and steps were taken to further normalize the situation. The presence of soldiers in town centers and the number of checkpoint [sic] decreased and the population living in the North and Northeast became much more hopeful for the future. Attempts were made to restart LTTE political activities in GOSL controlled areas but too much distrust prevailed between the Parties and so the GOSL was not willing to provide unlimited access to LTTE political cadres as they feared that they would engage in clandestine activities. LTTE also pushed for a resumption of organized transport of LTTE cadres through GOSL controlled areas, including LTTE sea movements. SLMM made several attempts to facilitate a meeting in Killinochchi between local LTTE leaders, a prerequisite set by LTTE to ensure their participation in the second round of Geneva talks. However, neither GOSL nor LTTE could reach an agreement on the transport. The transport issue has now reached a complete deadlock, thus postponing the Geneva talks.” [22g] (Paragraph 2)

- 4.02 The SLMM Geneva Report further noted that:

“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)

- 4.03 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. In mid-April five claymore mine attacks in LTTE controlled Vanni killed five civilians and two LTTE cadres. There was also extended exchange of fire between SLA and LTTE across the zone of separation on several occasions.” [22g] (Paragraph 3)

- 4.04 “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 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. In May two grave incidents demonstrated a new development where gunmen targeted groups of civilians instead of individuals. On 2 May a group of gunmen entered a newspaper office, shot dead the marketing manager and injured two others by shooting randomly at the employees. On 13 May three gunmen entered a private house and shot dead 8 civilians, including two children. 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. On 30 April a Karuna camp in Batticaloa district came under attack by the LTTE. According to the LTTE 20 Karuna cadres were killed and several injured. 10 wounded Karuna cadres were brought to a Governmental Hospital, but SLMM was denied access to there [sic] cadres by GOSL. 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)
- 4.05 “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)

4.06 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]

4.07 “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, Switzerland, because there was no agreement on how the LTTE's eastern field commanders could cross government-held territory to attend a central committee meeting. Each side blamed the other for undermining the ceasefire. The government on April 28 announced that it had ended the air strikes and re-opened the borders with rebel-held territory...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]

4.08 As noted in a public statement issued on 26 April 2006:

“Amnesty International is calling for full respect for international humanitarian and human rights law in Sri Lanka following a rapid escalation of violence in the country during the past two weeks. Several army personnel and civilians were killed and Army Commander Lt Gen Fonseka was severely injured in a suicide bomb attack at Army Headquarters in Colombo on 25 April [2006]. This bombing has been attributed to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)...It has been reported that at least twelve civilians were killed during the attacks and counter-attacks in LTTE controlled areas in Muttur East in Trincomalee district in the past two days, although this has not been independently verified. Following a bomb blast which killed five people in a market in Trincomalee town on 12 April, over twenty Tamil and Muslim civilians were killed by Sinhalese in what appeared to be retaliatory attacks; dozens of homes and businesses were destroyed and several thousand people displaced. Concerns have been expressed about lack of timely intervention by the security forces in order to protect civilians. During the past two weeks over eighty people including civilians have been killed in violations of the Ceasefire Agreement.” [3u]

4.09 As reported in the SLMM Geneva Report 24 February – 28 May:

“LTTE Sea Tiger vessels have been maneuvering far off the coast in Mullaitivu for several days since April [2006]. They have continued to provoke the Sri Lankan Navy ships in the area by approaching in fighting positions and firing with their weapons towards the SLN. This was a clear intentional violation of the CFA culminating in the attack on 11 May 2006 when LTTE attacked four SLN Fast Attack Craft in the north-eastern waters, between Nagarkovil and Chalai. One SLN craft was sunk by an LTTE suicide boat and 17 SLN sailors died.” [22g] (Paragraph 6)

4.10 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. On May 5 naval patrol craft reported that they returned fire when attacked by four LTTE boats some 140 km north-west of Colombo, the capital, sinking one of the attackers. There were no reports of casualties. In apparent retaliation on May 11 the LTTE’s Sea Tigers mounted an attack with 15 boats on naval patrol boats escorting a troop ship off the coast of the northern Jaffna peninsula. 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. The SLMM described the attack as a ‘gross violation’ of the ceasefire and an attempt to provoke the navy, ruling that as a “non-state actor” the LTTE had

no rights at sea. The LTTE gave the monitors a “final warning” not to travel on naval ships. Dozens more people died during May in clashes between the rebels and the security forces, landmine explosions, and shootings of civilians.” [23d]

- 4.11 “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. The dead included at least two children. According to a report on May 25 by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), it was still unclear who was responsible for the killings...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... LTTE chief negotiator Anton Balasingham said on May 19 that the ban would encourage government hardliners to ‘precipitate a war’ to crush the LTTE. Henricsson said that the ban could be ill-timed and push the LTTE into full-scale guerrilla war. In a meeting on May 9, Japanese envoy Yasushi Akashi failed to persuade LTTE political chief S.P. Thamilselvan to rejoin peace talks with the government.” (Keesing’s Records of World Events, May 2006 – Sri Lanka) [23d]
- 4.12 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 Kebutigollew 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]
- 4.13 “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]

- 4.14 “Following a ban imposed by the EU on the LTTE in May [2006], the rebels demanded that all members of the Nordic Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission (SLMM) from EU countries (Denmark, Finland, and Sweden) leave the country within a month because their neutrality would be compromised. However, it was thought unlikely that the two remaining countries, Norway and Iceland, would be able by themselves to supply enough monitors. The LTTE later extended the deadline to Sept. 1. Talks planned for June 8 in Oslo, the Norwegian capital, between government negotiators and the LTTE, on guaranteeing the security of SLMM monitors, broke down when the LTTE refused to meet the government delegation.” **(Keesing’s Records of World Events, June 2006 – Sri Lanka) [23e]**
- 4.15 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)**
- 4.16 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)**
- 4.17 “[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. Shelters used by civilians were also targeted in this period, most notably when two hand grenades were thrown in to a church where civilians were gathered following a sea battle between Sea Tigers and SLN off the coast of Pesalai on June 17th. The incident killed 8 people and injured 38, as well as upsetting the otherwise relatively calm situation in the area. 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)

- 4.18 “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)
- 4.19 “At least 250 civilians were killed during the reporting period, 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)
- 4.20 [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]
- 4.21 As stated in a public statement issued on 18 August 2006:
- “Amnesty International is alarmed that escalating fighting in Sri Lanka has resulted in the death and injury of scores of civilians, the displacement of more

than 160,000 people, and the destruction of homes, schools, and places of worship. The organisation is dismayed that neither the government security forces nor the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) appear to be taking adequate precautions to protect civilian lives. Even when serious violations of international humanitarian law are reported, both sides trade accusations and counter-accusations rather than take steps to address or put a halt to violations. Amnesty International is concerned by the extent and seriousness of the violations reported, the lack of adequate protection for civilians, and restrictions on access to the worst affected areas. Persistent uncertainty about what has actually occurred and who is responsible for alleged war crimes and other violations of international law is fueling fear and panic among the civilian population.” [3s]

- 4.22 [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. Six soldiers are killed and 28 others injured due to LTTE artillery and mortar attacks as fighting continued...[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... [On 30 August 2006] 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 [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]
- 4.23 [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]
- 4.24 As reported by the pro-LTTE website TamilNet on 6 September 2006:

“Sri Lanka’s parliament Tuesday [5 September] adopted a motion of [sic] extending the State of Emergency for another month by a majority of 99 votes. 108 members including the ruling United Peoples Freedom Alliance (UPFA), main opposition United National Party (UNP), Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), all monks’ party Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU) and other constituent parties of the government voted for the motion. Tamil National Alliance (TNA) parliamentarians voted against. The State of Emergency was declared on August 13th last year following the assassination of Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar, Foreign Minister on August 12 late in the night. Since then the State of Emergency is being extended monthly, sources said.” [38a]

4.25 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]

4.26 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, B, F, G and H

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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]

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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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

INTRODUCTION

- 7.01 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)

- 7.02 As noted in the US State Department Report 2005 (USSD), released on 8 March 2006:

"The government generally respected the human rights of its citizens, although serious problems remained. During the year [2005] both the government and the LTTE frequently violated the 2002 peace accord. According to Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) statistics, the LTTE committed 14 cease-fire violations for every 1 committed by the government...The government enacted emergency regulations three times during the year: twice following the December 2004 tsunami, and once following the August 12 killing of Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar. The emergency regulations, which remained in effect at year's end, permit arrests without warrant and nonaccountable detentions for up to 12 months. The following human rights problems were reported:

- unlawful killings by government agents
- high-profile killings by unknown actors
- politically motivated killings by paramilitary forces and the LTTE
- disappearances
- arbitrary arrest and detention
- torture
- poor prison conditions
- denial of fair public trial
- government corruption and lack of transparency
- infringement of religious freedom
- infringement of freedom of movement
- discrimination against minorities." [2g] (Introduction)

7.03 “There were numerous reports that armed paramilitary groups, suspected of being linked to the government or security forces, participated in armed attacks during the year. These groups included the Karuna faction of the LTTE, the Eelam People’s Democratic Party (EPDP), and the People’s Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE). The LTTE continued to control large sections of the north and east and engaged in politically motivated killings, disappearances, torture, arbitrary arrest and detention, denial of fair public trial, arbitrary interference with privacy, denial of freedom of speech, press, of assembly and association, and the recruitment of child soldiers.” (USSD 2005) [2g] (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)

7.05 As recorded in the Human Rights Watch (HRW) World Report 2006, Sri Lanka published in January 2006:

“The human rights situation in Sri Lanka worsened in 2005... Killings, particularly of Tamils in opposition to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), an armed group advocating a separate homeland for Tamils, reached an alarming rate of one per day by June 2005, and included the assassination of Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar in August. The LTTE continued to recruit child soldiers. Torture and mistreatment by police continued to be a problem... The police continue to enjoy great impunity. While some cases of deaths in custody and torture have been investigated, no one has been prosecuted or punished as yet.” [21o]

SECURITY FORCES

8.01 The security forces comprise the 66,000-member police force (USSD 2005) [2g] (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 2005:

“Following the November 17 [2005] presidential election, the government eliminated the Ministry of Internal Security and placed control of the 66-thousand-member police force, which includes the 6-thousand member paramilitary Special Task Force, under the Ministry of Defense. Senior officials in the police force handle complaints against the police, as does the civilian-staffed National Police Commission (NPC). Few police officers serving in Tamil majority areas were Tamil. These officers generally did not speak Tamil or English, which increased the level of misunderstanding and distrust.” [2g] (Section 1d)

8.03 “Impunity, particularly for cases of police torture, was a severe problem. For example, on October 3, Inspector General of Police Chandra Fernando refused the NPC’s recommendation to suspend or indict 96 police officers for acts of torture. By year’s end 61 of those officers had been reprimanded and transferred to other stations, and the 35 others were removed or had left the police. Several NGOs claimed that corruption was also a problem in the police force.” (USSD 2005) [2g] (Section 1d)

8.04 “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. During the year the NPC handled 187 cases of police torture. Criminal proceedings were initiated in 42 cases, while 86 others were closed due to insufficient evidence. On November 22 [2005], the three-year term of the NPC lapsed. By year’s [2005] end the government had not appointed new commissioners to the NPC.” (USSD 2005) [2g] (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 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]

- 8.07 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]
- 8.08 According to a report of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs dated 30 September 1999, investigating agencies include the Operational Command of Colombo Security (OCC), the Directorate of Internal Intelligence (DII), the Directorate of Foreign Intelligence (DFI), the Criminal Record Department (CRD), the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and the Terrorist Investigation Department (TID). The TID was set up in May 1998 as a new investigative agency of the police. The DII and DFI, until mid-1998, together formed the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB). [14] As reported in the report Home Office fact-finding mission to Sri Lanka of 9-13 July 2001, police are recruited nationally, not locally, and any Sri Lankan national, including those of Tamil ethnicity, is free and welcome to join the police force. [35a]
- 8.09 "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

- 8.10 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 Co-ordinating 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]

8.11 The USSD 2005 reported that “The law prohibits arbitrary arrest and detention; however, such incidents occurred. [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)

8.12 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]

8.13 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]

8.14 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]

8.15 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]

8.16 As mentioned in a letter from the British High Commission, Colombo to the Home Office 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]

8.17 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]

8.18 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]

Disappearances

- 8.19 The above mentioned letter from the BHC Colombo dated 26 September 2005 reported that “Home for Human Rights documented three disappearances that they were aware of. Institute for Human Rights said they were handling six complaints which they had received from within Colombo. The Centre for Human Rights and Development and the Organisation of Parents and Family members of the Disappeared came to see me together and said they were not aware of any live disappearance cases under the Emergency Regulations.” [15d]
- 8.20 As noted in the USSD 2005:
- “The HRC reported 25 instances of politically motivated disappearances at the hands of the security forces during the year, and 10 instances by paramilitary forces allegedly tied to the government... At year’s [2005] end the HRC continued to investigate 16,305 past cases of disappearance by security forces, some of which have been pending for 10 years. 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. For example, at year’s end, there were more than 97 reports that the LTTE had abducted adults according to the SLMM.” [2g] (Section 1b)
- 8.21 On 11 January 2006 an AI public statement noted that:
- “At least ten people are reported to have ‘disappeared’ following arrest by the security forces in northern Sri Lanka in the last two months. Amnesty International calls on the government to ensure full and impartial investigations into these reports of ‘disappearances’ in order to prevent this heinous human rights violation re-establishing itself as a pattern in Sri Lanka...Emergency regulations currently in force allow for detention in police custody for up to 90 days. Hundreds of people were arrested in Colombo under these provisions during cordon and search operations conducted by the security forces at the end of December 2005. Most have been released after questioning, but 15 people are believed to be still detained.” [3p]
- 8.22 The 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]
- 8.23 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]

- 8.24 On the same day, BBC News reported that a Tamil journalist who had been kidnapped near the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, was freed unharmed.

“Nadaraja Guruparan, who works for Surayan FM radio, disappeared as he drove to the station on Tuesday. He was found wandering blindfold in Colombo. He said his Sinhalese-speaking captors had questioned him but had otherwise treated him well. He did not know who they were or why he had been held. BBC correspondents say Surayan FM is considered largely unbiased. The station frequently reports on human rights violations in fighting between Tamil Tiger rebels and the Sri Lankan army... Mr Guruparan had complained of receiving threats from several paramilitary groups, friends said on Tuesday [29 August]. Dozens of his colleagues demonstrated against the abduction outside the main railway station in Colombo to demand his release.” [9e]

- 8.25 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 disappearances [sic],’ he told bbcsinhala.com. 54 others were released after initial [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]

- 8.26 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]

8.27 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]

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Torture

8.28 As noted in the USSD 2005:

“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; 1,798 arrests were made under the Emergency Regulations during the year, although 1,236 of those arrested were released within 12 hours. The majority of those arrested were Tamil, although detainees included Sinhalese and Muslims as well...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, and during the year deaths occurred in police custody... Of the 634 allegations of police torture, the majority of complaints came from police stations outside the north and east. The government continued to investigate 183 past cases of torture. There were credible nongovernmental organization (NGO) reports that police tortured individuals in custody.” [2g] (Section 1c)

- 8.29 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]

- 8.30 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)

- 8.31 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]

- 8.32 As outlined in the UNHCR Background Paper on Refugees and Asylum Seekers from Sri Lanka of June 2001:

"The reported methods of torture include repeated hitting with a hose pipe; being stripped; handcuffed at the ankles and suspended upside down; use of electric wires on the body; burning with cigarettes and heated metal rods; being hit with a piece of wood; severing of the tongue; beating on the soles of the feet; kicking and trampling; cigarette burning; removal of fingernails with pliers; pouring hot wax over the body; suffocation with a bag containing chilli powder and petrol; placing bags filled with gasoline and ants over the head; driving nails into hands and feet; hung from a rope by hands and fingers; being forced to jump into a latrine and then shot; gang rape; rubbing chili powder into the eyes; injecting gasoline in the nose; rape at military checkpoints; being submerged in water; cutting with blades; and repetitive and systematic blows with blunt weapons. The Special Rapporteur also noted reports on corporal punishments which continued to be imposed by courts, including on juveniles. Section 52 of the Penal Code lists "whipping" as a punishment to which offenders are liable under the Code. It is explicitly provided for as an additional punishment for theft of, among others, fruit and vegetables. Section 29.1 of the Children and Young Persons Ordinance of 1939 allows whipping also as a form of punishment on male children for certain offences." [6i] (p23)

- 8.33 As stated by the UN Human Rights Committee in its concluding observations on Sri Lanka, dated 1 December 2003: "While noting that corporal punishment has not been imposed as a sanction by the courts for about 20 years, the Committee expresses concern that it is still statutorily permitted, and that it is still used as a prison disciplinary punishment." [6k] (p3)

Extra-judicial killings

- 8.34 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]

- 8.35 As noted in the US Department of State (USSD) Country Report on Human Rights Practices – 2005, Sri Lanka, released on 8 March 2006:

"There were no confirmed reports of politically motivated killings by the government; however, it was often alleged that paramilitary groups, sometimes with the aid of the government, engaged in targeted killings of political opponents. The government and the army denied the allegations. Human rights organizations and other sources reported an increase in encounter killings by police. At year's [2005] end the Human Rights Commission (HRC) reported that police killed 25 individuals in police custody. The HRC determined that 20 of those individuals died as a result of torture in police custody during the year." [2g] (Section 1a)

- 8.36 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)

8.37 The UN Special Rapporteur 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)

8.38 “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)

8.39 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

8.40 “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]

- 8.41 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

- 8.42 See Section on Police since many reports refer to 'security forces' in general

Torture

- 8.43 See Section on Police since many reports refer to 'security forces' in general

Extra-judicial killings

- 8.44 See Section on Police since many reports refer to 'security forces' in general

AVENUES OF COMPLAINT

- 8.45 "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]
- 8.46 "[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]

8.47 The USSD 2005 noted that:

“The HRC by statute 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 HRC often was not as effective as it should have been. The HRC did not have enough staff or resources to process its caseload of 16,305 pending complaints, and it did not enjoy the full cooperation of the government. The HRC had a tribunal-like approach to investigations and declined to undertake preliminary inquiries in the manner of a criminal investigator... During the year there were instances of interference with HRC investigations. On October 12, the HRC main office was ransacked by unknown parties. At year’s end police continued their investigation.” [2g] (Section 4)

8.48 As noted in a joint press release by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch issued on 13 October 2005:

“An independent investigation should be immediately launched into the attack on the National Human Rights Commission’s (NHRC) headquarters in Colombo during the early morning hours of October 12. The NHRC’s offices were ransacked, files were destroyed and newspapers were set on fire. Kerosene was poured throughout the offices. Although the identity of the attackers is not yet clear, the attack represents a serious threat to the work of the NHRC... While the police have begun an investigation into the incident, the human rights organizations stressed that an independent inquiry is needed. As the NHRC is empowered to examine violations of rights by state actors, including the police, it is critical to appoint a neutral and competent body to investigate the intimidation and threat against the NHRC.” [21m]

8.49 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]

- 8.50 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]
- 8.51 The USSD 2005 recorded that “Special sections of the attorney general’s office and the criminal investigation unit focused on torture complaints. During the year the units forwarded 63 cases for indictments, in which 1 resulted in an indictment, 2 were dismissed, and the other 59 were pending. The interparliamentary permanent standing committee and its interministerial working group on human rights issues also continued to track criminal investigations of torture.” [2g] (Section 1c)
- 8.52 “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 2005) [2g] (Section 1d)
- 8.53 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)

8.54 “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)

8.55 “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)

8.56 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]

8.57 The AHRC statement of 23 June 2006 continued:

"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]

8.58 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]

8.59 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)

8.60 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]

8.61 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]

8.62 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)

8.63 As recounted in the UK Home Office Report of their 2001 fact-finding Mission:

"The third main part of the work of IHR [Institute of Human Rights] is that of human rights education. A diploma course is run. The programme of study, which lasts three and a half months, deals with a variety of topics concerning human rights. 'Para' legal workshops are conducted island-wide in both Sinhala and Tamil, so as to spread knowledge of human rights together with a basic legal understanding throughout a wide cross-section of society. Fundamental rights, arrest and detention, bail, torture, Muslim law, child rights, labour law, women's rights, criminal law, international covenants and the Consumer Protection Act are a few of the topics covered in these workshops. The human rights awareness programme has been successful in achieving its objective of bringing awareness to the general public of human rights issues. The programme is conducted in Tamil or Sinhala depending on the area in which it is held. Among those benefiting from the human rights education provided by IHR are school-leavers, employers, police officers and the armed forces." [35a] (p34)

8.64 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]

8.65 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]

8.66 As stated in an undated news item on the website of the UN Refugee Agency in Sri Lanka (website accessed on 13 September 2004):

"A workshop on international humanitarian law and human rights for the LTTE Police, was heralded a success by both facilitators and participants. The UNHCR organised these training sessions in accordance with its mandate to promote greater understanding amongst all in positions of authority, as part of a series of sessions throughout the country, targeting both Government and

LTTE officials. Held from 26th-28th May 2004 at the LTTE Police Headquarters Meeting Hall, the workshop attracted 36 senior officers from the LTTE Police Headquarters and OICs from several LTTE Police Stations.... The session themes covered and their facilitators were as follows: 1) Introduction to Human Rights – Human Rights Commission (HRC) 2) Arrest and Detention – HRC 3) IDP Rights – UNHCR/Legal Aid Foundation (LAF) 4) Women’s Rights and Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBC) – UNHCR 5) Child Rights – UNICEF.” [6o]

8.67 The USSD 2004 noted that:

“Under fundamental rights’ provisions in the Constitution, torture victims may file civil suit for compensation in the high courts or Supreme Court. Courts have granted awards ranging from approximately \$142 (14,200 rupees) to \$1,825 (182,500 rupees). The guilty party paid fines based on the decision of the judge hearing the case. In some cases, the Government did not pay fines incurred by security force personnel found guilty of torture.” [2d] (Section 1c)

8.68 The UN Human Rights Committee in its concluding recommendations on Sri Lanka, dated 1 December 2003, stated that:

“It regrets that the majority of prosecutions initiated against police officers or members of the armed forces on charges of abduction and unlawful confinement, as well as on charges of torture, have been inconclusive due to lack of satisfactory evidence and unavailability of witnesses, despite a number of acknowledged instances of abduction and/or unlawful confinement and/or torture, and only very few police or army officers have been found guilty and punished. [6k] (p3)

8.69 As announced by the Asian Human Rights Commission on 2 August 2004:

“The Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) is happy to inform you that on 26 July 2004 the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka awarded one million rupees to the wife and three children of Mr. Lamahe wage Lal Meddagoda (36) who had been tortured to death by the Negambo Prison officers on 7 November 2002. This is the biggest amount of the compensation to the torture victims in Sri Lankan history.... Delivering the judgment, Justice Bandaranayake observed that, ‘Although there should be discipline and order that should be maintained with firmness, such discipline cannot invoke punishments, which are inhuman and violative of Article 11 of the Constitution.’ However, even as the Supreme Court clearly mentioned in its judgement that the alleged assault and the consequent death of Mr. Lamahe wage Lal Meddagoda occurred at the Negombo Prison, this case has yet to be prosecuted under the Convention Against Torture (CAT) Act, Act No 22 of 1994.” [47b]

8.70 As reported in the Asian Tribune of 3 August 2004:

“Cases have been filed against fifty police officers for cruelty against persons in custody. The Attorney General’s Department said that the indictments have been filed in high courts against the police officers under the law against torture. The charges included illegal arrests, illegal detention and torture against detainees. The cases are being handled by a separate unit at the Attorney General’s Department headed by a senior state counsel. The department said that investigations are launched immediately by the unit

against any police or security forces personnel who is found guilty of violating human rights by the Supreme Court.” [50a]

- 8.71 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.” [47]

- 8.72 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]

- 8.73 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]

- 8.74 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]

- 8.75 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, Tyronne 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]

- 8.76 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]

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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 On 24 November 2004 the Daily News reported that:
- “Arrangements are being made by the Army to formally de-list Army deserters who were absent from service as at 08 January, 2003.... Lists of deserters specified for de-listing and related necessary information are published at all divisional secretariats in relevant districts from November 22 to 30, 2004. Necessary steps have been taken to repeat this programme in the Gampaha, Kalutara and Colombo districts for those who failed to obtain their legitimate legal resignation earlier, from the same place during December 20-24, 2004.” [16bq]
- 9.04 As reported on 7 December 2004 on the Sri Lanka Army website:
- “De-listing of the Army deserters in Anuradhpaura district is now in full swing at the Army Directorate of Recruiting, Malay street, Colombo beginning today (06). This newly-devised scheme for de-listing was activated by the Army in 2003 in an attempt to let those deserters to formally leave the Army after producing legitimate documents. It was also reported that some of those deserters have allegedly taken part in a series of anti-social activities. The scheme had so far brought the desired results.... A total of 5250 deserters from Gampaha out of a registered total of 7500 showed up seeking their legitimate resignation. Likewise, 3517 deserters from a total of 5300 in Kalutara and a total of 2755 deserters from 4500 in Colombo have been earmarked for de-listing after necessary procedural matters are completed.” [66a]

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ABUSES BY NON-GOVERNMENT ARMED FORCES

- 10.01 “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 2005) [2g] (Section 1g)**

- 10.02 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)**

- 10.03 “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)**

- 10.04 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)**

- 10.05 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:

“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)**

10.06 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)

10.07 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. “ [21] (Summary and Recommendations)

10.08 “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)

- 10.09 “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

- 10.10 The USSD 2005 reported that “During the year the LTTE continued to detain civilians, often holding them for ransom. For example, at year’s [2005] end, there were more than 97 reports that the LTTE had abducted adults according to the SLMM. [2g] (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.” [2g] (Section 1e)

- 10.11 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)

- 10.12 “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

- 10.13 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

- 10.14 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]

- 10.15 The USSD 2005 noted that:

“There were several reports of high profile killings by unknown actors during the year [2005]. For example, on February 7, unknown gunmen killed E. Kausalyan, political head of the Batticaloa-Amparai division of the LTTE, and former Tamil National Alliance (TNA) parliamentarian A.C. Nehru... On December 24 [2005], unidentified gunmen shot and killed TNA parliamentarian Joseph Pararajasingham while he was attending midnight mass at St. Mary’s cathedral in Batticaloa. The LTTE accused government security forces of conspiring with paramilitaries in the killing. At year’s [2005] end police had made no arrests.” [2g] (Section 1a) On August 12 [2005], a suspected LTTE sniper shot and killed Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar at his residence. The government accused the LTTE of carrying out the killing, a charge the LTTE denied. At year’s [2005] end the case remained under investigation.” [2g] (Section 1a)

- 10.16 “During the year [2005] there were credible reports that LTTE killed 68 members of the police and military, more than 106 members of anti-LTTE Tamil paramilitary groups, 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 18 current and past anti-LTTE Eelam People’s Democratic Party (EPDP) members were killed. Credible sources indicated that the LTTE killed 45 members of the breakaway military leader Karuna’s group. There was also

credible evidence that the LTTE killed 15 members of the military intelligence apparatus in a targeted campaign.” (USSD 2005) [2g] (Section 1g)

10.17 “Gunmen from Karuna’s paramilitary group allegedly killed 27 LTTE cadres, including E. Kausalyan, the LTTE political leader for Batticaloa, and Sebastiampillai Jeyachandran, the LTTE political leader for Trincomalee. Karuna’s group was believed also to have killed 20 civilians, including the April 15 [2005] killing of Thirukkivil divisional secretary A.K. Thavaraja and the June 29 killing of newspaper distributor Arasakumar Kannamuthu. 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 2005) [2g] [1a] (Section 1g)

10.18 As noted by HRW on 16 August 2005:

“Kadirgamar is the latest and most prominent victim of political violence that has continued in Sri Lanka since the 2002 ceasefire between the government and the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Since the ceasefire, more than 200 people, mostly Tamils, have been killed for political reasons. Most of the murders have been attributed to the LTTE. The rate of attacks has escalated since April 2005, with credible reports estimating the rate of killings at one a day by June 2005... Sri Lankan authorities have blamed the LTTE for the murder, but the investigation is continuing. The LTTE denied any role in the murder, blaming forces opposed to the cease-fire agreement. The LTTE has issued similar denials even in other cases of political assassinations where they were clearly involved. In addition to Kadirgamar, Friday night marked the murder of Relanghai Selvarajah, a Tamil producer of a popular radio program that was very critical of the LTTE.” [21n]

10.19 The AI report of February 2006 recorded that:

“The current spate of politically motivated killings is among the most serious and widespread human rights abuses in the east. The majority of these unlawful killings are reportedly committed by the LTTE, although the Karuna group is also apparently responsible for a large number. Some killings also appear to be committed by other Tamil armed groups. The security forces have reportedly carried out a number of killings. During Amnesty International’s visit to the east [in August 2005] the organisation documented a number of alleged killings by the LTTE, the Karuna group and the Sri Lankan Army.” (AI report of February 2006) [3m] (Political killings)

10.20 “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.” (AI report of 3 February 2006) [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 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.” (AI report of February 2006) [3m] (Political killings)

- 10.23 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)

- 10.24 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]
- 10.25 “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)
- 10.26 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)

- 10.27 “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)
- 10.28 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]
- 10.29 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)
- 10.30 As noted in the Amnesty International 2005 Sri Lanka Country Report, issued in May 2005:

“There was a dramatic escalation in political killings, especially in the east, following the split in the LTTE. From April [2004] onwards an increasing number of civilians, including members of opposition Tamil groups, were assassinated by the LTTE and Colonel Karuna’s supporters. Some of these killings took place in government-controlled territory or near Sri Lankan Army (SLA) checkpoints, leading the LTTE to accuse the SLA of providing support to Colonel Karuna’s faction. The continued killings and intimidation created an atmosphere of fear among the civilian population in the east as well as putting the ceasefire under strain. A number of people were also killed in Colombo.” [3k]

10.31 A HRW document issued on 24 May 2005 noted that ongoing killings and abductions of Tamils throughout Sri Lanka had created a climate of fear among Tamils across the country. [21g]

10.32 The HRW document of May 2005 noted that:

“The evidence available places responsibility for many of the killings on the Tamil Tigers. Most victims were considered to be LTTE opponents and in many cases there is circumstantial evidence of LTTE involvement, such as threats from LTTE members or agents prior to a killing. Other killings have been linked to persons loyal to Colonel Karuna, a Tamil Tiger commander who broke off from the LTTE in March 2004. A number of the victims were persons deemed to be supporters of one faction or the other. The LTTE denies all involvement in the killings. The Sri Lankan government has not responded forcefully to the killings.” [21g]

10.33 A HRW document, dated 11 February 2005, noted that:

“Political killings have continued in Sri Lanka despite the ceasefire between the government and LTTE that has been in effect since 2002. Frequent political murders and violent clashes between LTTE members and persons loyal to Karuna pose a grave threat to civilian security in eastern Sri Lanka. The LTTE has long carried out politically motivated killings in order to strengthen its hold over the north and east of Sri Lanka, and has used violence and intimidation against perceived opponents to its claim that it is the sole representative of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka.” [21f]

10.34 The Human Rights Watch (HRW) World Report 2005, Sri Lanka Country Summary (published on 13 January 2005) noted that political killings by the LTTE targeting rival Tamil party members, suspected Karuna sympathizers, and journalists had intensified in 2004 and that human rights workers who criticised the LTTE had been also been threatened. HRW also noted that the Karuna faction was suspected in a number of political killings and members of rival Tamil parties, particularly the ex-militant groups who refused to accept the LTTE as the ‘sole representative’ of the Tamil people, had been targeted.” [21e]

10.35 The USSD 2004 recorded that “During the year [2004], there was credible evidence that, in addition to the 120 cadres and civilians killed in fighting between LTTE factions in March, the LTTE killed more than 81 members of anti-LTTE Tamil political groups, [43] LTTE cadres loyal to Karuna, [10] alleged Tamil informants for the security forces in the north, the east, and in Colombo, and civilians. Both current and former members of anti-LTTE Tamil

political parties were targeted by the LTTE.” The USSD 2004 also reported that after the fighting in March 2004, Karuna’s group had allegedly killed 26 LTTE cadres and that there were reports that the Government provided protection and military aid to Karuna and his cadres. [2d] (Section 1a)

- 10.36 On 26 July 2004 Amnesty International issued a public statement regarding the increased killings in eastern Sri Lanka:

“Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch today expressed their serious concern at the spate of unlawful killings in and around Batticaloa since a faction led by former LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) eastern commander, Colonel Karuna, broke away from the LTTE in March 2004. Both organisations called on all parties operating in the region to respect human rights.... Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch are calling on the LTTE, government authorities and the Norwegian-led Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) to act in accordance with their responsibilities in order to end these killings and bring those responsible to account.” [3h]

See also Annex F, G and H

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FORCED CONSCRIPTION

- 10.37 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)

- 10.38 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 “Child recruitment and child abduction continued on a relatively high level in June, July, August [2006], however unlike earlier months, a majority of the cases reported were not against the LTTE, but against the Karunas. While it is evident that LTTE was behind most of the child recruiting as confirmed by several of the victims and the LTTE, there are also strong indications that the Karunas were behind several of these abductions.” [22h] (Section 4)
- 10.39 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]

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

“According to agencies working on child recruitment in the east there is no evidence to suggest that children living in tsunami IDP camps have been particularly targeted by the LTTE for recruitment. They report that it is children living in remote areas of government controlled territory and areas bordering LTTE territory that are most at risk. However, there are reports of tsunami IDP children also being recruited by the LTTE. NGO representatives in Vavuniya told Amnesty International that children living in local conflict IDP camps are targeted for recruitment. They reported that, as these children are mostly living in severe poverty and have few options for the future, it is relatively easy for the LTTE to persuade them to join its forces.” [3t] (Killings, abductions and child recruitment)

- 10.41 As stated in a news note issued on 22 June 2006:

“UNICEF in Sri Lanka is calling for immediate action to halt the abduction and forced recruitment of children by the Karuna group. Over the past week, the agency has verified reports of thirty cases in Batticaloa district. Reports of abduction and forced recruitment of boys under the age of 18 from the area have increased since March of this year. While calling on all armed groups in Sri Lanka to stop using child soldiers and to send all such victims of the conflict home, UNICEF is also appealing to the Government of Sri Lanka to investigate all abductions and ensure that children in affected areas are given the full protection of the law.” [53g]

- 10.42 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’ and covering the period 24 February – 28 May 2006), released on 9 June 2006 noted that:

“Child recruitment and child abduction increased significantly during in [sic] March and April [2006] after being at a fairly low level since September last year. The actual number is likely to be much higher as many parents are unwilling to lodge a complaint due to fear of retaliation. While it is evident that the LTTE was behind most of the child recruiting as confirmed by several of the victims and the LTTE, there were also indications that armed groups such as the Karunas were abducting children. The reasons might be a perceived need to increase the strength of the fighting formations as the conflict escalates. In the East the struggle between the LTTE and the Karuna faction might also lead to increased child recruitment as they are both competing for the same group of potential new cadres. SLMM is aware that some underage children freely volunteer or leave their families due to economic reasons to join LTTE. Nevertheless it is still against international law accept them for training or use them for military purposes.” [22g] (Paragraph 6)

- 10.43 A letter from the British High Commission, Colombo to the Home Office, dated 4 April 2006 (quoting data from UNICEF), provided some figures for recruitment and re-recruitment of children. The figures for recruitment were as follows. December 2005: 27; January 2006: 42; February 2006: 31; March 2006: 32. The figures for re-recruitment were respectively 5; 3; 7; 5. As of 31 March 2006, there were 1,424 outstanding cases (including re-recruitment), most of them from the districts of Jaffna (384), Vavuniya (257), Batticaloa (233) and Trincomalee (183). The average age for recruitment was 16 for 2005 and 15 for 2006. [15g]
- 10.44 As noted in the Amnesty International 2006 Annual Report on Sri Lanka, published in May 2006, "Although a small number of children were released by the LTTE during 2005, the LTTE failed to live up to its commitments under the Action Plan for Children Affected by War to end recruitment and comprehensively release the children within its ranks. In the face of these challenges, UNICEF began a review of the Action Plan." [3r]
- 10.45 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)
- 10.46 As noted in the USSD 2005:
- "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 July [2005] the LTTE increased recruiting efforts, particularly in the east. Credible sources reported that there were more than 543 cases of forcible child recruitment by the LTTE. These sources also reported that more than 1,339 children remained in LTTE custody at year's 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. “ [2g] (Section 5)

10.47 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, recorded that “The Committee expresses its serious concern about allegations of continued abduction and military recruitment of child soldiers by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (art. 16).” [6w] (Paragraph 17)

10.48 As stated in a press release of the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers issued on 3 October 2005:

“Many organizations, including UNICEF, the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission and others, have documented both forced and voluntary recruitment of children for military purposes in 2005... Recent information suggests that children are often being abducted while on the way to school in government-controlled areas. Children abducted by the LTTE are frequently forced into vehicles and taken to military camps where they are not allowed to contact their families for many months. Families and children themselves have described how distressing this experience is. Many, however, are afraid to speak out against the practice... The recruitment of any child under the age of 18 for military purposes – whether enforced or voluntary – is contrary to international human rights norms which are based on recognition of children’s special needs and vulnerabilities. The recruitment of children under the age of 15 is defined as a war crime by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. These obligations exist independently of any peace process.” [5a]

10.49 As noted in the Amnesty International 2005 Sri Lanka Country Report, published in May 2005:

“It was reported that a large number of child soldiers were deployed in the fighting between the LTTE and the Karuna faction in April [2004] and that there were some child casualties. Following the fighting, over 1,600 child soldiers from the east, who had fought alongside Colonel Karuna, were disbanded and spontaneously returned to their homes. In May and June [2004] it was reported that the LTTE were re-recruiting many of these demobilized children, using tactics of intimidation, abduction and violence. Parents in the east, angry that their children had been used in internecine fighting, attempted to mobilize in an effort to resist re-recruitment. There was also an increase in child recruitment in the north in mid-2004 as the LTTE tried to make up for the large number of cadres it had lost during the split.” [3k]

10.50 As noted in the Report of the UN Secretary-General to the Security Council of the General Assembly, ‘Children and armed conflict’, dated 9 February 2005:

“Despite some progress achieved in Sri Lanka with the July 2003 signing by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) of the Action Plan for Children Affected by War, in which that armed group agreed to halt recruitment and release all children within its ranks, LTTE has continued to use and recruit children. During 2004, more than 1,000 cases of new recruitment and re-recruitment were reported to UNICEF, a high percentage of the recruits being girls. Re-recruitment was particularly high in the eastern part of the country. Altogether, there have been more than 4,700 cases of child recruitment, some

involving children as young as 11, since April 2001. Of these children, more than 2,900 have returned or been released to their families, including approximately 1,230 who were formally released and over 1,660 who went home following fighting in eastern Sri Lanka in April 2004 and the fall of the Karuna faction of LTTE. In addition, at least 550 children have run away from LTTE during the reporting period. LTTE has often carried out recruitment by force, abducting children while on their way to school or during religious festivities, and beating families and teachers who resisted the seizure of the children.” [6p] (p12)

10.51 On 26 January 2005 BBC News reported that the United Nations Children’s Fund, UNICEF, had said that Sri Lanka’s Tamil Tiger rebels have recruited 40 child soldiers since December’s [2004] tsunami. “Unicef said it was acting on complaints from families of the children recruited. Most of the 22 boys and 18 girls taken were aged between 15 and 17, it said. The organisation says it has raised the issue with the rebels but as yet has received no response.” [9fh]

10.52 On 14 January 2005 a HRW press release stated that “The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE, or Tamil Tigers) are recruiting children affected by the tsunami for use as soldiers... Human Rights Watch said that the Tamil Tigers, who were already recruiting large numbers of child soldiers, now may seek to replace forces lost to the tsunami with child recruits.” [21j]

10.53 The HRW report, ‘Living in Fear Child Soldiers and the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka’, dated November 2004 noted:

“Despite an end to active hostilities and repeated pledges by the LTTE leadership to end its recruitment of children, the practice has continued not only in LTTE controlled areas, but now reaches into government areas in the North and East where the LTTE previously had little access... Tamil children are vulnerable to recruitment beginning at the age of eleven or twelve. The LTTE routinely visits Tamil homes to inform parents that they must provide a child for the ‘movement.’ Families that resist are harassed and threatened. Parents are told that their child may be taken by force if they do not comply, that other children in the household or the parents will be taken in their stead, or that the family will be forced to leave their home. The LTTE makes good on these threats: children are frequently abducted from their homes at night, or picked up by LTTE cadres while walking to school or attending a temple festival. Parents who resist the abduction of their children face violent LTTE retribution. Once recruited, most children are allowed no contact with their families. The LTTE subjects them to rigorous and sometimes brutal training. They learn to handle weapons, including landmines and bombs, and are taught military tactics. Children who make mistakes are frequently beaten. The LTTE harshly punishes soldiers who attempt to escape. Children who try to run away are typically beaten in front of their entire unit, a public punishment that serves to dissuade other children who might be tempted to run away.” [21i] (Summary)

10.54 The HRW document of November 2004 continued:

“As of October 31, 2004, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) had documented 3,516 new cases of underage recruitment since the signing of the cease-fire agreement (including the re-recruitment of formerly released child soldiers noted below). The LTTE formally released only 1,206 children during

this time. Of the cases registered by UNICEF, 1,395 were outstanding as of November 2004. UNICEF notes that the number of cases it registers represent only a portion of the total number of children recruited, as some families may be unaware of the possibility of registering, may be afraid to do so, or may have difficulty reaching a UNICEF office. Of the children who have been released or returned from the LTTE, only about 25 percent were previously listed in the UNICEF database. This suggests that the total number of children remaining with the LTTE may be as much as four times higher than the 1,395 figure suggests.” [21i] (Summary)

10.55 The HRW document of November 2004 further stated:

“In April 2004, the Vanni LTTE attacked and defeated Karuna’s eastern forces, which quickly disbanded. Some 2,000 child soldiers under Karuna fled or were encouraged by their commanders to return to their families. The children’s return home, primarily to Batticaloa district, only marked the beginning of a new ordeal. Within a few weeks, the LTTE began an intensive campaign to re-recruit Karuna’s former cadres, including child soldiers. Vanni LTTE members, often armed and in uniform, went from village to village, house to house, insisting that the former soldiers report back to the LTTE. The LTTE organized village meetings, use motorized three-wheeled vehicles to make announcements, and sent letters to families, demanding their return. The LTTE has re-recruited many of the returned children, often by force. Parents who have resisted their children’s being taken away a second time by the LTTE have been intimidated and sometimes beaten. The remaining children and their families live in fear. The families are afraid to allow their children to return to school, worried that the LTTE will abduct them as they walk between school and their home. Some children refuse to leave their homes at all. Others go to live with relatives or even leave the country to seek jobs in the Middle East. Because there is a general perception that the LTTE does not recruit from among married persons, some boys and girls have married believing that it will provide a measure of protection against recruitment. Girls feel particularly vulnerable – they can instantly be identified as former cadres by the short haircuts that the LTTE gives its recruits.” [21i] (Summary)

10.56 The HRW document of November 2004 continued:

“The secretary-general of the LTTE’s peace secretariat, S. Puleedevan, told Human Rights Watch that the LTTE is ‘working very hard on this issue,’ and denied that the LTTE practices forced recruitment. ‘We don’t ask people to join; they voluntarily come and join. There is no threat of forced recruitment. The LTTE is voluntarily giving their service to the people.’ He conceded, ‘There may be some lapses. Some forces may force one or two children, but that doesn’t mean that the leadership is giving a green light to do those kind of forcible recruitment cases... Abduction is marginal.’ Puleedevan did not address the issue that even ‘voluntary’ recruitment of children violates the LTTE’s international law obligations.... In a meeting with Human Rights Watch, the secretary-general of the LTTE’s political wing, S.P. Tamilselvan, referred to child soldiers and claimed that ‘We do not have such a phenomenon.’ He said that the LTTE did not practice forced recruitment of children: ‘We reject the term of forced recruitment. Nobody forces them... No, definitely not, we do not do that.’ He acknowledged some that children sought to join the LTTE because of poverty, lack of educational and vocational opportunities, or because they had lost their parents and had no one to care

for them, but claimed that when the LTTE discovers that a child is underage, the child is released to the transit center... Tamilselvan, like Puleedevan, acknowledged to Human Rights Watch that there were some 'lapses' of child recruitment and that the 'leadership was not always very diligent in applying standards.' He said that in mid-September, the LTTE took disciplinary action against some individuals responsible for child recruitment, but did not provide details. Both Tamilselvan and Puleedevan complained that both UNICEF and the international community place too much importance on the child soldier issue." [21i] (Section IX)

10.57 As stated in an Amnesty International press release issued on 6 October 2004:

"At a meeting with a senior Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) delegation visiting Geneva, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) called on the LTTE to end political killings and the recruitment of child soldiers and demonstrate how they will respect international humanitarian and human rights law in Sri Lanka.... UNICEF has documented that in May, June and July 2004 alone, the LTTE recruited 259 children, while releasing 106 – and UNICEF acknowledges that they learn about only a small proportion of child recruitment." [3i]

10.58 An AI press release of 7 July 2004 stated:

"The Tamil Tigers are increasingly turning to threats and violence in a recruitment drive for child soldiers. Families who resist have been beaten with wooden sticks, or had their houses set on fire.... Since the beginning of April 2004, 190 children have been recruited to fight, according to information provided by UNICEF... Many of these children have been forcibly abducted from public places or their homes. Some of the new recruits are as young as fourteen. The Tamil Tigers are also increasingly re-recruiting former child soldiers by force." [3i]

10.59 As noted in a HRW press release dated 29 June 2004:

"According to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and local human rights groups, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) are forcibly abducting children from their homes and threatening parents who dare resist or complain about the abductions. The armed group is believed to be focusing on abducting small groups of children rather than large groups, so as to slowly rebuild its forces without attracting too much attention. Its members have been going to villages in the Batticaloa district of eastern Sri Lanka, banging on doors, threatening parents with dire consequences in the event of non-compliance, and abducting 8 or 9 children from each village. Typically these children are transported on motorized rickshaws to the nearby lagoon. To evade army checkpoints, they are sent on boats to the Tigers' Vaharai camp. Local sources have heard the Tamil Tigers threaten to immediately kill parents who complain or try to get information about their abducted children.... Although some parents have organized themselves in order to resist the LTTE pressure, there is considerable fear of reprisal in small communities with little or no government presence. The Tamil Tigers' ruthless and unforgiving tactics have terrified parents, children and human rights workers, who have no recourse to real protection from the Sri Lankan government." [21b]

10.60 A HRW document, dated 27 April 2004 stated that:

“LTTE forces on April 9 [2004] defeated a breakaway group under their former eastern commander, known as Karuna. According to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), at least two child soldiers, both girls, died in the fighting; unconfirmed reports indicate many more child combatants were killed during the battle or after having surrendered. Both the LTTE army and Karuna’s forces of some 6000 fighters included many child soldiers. An unknown number of the latter surrendered to the main LTTE force. After the families of the children demanded their return, according to UNICEF, 209 were released to their families; a reported 800 others from Karuna’s disbanded force returned home on their own. Thousands more child soldiers are believed to remain with LTTE forces in the north of the country.” [21c]

10.61 The UNICEF Action Plan for Children Affected by War, Progress Report 2003, dated January 2004, stated:

“In 2003, UNICEF received reports of 709 children recruited by the LTTE and 202 children released from the LTTE.... The average age of children at the time of their recruitment into the LTTE is 15 years old. The youngest case of recruitment in 2003 is 10 years old. Overall, 57% of the children known to UNICEF as having been recruited by the LTTE are boys, and 43% are girls.... In 2003, the highest reports of under-age recruitment were received in Jaffna and Batticaloa with 190 and 187 reports respectively. 113 reports were received from Vavuniya; 59 reports from Trincomalee; 59 reports from Ampara; 39 reports from Kilinochchi; 33 reports from Mannar and 29 reports from Mullaitivu.” [53d] (p4)

10.62 As highlighted in a UNICEF news note of 11 April 2003, the LTTE, the government of Sri Lanka, local and international organisations had met in Kilinochchi to agree on an Action Plan to address the needs and care of children affected by war in the north-east. Amongst other areas of activity, the Action Plan covered: “A monitoring mechanism administered by UNICEF to monitor the rights of children affected by war in the North East. A mechanism for the release and reintegration of underage recruits, and children seeking recruitment, will be redressed through transit centres co-managed by the Tamils Rehabilitation Organization (TRO) and UNICEF.” [53a]

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JUDICIARY

ORGANISATION

11.01 As noted in the USSD 2005, “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.” [2g] (Section 1e)

11.02 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)

11.03 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)

11.04 As reported by the USSD 2005:

“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 legal system. Credible reports indicated that the LTTE used the threat of force to back this demand. 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.” [2g] (Section 1e)

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INDEPENDENCE

11.05 The USSD 2005 reported that “The law provides for an independent judiciary, and the government generally respected this provision in practice.” [2g] (Section 1e)

11.06 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)

- 11.07 As stated by the UN Human Rights Committee in its concluding observations on Sri Lanka, dated 1 December 2003:

“The Committee expresses concern that the procedure for the removal of judges of the Supreme Court and the Courts of Appeal set out in article 107 of the Constitution, read together with Standing Orders of Parliament, is incompatible with article 14 of the Covenant, in that it allows Parliament to exercise considerable control over the procedure for removal of judges. The State party should strengthen the independence of the judiciary by providing for judicial, rather than parliamentary, supervision and discipline of judicial conduct.” [6k] (p4)

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FAIR TRIAL

- 11.08 The USSD 2005 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. In addition 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 Prevention of Terrorism Act (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.” [2g] (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 gazetted and published in English, Sinhala, and Tamil.” (USSD 2005) [2g] (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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ARREST AND DETENTION – LEGAL RIGHTS

- 12.01 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 nonbailable 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. On August 18 [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.” [2g] (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 As outlined by the UN Human Rights Committee in its concluding observations on Sri Lanka in December 2003:

“The Committee is concerned that the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) remains in force and that several of its provisions are incompatible with the Covenant.... The Committee welcomes the decision of the Government, consistent with the Ceasefire Agreement of February 2002, not to apply the provisions of the PTA and to ensure that normal procedures for arrest, detention and investigation prescribed by the Criminal Procedure Code are followed. The Committee is also concerned that the continued existence of the PTA allows arrest without a warrant and permits detention for an initial period of 72 hours without the person being produced before the court (sect. 7), and thereafter for up to 18 months on the basis of an administrative order issued by the Minister of Defence (sect. 9). There is no legal obligation on the State to inform the detainee of the reasons for the arrest; moreover, the lawfulness of a detention order issued by the Minister of Defense cannot be challenged in court. The PTA also eliminates the power of the judge to order bail or impose a suspended sentence, and places the burden of proof on the accused that a confession was obtained under duress. The Committee is concerned that such provisions, incompatible with the Covenant, still remain legally enforceable, and that it is envisaged that they might also be incorporated into the Prevention of Organized Crimes Bill 2003.” [6k] (p4)

- 12.05 According to a letter from the British High Commission in Colombo dated 23 October 2002, it is very rare and most unlikely that an accused would 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. Forged documents are easily obtainable throughout Sri Lanka with people paying between 100 and 1000 rupees for a forged arrest warrant. (Other examples of forged documents include passports, court summonses, birth certificates, death certificates, marriage certificates and educational certificates.) [15a]

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PRISON CONDITIONS

- 13.01 “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, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) conducted 192 visits to 24 permanent places of detention, including prisons and some police stations. The national office of the HRC did not provide information on visits to detention centers. The ICRC conducted 22 visits to 3 LTTE-controlled prison facilities and 53 visits to 17 LTTE-operated police stations. Credible observers reported that conditions in these prisons were on par with local standards.” **(USSD 2005) [2g] (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 (undated, website accessed on 14 September 2006) 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) [72]
- 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. [43]

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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." [3]

- 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." [64]

- 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.” [64]

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POLITICAL AFFILIATION

FREEDOM OF POLITICAL EXPRESSION

- 15.01 The US State Department Report 2005 (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.” [2g] (Section 3)
- 15.02 “The EUEOM described the November [2005] presidential election as generally satisfactory. The LTTE-enforced boycott of the polls and 7 grenade attacks in the north and east marred the election, however, and allowed less than 1 per cent 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 state media bias and misuse of public resources for campaigning as occurring during the campaign.” (USSD 2005) [2g] (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 thousand incidents of election violence occurred, resulting in the deaths of 5 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 2005) [2g] (Section 3)
- 15.04 As noted in the Freedom House document, ‘Freedom in the World 2005: 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.” [46e] (Political Rights and Civil Liberties section) Sri Lanka’s status in terms of political rights (rating 3) and civil liberties (rating 3) was considered partly free by Freedom House. [46e]

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FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND ASSEMBLY

- 15.05 As noted in the USSD 2005:

“The law provides for freedom of assembly, and the government generally respected this right in practice; however, some restrictions existed. The Emergency Regulations enacted on August 18 [2005] 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.” [2g] (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 2005) [2g] (Section 2b)
- 15.07 As noted in the Freedom House document, ‘Freedom in the World 2005: 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)
- 15.08 As outlined in the final report of the European Union’s Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to Sri Lanka’s Parliamentary Elections [of 2 April 2004] (issued on 17 June 2004):
- “On E-Day, the number of reported incidents was higher than in previous elections, with 275 incidents compared to the 182 reported in 2001. Nonetheless, incidents were mostly minor election-related offences, while in previous elections serious crimes and killings happened on E-Day.... During the first week after E-Day, supporters of the main political parties had several clashes. After the first week, the violence drastically decreased. The total post E-Day incidents reported, up to 14 April, were 510 versus 781 incidents reported in the same period in 2001. The reduction in the number of offences, and the fact that most of them were minor offences and violations of election laws, show a clear improvement of the atmosphere after Election Day.” [40] (p29)

OPPOSITION GROUPS AND POLITICAL ACTIVISTS

- 15.09 As reported by the USSD 2005, “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.” [2g] (Section 1e)

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FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND MEDIA

- 16.01 As noted in the USSD 2005:
- “The law provides for freedom of speech and of the press, and the government generally respected these rights in practice and did not restrict academic freedom or access to the Internet. Individuals could criticize the

government without fear of reprisal. The Emergency Regulations, enacted on August 18 [2005], 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. 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." [2g] (Section 2a)

16.02 "The LTTE tightly restricted the print and broadcast media in areas under its control. There were also reports of LTTE intimidation of Colombo-based Tamil journalists, and self-censorship was common for journalists covering LTTE-controlled areas. On August 12, unknown gunmen shot and killed journalist Relangi Selvarajah and her husband in Colombo. Selvarajah hosted a popular Tamil language program highly critical of the LTTE. Her husband was an ex-member of the PLOTE paramilitary group." (USSD 2005) [2g] (Section 2a)

16.03 As noted in the Freedom House document, 'Freedom in the World 2005: Sri Lanka':

"Freedom of expression is provided for in the constitution, and independent media outlets can generally express their views openly. However, 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...The government generally respects academic freedom. However, the LTTE has a record of repressing the voices of those intellectuals who criticize its actions, sometimes through murder or other forms of violent intimidation." [46e] (Section on Political Rights and Civil Liberties)

16.04 The Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF) Sri Lanka – Annual Report 2006, issued on 3 May 2006, recorded that:

"The dormant war between security forces and the Tamil Tigers (LTTE) has had harmful consequences for the safety of journalists, particularly Tamils. Murders, arrests, threats and bombings have again become the daily lot for many reporters, particularly in the north and east of the country...Violence between Tamil factions, sometimes manipulated by the security forces, has had particularly bloody results. The renowned Tamil journalist Dharmaratnam Sivaram 'Taraki' head of the news website TamilNet and editorialist on the Daily Mirror, was gunned down in Colombo in April [2005]. After arresting one suspect, police abandoned the investigation. Four months later, the TV presenter Relangi Sevaraja [a.k.a. Selvarajah] was murdered in the capital. She produced programmes that were critical of the LTTE, broadcast on a public channel. The most independent media have not been spared. In October [2005], arsonists attacked the printers of the press group publishing The Sunday Leader and Irudina, near Colombo. A few weeks earlier, an ultra-nationalist leftist deputy, a member of the coalition government, called the editor of the Sunday Leader, Lasantha Wickremetunge a 'terrorist'." [27i]

- 16.05 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]

- 16.06 "Four media workers – all Tamil – were killed and many were assaulted during the past 12 months in Sri Lanka. Tamil language media in particular was targeted both by extremists and by rival Tamil groups. Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) journalist, Relangi Selvarajah and her husband were shot dead on August 12, 2005, in Bambalapitiya, Colombo. This killing has the trademark of the ongoing killing spree of rival Tamil armed groups. Subramaniam Sugirdharajan, popularly known as SSR, a parttime [sic] provincial journalist working for the Tamil language daily, Sudaroli, was shot dead in the eastern port city of Trincomalee on anuary [sic] 24, 2006. A newspaper deliveryman and security guard for two Tamil newspapers lost their lives due to attacks on Tamil media. D. Selvarathnam, a security guard at the printing press for Tamil language newspaper, Sudaroli, was killed in a grenade attack against the newspaper on August 29, 2005. K. Navarathnam, newspaper deliveryman of Yal Thinakkural, was killed by unknown assailants in Jaffna on December 22, 2005. These killings have contributed to a growing fear amongst the Tamil media community. During the past year, Tamil language journalists have been killed, received death threats, [and] physical and psychological threats, [have] been arrested and detained. All sides to the conflict including [the] paramilitary Karuna group have openly subjected journalists to harassment. The most high profile case, was the well-publicised spat between the newly elected president and a senior editor of the Sunday Leader, in which it was alleged that the president, used offensive language and made repeated death threats to the editor on account of a story he had published earlier." (IFJ report of 3 May 2006) [45d]

- 16.07 "It was not only violence, intimidation and harassment that impacted on media freedom in Sri Lanka in the past 12 months. Sri Lanka's constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression continue to be out of step with its domestic laws... Recently contempt of court has been used against editors, human rights activists and politicians. Several editors are facing charges for contempt of court. The law leaves it to judges to decide whether contempt has been committed or not...Inaccessibility to information remains one of the major roadblocks to freedom of expression in Sri Lanka, where a culture of secrecy prevails... Democratising state-controlled media remains one of the major challenges for the media community in Sri Lanka. Although president Mahinda Rajapaksha promised to depoliticise the state-owned media in his

presidential election policy manifesto, the situation remains the same. Once Rajapaksha became president all the boards of directors, editors and director generals [sic] of state-controlled media houses were changed to political appointments. The government owned TV, radio stations and newspaper houses remain politically controlled and used as propaganda tools for the political parties in power instead of public service media. The last year has seen an unprecedented level of interference by ruling coalition politicians in the state-owned media.” (IFJ report of 3 May 2006) [45d]

- 16.08 As noted by Reporters Sans Frontières in the ‘Internet Under Surveillance 2004 report – Sri Lanka, dated 22 June 2004:

“The Internet is fairly free, especially since the December 2002 ceasefire between the government and the Tamil Tiger (LTTE) rebels. No special law regulates the Internet. The telecom regulatory body gives technical approval of ISPs. Webmasters and editors have to register with the Council for Information Technology (Cintec) showing an ID or commercial licence, making it easy for the authorities to identify them. However no websites have been censored.” [27h] The USSD 2005 confirmed that the government did not restrict access to the internet. [2g] (Section 2a)

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HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS, ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVISTS

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

- 17.02 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’.” [9fo]

- 17.03 As noted in the USSD 2005:

“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. There were no restrictive regulations governing the activities of local and foreign NGOs, although 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. Some 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.” [2g] (Section 4)

- 17.04 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)

- 17.05 As reported by the Daily News on 27 May 2005:

“ALL Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) should be registered with the special section set up for NGO registration at the Women’s Empowerment and Social Welfare Ministry, says Acting Social Welfare Minister S.M.Chandrasena. But some NGOs which have not been registered with the Ministry are active in tsunami-affected areas, he said.... There are about 100 NGOs working in the tsunami-affected areas alone and the Ministry has requested the Centre for Humanitarian Agency (CHA) to make a complete list of NGOs working in those areas. There are NGOs which do have not [sic] complied with this arrangement.... Fewer NGOs operated before the tsunami disaster. After the disaster, the number of NGOs started to increase rapidly which forced the Finance Ministry and Central Bank to intervene, the Acting Minister added.” [16bt]

- 17.06 The USSD 2005 noted that “In July 2004 the LTTE set up the Northeast Secretariat of Human Rights (NESOHR). Since its inception, NESOHR received more than 400 complaints ranging from land disputes to child recruitment complaints. Some groups questioned NESOHR’s credibility because of its close ties to the LTTE.” [2g] (Section 4)
- 17.07 As stated in the UK Home Office Report of its fact-finding mission to Sri Lanka in 2001:
- “There is an officer within SLRCS [Sri Lanka Red Cross Society] (funded by the ICRC) that helps trace families within the country. This officer can help returning failed asylum seekers contact their relatives. The SLRCS can also help minors (who are failed asylum seekers and who wish to return to Sri Lanka) find their families. ICRC Head Office in Colombo is the only Red Cross office authorised to write letters on behalf of the displaced and those arrested by the army. These give the detainees or former detainees name, and when released etc.” [35a] (p31)
- 17.08 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]
- 17.09 As noted in the USSD 2005, “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.” [2g] (Section 4)

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CORRUPTION

- 18.01 The USSD 2005 reported that:
- “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 and establishing business operations.” [2g] (Section 3)

18.02 “From December 2004 until March 31, the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) did not operate because it lacked a chairman. At year’s end CIABOC had received 2,118 complaints, of which 981 were under investigation. Some sources described the procedure for prosecution on corruption charges as difficult. On September 20 [2005], the government indicted former Deputy Defense Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte on charges of bribery. There was no law providing for public access to government information.” (USSD 2005) [2g] (Section 3)

18.03 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)

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FREEDOM OF RELIGION

INTRODUCTION

19.01 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)

19.02 “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)

- 19.03 "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

- 19.04 "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)
- 19.05 "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

- 19.06 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)
- 19.07 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]
- 19.08 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

- 19.09 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)

19.10 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)

19.11 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)

- 19.12 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)

- 19.13 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)

CHRISTIANS

- 19.14 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)

- 19.15 “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)

- 19.16 “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)
- 19.17 “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)
- 19.18 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.” [73] (Executive Summary)
- 19.19 “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.” [73] (CSW Sri Lanka visit report dated 26 May 2006) (Violence, Threats and Intimidation: Interviews with Victims)

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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 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]
- 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 2005) [2g] (Section 3)

TAMILS

- 20.03 “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) [15j] (The Internal Conflict)

See also Section 3

- 20.04 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]
- 20.05 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]

20.06 On 16 October 2004 the Daily News quoted the IGP (Inspector General of Police) Chandra Fernando inaugurating the Police Tamil Language Training Course at the Police Child and Women Secretariat in Colombo as saying that learning a second language, other than one's own mother tongue, was very important to build a peaceful Sri Lanka and that the Police Higher Training Institute had organised several seminars and Tamil-language training programs to enhance Tamil knowledge among police personnel. "Police personnel working in the North and the East should know Tamil language to assist people living in those areas. About 17,000 police personnel are working in the North and the East but only 1,000 know Tamil. It is very difficult for police personnel to work in those areas without a knowledge in Tamil, the IGP said... The IGP emphasised the importance of conducting Tamil classes in areas like Batticaloa, Ampara and Trincomalee." [16bs]

20.07 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." [41I]

UP-COUNTRY TAMILS

20.08 As noted in the USSD 2005:

"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 thousand 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 thousand tea estate Tamils. In August 2004 UNHCR began awareness campaigns to alert Tamils to the new legislation and by year's end had registered approximately 276 thousand persons, while 192 thousand estate Tamils remain unregistered. 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 HRC, Tamils also experienced discrimination in housing." [2g] (Section 5)

20.09 As announced by UNHCR on 4 December 2003:

"Thousands of stateless Tamils have ended their long struggle for recognition in Sri Lanka and registered to become citizens of a country they have called home for generations. More than 6,000 stateless Tamils of Indian origin applied to become Sri Lankan citizens last weekend in a 10-day registration programme organised by the Ceylon Workers Congress and supported by the UN refugee agency.... This campaign marks the start of the end of a critical and long-standing problem for an estimated 300,000 Tamils brought to Sri Lanka since the 1820s to work on estates and who had been unable to claim Sri Lankan citizenship." [6m]

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

20.10 The USSD 2005 recorded that "The country's indigenous people, known as Veddas, numbered fewer than one thousand. 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." [2g] (Section 5)

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LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PERSONS

21.01 The USSD 2005 noted that "The law criminalizes homosexual activity between men and between women, but the law was not enforced. NGOs working on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues did not register with the government. During the year human rights organizations reported that police harassed, extorted money or sexual favors from, and assaulted gay men in Colombo and other areas." [2g] (Section 5)

21.02 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] As reported in an AFP news release dated 4 September 2000 (reported in the website of Aegis, the AIDS Education Global information System):

“The government agreed [in 1995] to revoke the 1883 Penal Code which outlawed sexual relations between men, but instead of decriminalising homosexuality, the authorities roped women in under the archaic laws. The Victorian laws introduced under British colonial rulers did not acknowledge that women could have sex with each other and therefore lesbians could not be prosecuted. However, with the government substituting the word ‘males’ with the gender-neutral ‘persons’ in the 1995 amendment to the penal code, women too face anti-homosexual regulations.” [62]

21.03 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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DISABILITY

22.01 As noted in the USSD 2005:

“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 some 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 hundred thousand work-eligible persons with disabilities find jobs. Despite these efforts, persons with disabilities faced difficulties because of negative attitudes and societal discrimination.” [2g] (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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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]

- 23.02 As outlined by the UN Human Rights Committee in its concluding observations on Sri Lanka of December 2003:

“While commending the introduction since 1995 of legislation designed to improve the condition of women, the Committee remains concerned about the contradiction between constitutional guarantees of fundamental rights and the continuing existence of certain aspects of personal laws discriminating against women, in regard to marriage, notable [sic] the age of marriage, divorce and devolution of property.... The Committee deplores the high incidence of violence against women, including domestic violence. It regrets that specific legislation to combat domestic violence still awaits adoption and notes with concern that marital rape is criminalized only in the case of judicial separation.” [6k] (p5)

LEGAL RIGHTS

- 23.03 The USSD 2005 reported that:

“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 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.” [2g] (Section 5)

- 23.04 “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)

- 23.05 “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)

POLITICAL RIGHTS

- 23.06 "There were 11 women in the 225-member parliament, 3 women in the cabinet, and 2 women on the Supreme Court. During the year a woman, Chandrika Kumaratunga, finished serving her second term as president." (USSD 2005) [2g] (Section 3)

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

- 23.07 As noted in the USSD 2005:

"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, 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." [2g] (Section 5)

- 23.08 "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)

- 23.09 "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

- 23.10 As outlined in the USSD 2005:

"The law prohibits domestic violence, but it was not strictly enforced. Sexual assault, rape, and spousal abuse continued to be serious and pervasive problems. Amendments to the law introduced in 1995 specifically addressed sexual abuse and exploitation and modified rape laws to create a more equitable burden of proof and to make punishments more stringent. 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 1,314 complaints of violent crimes against women... According to the Bureau for the Protection of Children and Women, there were 1,081 reported incidents of rape. The bureau indicated that 692 of the victims were below the age of 18. During the year 36 police stations received rape victim assistance training. Services to assist victims of

rape and domestic violence such as crisis centers, legal aid, and counseling [sic] were generally limited... Sexual harassment is a criminal offense carrying a maximum sentence of five years in prison; however, these laws were not enforced.” [2g] (Section 5)

- 23.11 On 26 August 2004, Daily News reported that according to the Attorney General:

“The law provides that kidnapping or abducting a woman to compel her to marry any person against her will or in order that she may be forced or seduced to illicit intercourse is an offence punishable with imprisonment which may extent [sic] to ten years rigorous imprisonment and fine.” The Attorney General had said that the law relating to violence against women was contained mainly in Chapter XVI of the Penal Code, which was enacted in 1883.... Even though Sri Lanka has identified rape as a violent crime affecting human body, yet there appears to be a misconception that this offence also impacts on sexual morality and should therefore be treated differently. The offence of rape which carries with it an imprisonment which may extend to 20 years and fine is regarded as one of the gravest offences committed against a woman, since it violates her personal security dignity and sexual privacy. In an adversarial system such as ours, a victim of crime is merely a witness. A woman who had been subjected to violence is invariably subjected to extensive questioning both by the prosecutor and the defence counsel.” [16bm]

- 23.12 “There is no separate legislation on domestic violence. However, acts of domestic violence may be prosecuted under provisions of criminal and civil law. 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)

- 23.13 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]

- 23.14 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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CHILDREN

GENERAL INFORMATION

- 24.01 As outlined in the USSD 2005:

"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. Following the December 2004 tsunami, the National Child Protection Agency (NCPA) launched a successful awareness campaign to protect orphaned or displaced children from pedophiles." [2g] (Section 5)

- 24.02 "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 2,070 complaints of violent crimes against children." (USSD 2005) [2g] (Section 5)

- 24.03 "The government pushed for greater international cooperation to bring those guilty of pedophilia to justice. The penalties for pedophilia range from 5 to 20 years' imprisonment and an unspecified fine. During the year [2005] 19 cases of pedophilia were brought to court and were pending at year's end. Child prostitution was a problem in coastal resort areas. The government estimated that there were more than two thousand child prostitutes in the country, but private groups claimed that the number was as high as six thousand. 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.” (USSD 2005) [2g] (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 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 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 thousand children between the ages of 5 and 14 working full time and another 15 thousand engaged in both economic activity and housekeeping. The survey found 450 thousand 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.” (USSD 2005) [2d] (Section 6d)

24.09 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

24.10 The USSD 2005 recorded that “The law requires children between the ages of 5 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.” [2g] (Section 5)

24.11 As reported by UNICEF on 22 March 2005 182 schools were either destroyed or severely damaged by the tsunami of 26 December 2004 [53e]. On 17 June 2005 UNICEF reported that as, a consequence of the tsunami, 72,000 Sri Lankan children were left without schools. [53f]

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]

CHILD CARE

24.13 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]

24.14 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

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

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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 USSD 2005 reported that:

“The legal penalties for trafficking in women include imprisonment for 2 to 20 years and a fine. For trafficking in children, the law allows imprisonment of 5 to 20 years and a fine. Government programs to monitor immigration with computer programs designed to identify suspected traffickers or sex tourists continued, as did a cyberwatch project to monitor suspicious Internet chat rooms. During the year [2005] authorities arrested six airport employees for providing false travel documents or otherwise assisting in trafficking. Internal trafficking in male children was also a problem, especially from areas bordering the northern and eastern provinces...The NCPA [National Child Protection Authority] 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. [2g] (Section 5)

25.04 On 14 June 2004 the Daily News reported that a group of 38 Sri Lankans had been arrested by Weligama Police when they tried to migrate illegally in a fishing trawler bound for Italy. “Initial investigations revealed that the would-be immigrants had paid nearly Rs. 300,000 to a businessman who had arranged their “trip”.... Weligama Police are investigating to ascertain whether any foreign links were involved in the human smuggling...Meanwhile, 2003 went into record books as the year when the highest number of illegal immigrants were taken into custody. Nearly 700 people were arrested last year.” [16ai]

25.05 On 18 September 2004 the Daily News reported that:

“Twenty five persons who attempted to travel on forged Sri Lankan passports to the UK via Maldives and a SriLankan [sic] Airlines official were remanded yesterday by the Negombo Magistrate.... The Criminal Investigations Department (CID) also deployed a special team to trace a millionaire businessman in Colombo who is alleged to have attempted to send the 31 persons to the United Kingdom on forged N-Series Sri Lankan passports with British visas alleged to be genuine. CID investigations revealed that the businessman had collected fees ranging from Rs.1.7 million to Rs.2.5 million from each passenger. The CID is looking for another senior SriLankan [sic] officer alleged to have been the kingpin of the whole racket. According to investigations directed by a Senior Superintendent of the CID, the 31 persons had come to the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) apparently to go to the Maldives. They had cleared Immigration and were waiting to board the flight. Later a SriLankan [sic] Airlines officer had collected the passports from the 31 passengers and had given them forged Sri Lankan passports with British visas. The SriLankan [sic] Airlines officer had allegedly collected Rs.50,000 from each adult passenger.... The SriLankan [sic] Airlines official working at the BIA was arrested in connection with this incident. The 25 adults who attempted to leave the country on forged passports were produced before the Negombo Magistrate and remanded pending the completion of investigations.” [9bx]

25.06 As reported by the Daily News on 30 November 2004:

“Police acting on a tip-off yesterday arrested a 35 feet long trawler along with 18 would be illegal immigrants to New Zealand in the sea off Kalpitiya early yesterday, Kalpitiya Police said. According to Police, the 18 would be illegal immigrants are from various parts of the country including Vavuniya, Ampara, Chilaw, Puttalam and Kalpitiya. According to initial investigations there had been more than 100 would be illegal immigrants who were due to board the trawler. Investigations have revealed that each person had paid between Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 170,000 to a businessman in Katuneriya for their journey.” [9bw]

25.07 On 19 December 2004 the Sunday Observer reported that:

“A massive racket involving top police officers, immigration and emigration officials and customs officers where Chinese and Thai nationals had been brought to Colombo and sent to Italy for employment as Korean nationals on forged Korean passports had been bared.... These forged passports printed abroad make their way through the Katunayake airport with the assistance of the Immigration officials, the probe revealed. The Koreans had charged US dollars 6,000 from each Chinese and Thai youth as fees and had paid US \$2,000 per case to the officials who assisted in the racket.” [9bu]

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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 In a letter dated 30 March 2001, the British High Commission in Colombo outlined the standard of medical facilities in Sri Lanka. The traditional Western medical structure of general practitioners, specialists and hospitals with operating theatres and emergency units, co-exists with the traditional practice of Ayurvedic (herbal) medicine. The country has its own National Health Service, which is available to everyone. [15b]

- 26.05 As confirmed by the British High Commission in Colombo in March 2001, in the Colombo area and one or two of the larger centres such as Kandy, there are many well-reputed hospitals, staffed by physicians, most of whom are very experienced and internationally trained. There is an extensive range of specialist care found in Colombo, both in the private and government sectors. Specialist care would include treating such conditions as cardiac, gastro-intestinal, dermatological, urological, orthopaedic and general surgery. [15b]
- 26.06 On 16 June 2004, BBC News reported that the World Bank had approved a grant of \$60m to help improve the public health sector in Sri Lanka. According to the bank, the aid package was mainly aimed at improving access to health care, particularly in poor areas. The World Bank's top official for Sri Lanka was reported as saying that the country had established an extraordinarily good health service and was one of the first developing countries to provide universal health care. [9bg]
- 26.07 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 2004 "Health care [for children], including immunization, was free". [2d] (Section 4)

HIV/AIDS – ANTI-RETROVIRAL TREATMENT

- 26.08 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]

- 26.09 "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]

- 26.10 As recorded in the UNAIDS (the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) 2004 Report on the global AIDS epidemic, in 2003 there were 3,500 adults and children living with HIV and there were less than 200 AIDS deaths. [28]
- 26.11 In September 2002, the British High Commission in Colombo confirmed that in Government hospitals, free treatment is available for opportunistic infections that occur with HIV, such as chest and eye infections. There is free anti-retroviral treatment to prevent mother to baby transmission of HIV, and free post-exposure prophylaxis is given to all healthcare workers. The anti-retroviral drugs that are commonly used in the West for HIV/AIDS are not available in the government sector. Anti-retroviral drugs are available in the private sector but choice is limited when compared with the West. [15e]
- 26.12 A news report from Reuters News Service of 1 December 2002 indicated that the costs of treating HIV/AIDS patients in Sri Lanka had been slashed by more than 60 per cent following a Government decision to import anti-retroviral drugs under generic names from India. The cost of treatment for each patient would be reduced from 15,000 rupees to 6,000 rupees per month. [4e] On 31 August 2004, Daily News reported that the World Bank had agreed to provide drugs for HIV infected persons free of charge for five years. [16ay]
- 26.13 As reported by BBC Sinhala.com on 1 December 2004:
- "Sri Lankan health authorities will distribute free anti retroviral drugs to HIV sufferers. The announcement was made at the Aids awareness campaign in Colombo launched to mark the World Aids day.... Dr. Hettiarachchi [of the National Sexually Transmitted Disease and Aids prevention programme] said the government had decided to issue free anti retroviral medicines for HIV sufferers, 'Under a scheme sponsored by the World Bank and the WHO, we are able to hand out Indian made antiretroviral medicines for the suffers.' In a report issued on the World Aids day, French health charity Medicins Sans Frontieres said that 'the medicine supplies are not the issue. The difficult part in delivering the drugs is the shortage of trained health workers on the ground.'" [9es]
- 26.14 As noted in the USSD 2005, "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." [2g] (Section 5)

CANCER TREATMENT

- 26.15 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

- 26.16 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

- 26.17 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)

26.18 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)

26.19 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)

26.20 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)

- 26.21 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]
- 26.22 As stated in information provided by SCIS 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]
- 26.23 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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HUMANITARIAN ISSUES

- 27.01 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)

- 27.02 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. In one of the worst incidents, more than 800 people died when a train was struck by the tsunami at Telwatta, in the south-west. Aid: In the wake of the basic humanitarian relief effort, the government plans to rebuild coastal resort towns – some from scratch. 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]

- 27.03 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. With humanitarian aid running from early January, the government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) worked with the World Bank and others on the needs assessment for reconstruction. This was released in February. GoSL is now trying to produce a further assessment which also integrates the LTTE's own needs assessment work. Overall damage is estimated at well over a billion dollars (4.5% of GDP) with a large proportion of losses concentrated in housing, tourism, fisheries and transportation." [57] (p8)

- 27.04 Further information on the Indian Ocean hearth quake (tsunami) of 26 December 2004, its consequences and the recovery process can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.tafren.gov.lk/> – TAFREN (Task Force for Rebuilding the Nation) [63]

<http://www.lk.undp.org/ndmc/Situation%20Reports/SitReps%20Home.htm> – NDMC (National Disaster Management Centre) [60]

<http://www.statistics.gov.lk/Tsunami/index.htm> – Department of Census and Statistics [58b]

<http://www.mrrr.lk> – Ministry of Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconciliation of Sri Lanka [12]

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc108?OpenForm&emid=ACOS-635PHK&rc=3> – the online gateway on humanitarian emergencies and disasters administered by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) [31]

<http://www.unhcr.lk/unhcr%20tsunami%20page/tsunami.htm> – UNHCR response to the tsunami disaster in Sri Lanka [6t]
<http://www.unhcr.lk/stats%20and%20maps.htm> – UNHCR Sri Lanka Statistics and Maps [6u]

http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/sri_lanka?OpenDocument – The IRCC in Sri Lanka [34]

<http://www.health.gov.lk/tsunami/links/latestsummary.html> – Ministry of Health – Progress of Tsunami Re-Construction Projects [67b]

(See also Section 29 on Internally Displaced People IDPs)

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FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

28.01 The USSD 2005 stated that:

“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 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 still 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. Following the killing of Foreign Minister Kadirgamar on August 12 [2005], security forces closed the crossing between LTTE and government-controlled areas in the northeast for several days. 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.” [2g] (Section 2d)

28.02 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]

28.03 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]

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INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE (IDPs)

- 29.01 As noted in a document of the Norwegian Refugee Council/Global IDP Project entitled, 'Sri Lanka: Response to tsunami crisis must also target conflict-affected IDPs', dated 3 March 2005:

"The devastating tsunami wave that hit 14 of Sri Lanka's 25 districts on 26 December 2004, killed over 30,000 persons, destroyed 80,000 households and displaced one million people. The total number of people currently displaced by the tsunami is estimated to be around 553,000. In addition to the displacement caused by the tsunami, more than 350,000 people remain displaced as a result of the conflict between the LTTE and the Government of Sri Lanka, despite a ceasefire that was signed three years ago. Furthermore, while some 379,000 people have returned home many are not adequately protected and assisted during the reintegration phase. Wide-reaching reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts are needed in order to find durable solutions for the returning population as many continue to face threats to their safety, dispossession of their property, landlessness and a lack of basic infrastructure and basic services. Two large groups, in particular, are in need of better security arrangements before returning: non-Tamils displaced from rebel-held areas and Tamils displaced from government High Security Zones. Displaced women, especially female-headed households, are among the most vulnerable. Some 78,000 displaced are still accommodated in government-run welfare centres where they live in precarious conditions." [54] (Introduction)

- 29.02 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."

The 'UNHCR Global Report 2005, Sri Lanka' recorded the number of IDPs in Sri Lanka at 325,000. [6z] (p330-331)

- 29.03 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)

- 29.04 “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)
- 29.05 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]
- 29.06 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]

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FOREIGN REFUGEES

30.01 As noted in the USSD 2005:

“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. There were no reports of refoulement, the forced return of persons to a country where they feared persecution.” [2g] (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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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)
- 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 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]

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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]

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TREATMENT OF RETURNED FAILED ASYLUM SEEKERS

32.05 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]

32.06 In a letter dated 4 January 2000, UNHCR stated that “Although not all Sri Lankan Tamils with scars have a well-founded fear of persecution on return, 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.” [6i]

32.07 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]

32.08 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]

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

“Despite the cease-fire, which has largely been respected, the present political insecurity and the stalemate in the peace process is not encouraging. 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]

- 32.10 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]

- 32.11 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]

32.12 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]

32.13 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]

32.14 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]

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EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

33.01 As noted in the USSD 2005:

“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 7-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.” [2d] (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. In 2003 the Ministry of Employment and Labor registered 168 new unions and canceled the registration of 64 others, bringing the total number of functioning unions to 1,604 by the end of 2003. 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. Antiunion discrimination is a punishable offense liable for a fine of \$200 (20 thousand SLR).” (USSD 2005) [2d] (Section 6a)
- 33.03 “The law provides for the right to collective bargaining; however, very few companies practiced it. At year’s end, 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 2005) [2d] (Section 6b)
- 33.04 “While there is no universal 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. In late 2003 the Ministry of Labor began increasing the minimum wages of all wage boards by a minimum of 15 percent; however, at year’s [2005] end this process had not been completed for garment and hotel worker wages. The law prohibits most full-time workers from regularly working more than 45 hours per week (a 5½-day workweek). New regulations limited the maximum overtime hours to 15 per week. Labor organizers were concerned that the new legislation did not include a provision for overtime with the consent of the worker. 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 the rights and feared that they would lose their jobs if they removed themselves from the work situation.” (USSD 2005) [2d] (Section 6e)

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Annex A: Chronology of major events

See also Annex B, E and F

- 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.
December: End of Operation Jayasikuru and launch of Operation Rivi Bala.
- 1999** **January:** The Supreme Court rules that the President's postponement of the provincial elections in August 1998 was unconstitutional.
March: Operation Rana Gosa launched.
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** **January-August:** Efforts at brokering peace with the LTTE are discussed by the two main political parties.
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, shortly after casting her

vote. 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.
- December:** Most barriers, barricades and checkpoints removed in Colombo.
- 2002**
- January:** Restrictions eased on movement in and out of Vavuniya.
- 20 January:** The LTTE announces an extension of the cease-fire until 24 February 2002. The Government reciprocates the following day.
- 13 February:** The Government lifts all restrictions on the movement of medicines and medical equipment to the north, although stocks would be monitored at checkpoints for security reasons.
- 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. Whilst agreeing to continue the existing cease-fire agreement, the two sides talked about landmine clearance, the return of refugees to government-designated high-security zones, and agreed to form a joint task force for urgent humanitarian and reconstruction activities in the north and east.
- 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.
- July:** Two police inspectors and three local residents are sentenced to death for their involvement in the Bandarawela Bindunuwewa killings of October 2000. However, the condemned men have a right to appeal.
- July:** Unidentified gunmen kill a Tamil politician and member of PLOTE, the fourth such killing in the previous two weeks.
- 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. The ballot was to be held on 2 April 2004, four years ahead of schedule.
- March:** Renegade Tamil Tiger commander, known as Karuna, leads split in rebel movement and goes underground with his supporters.
- 2 April:** Early general elections held. Party of 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.
- 10 May:** SLMM press release about the recent killings in the east as a threat to the cease-fire.
- 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 Sinhalese, 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.

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Annex B: Timelines

A) THE FOLLOWING SATP (SOUTH ASIA TERRORISM PORTAL) SRI LANKA TIMELINE FOR THE YEAR 2006 COVERS THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY – 30 SEPTEMBER 2006)

- 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 Selvanayakupuram 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 Wannu 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." Thamilselvan, 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. Sriharan, 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 Naravikulam 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 Manalaru 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 Trincomlaee 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 Pollonaruwa 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, Yashushi 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. Yakushi 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 Atchuveli 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 Co-ordinating 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 Periyamadu-Pallamadu 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 Vinayagapuram 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 Kulathunga 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 Niranjan 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 Mullaittivu 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 Chencholai '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 Ilupkulam 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.

<http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/shrilanka/timeline/index.html>
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B) THE FOLLOWING SATP (SOUTH ASIA TERRORISM PORTAL) SRI LANKA TIMELINE COVERS THE YEAR 2005.

- January 8 The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) chief, Velupillai Prabhakaran, and his intelligence chief, Pottu Amman, are among those dead or missing after the Tsunami disaster, the Sri Lankan state radio stated.
- January 9 Three people are killed and 38 others sustain injuries when a hand grenade allegedly lobbed by two LTTE cadres exploded at a funeral house in the LTTE-held Vakaneri area of Batticaloa district.
- Refusing to give a time frame, United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell, stated that the US Marines who are landing in Sri Lanka soon may spend a long period in the country to carry out relief and rebuilding process.
- January 14 The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Sri Lankan representative, Ted Chaiban, states that it had received reports that the LTTE were recruiting children displaced by the Tsunami and warned the rebels to leave under-age survivors alone. "Recruitment..."

- was an issue before the tsunami. It's an issue that continues to be of concern. We know of three cases of reported under-age recruitment that took place in the east," said Chaiban.
- January 16 The police use tear gas to disperse a group of about 500 persons trying to hoist the LTTE flag in the Government-held town of Pesalai in the Mannar district to mark the 12th anniversary of the death of Sathasivam Krishnakumar alias Kittu, a rebel 'commander' who blew up his ship when surrounded by the Indian navy in 1993.
- January 17 In his first public appearance since the January 26 Tsunami, the LTTE chief, Velupillai Prabhakaran, met with his outfit's disaster management planners in Kilinochchi.
- January 19 President Chandrika Kumaratunga states in Hambantota that there would be no elections for the next five years and therefore all political forces should sink their party differences and work towards rebuilding the tsunami-devastated country.
- S P Thamilselvam, head of the LTTE political wing, says that the Tamils feel "discriminated against" because India is doing tsunami relief work only in the Government-held areas of Sri Lanka, totally ignoring the "even greater" humanitarian crisis in the Tamil-speaking areas held by the LTTE.
- January 23 The LTTE expresses willingness to be included in a 'common programme' with the Government for providing relief to the tsunami victims in the North-East, before any recommencement of peace talks.
- January 26 The UNICEF says that LTTE have recruited 40 children under the age of 18 in the month since the tsunami disaster. According to Martin Dawes, UNICEF spokesperson for South Asia, "We've got 40 cases we've been able to verify... There's one 13-year-old. It goes up to 17. This is something we regret ... children have no place in the war."
- January 28 The LTTE chief, Velupillai Prabhakaran, asks international donors to disburse their tsunami-related assistance to the North East of Sri Lanka through their own NGOs, circumventing the Government.
- January 31 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam leader, 'Colonel' Soosai, claims that Government support was essential for the reconstruction of tsunami-affected areas in the North-East since the outfit cannot fulfill this task on its own.
- February 4 A LTTE official, in charge of the outfit's Forest Conservation Division, is shot dead by unidentified gunmen at Kiran, 28 kilometers north of Batticaloa.
- The LTTE discloses they were freeing 23 children after allegations that they had recruited at least 40 child soldiers since the tsunami disaster.

- February 7 LTTE's Eastern Political wing leader, Kaushalyan, his deputy Nedimaran and three other LTTE cadres are killed during an ambush at Poonani in the Batticaloa district
- February 8 Ariyanayagam Chandra Nehru, ex-Tamil National Alliance Member of Parliament for the Amparai district, who was injured when unidentified gunmen shot dead senior LTTE leader, E. Kausalyan, and four other cadres in Batticaloa district on February 7, succumbs to his injuries in Colombo.
- February 10 Secretary General, Kofi Annan, in the latest United Nations (UN) report on "Children and Armed Conflict" said that since 2001, the LTTE has recruited more than 4700 children.
- Tamil National Force (TNF), a para-military group under the joint command of the leader of the breakaway LTTE faction, Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan alias 'Colonel Karuna, and the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front, claims responsibility for the February 7-killing of LTTE leader, E. Kaushalyan, in Batticaloa district.
- February 11 Cabinet spokesperson and Minister, Mangala Samaraweera, announces that the Government would hold presidential election on or before November 12, 2006, reiterating that the President had no intention of postponing the poll as alleged by the Opposition.
- February 12 One civilian is killed and two persons, including a LTTE activist, are wounded when unidentified persons lobbed a grenade targeting the outfit's office in Mannar town.
- February 14 LTTE leader, Anton Balasingham, informs the Norwegian facilitators in London that the Sri Lankan Government has to take steps to restore confidence in the peace process, in particular by disarming paramilitaries working alongside its armed forces and establish a joint mechanism with the LTTE for post-tsunami aid.
- February 20 Suspected LTTE cadres kill a cadre of the rival 'Colonel' Karuna faction and injure another near the Batticaloa-Polannaruwa district border.
- February 22 Marking the third anniversary of the cease-fire, the Sri Lankan Government announced that it continues to be ready to reopen direct negotiations with the LTTE on the establishment of an interim authority. The Government Information Department said the goal of the proposed interim authority would be "to meet the urgent humanitarian and development needs of the people of the North and East and to proceed thereafter to negotiating a final settlement of the ethnic conflict."
- The LTTE is reported to have shot dead a Sri Lankan Army soldier at Killali in the Jaffna district.

- February 24 The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) opposes resumption of peace talks with the LTTE based on an interim administration and said negotiations would have to include the outlines of a final settlement.
- February 28 Head of the LTTE political division (women) for Batticaloa-Amparai, Kuveni, and two of her colleagues, Akanila and Sasimathy, are shot at and wounded in Thambattai, about six kilometers south of Akkaraipattu by gunmen suspected to be from the rival 'Colonel' Karuna faction.
- Cadres of the LTTE 'Wanni pistol group' shot dead a displaced tsunami civilian, who was also an Army deserter, two hours after the incident at Akkaraipattu in which three female LTTE cadres were shot.
- March 2 Two cease-fire monitors from the SLMM are attacked by the LTTE cadres in Vavuniya. They were investigating a complaint that two People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) members had been forcibly detained by the LTTE.
- March 5 Six civilians are shot dead at Welikanda in the Polonnaruwa district by cadres of the LTTE. Among the dead is a suspected cadre of the 'Colonel' Karuna faction and four Muslims.
- A person suspected to be cadre of the 'Colonel' Karuna group, identified as Mylvaganam Pulenthiran, is shot dead in Vanthaarumoolai, 18 kilometers north of Batticaloa, by the LTTE.
- A LTTE cadre, 'Major' Pushparaj, is shot dead by cadres of the Karuna faction in Batticaloa district. Two LTTE cadres were also injured in the attack.
- March 6 In Eravur, 14 kilometers north of Batticaloa town, a civilian, identified as Velauthan Ilankeshwarn, is killed by the LTTE.
- March 7 The World Bank Country Director for Sri Lanka, Peter Harrold, says that the bank has no intention of providing funds directly to the LTTE. Harrold stated this in response to a call by the ruling coalition partner, JVP, on March 6 to withdraw a statement by the former in an interview to the Sunday Times where he is quoted as recognising the LTTE controlled area as "a kind of unofficial state".
- A former PLOTE member, A. Kirubeswaran, is shot dead by LTTE cadres near the Batticaloa police station.
- March 9 A civilian, allegedly abducted by the LTTE cadres on March 8 from Kadjuwatte in the Batticaloa district, is found dead. Military spokesperson, Brigadier Daya Ratnayake, said he was abducted while returning with three others in his vehicle from paddy fields on the Valachchenai-Vakarai road.
- March 10 During a meeting with the Norwegian special peace envoy, Erik Solheim, the LTTE leader, Anton Balasingham, admits that the outfit has an airstrip in Kilinochchi.

- March 11 Three PLOTE cadres are wounded when two unidentified men riding a motorbike lobbed a grenade on the group's camp in Batticaloa town.
- March 14 Two suspected LTTE cadres, Sinnaturai Selvanaathen and Subramanium Guneseekaram, are shot dead at Karapola.
- March 21 Two LTTE cadres are killed during a clash with cadres of the rival 'Colonel' Karuna faction in Welikanda, 25 km east of the town of Polonnaruwa.
- March 24 The Sri Lankan Army denies existence of any LTTE camp in the Government-controlled areas of Theevuchenai village in the Polonnaruwa district.
- March 26 Five LTTE cadres are killed by cadres of the rival 'Colonel' Karuna faction at Tharavai in the Batticaloa district.
- March 28 Suspected Karuna faction cadres threw grenades targeting a LTTE office in Vavuniya, 210 km north of Colombo, wounding at least three people.
- LTTE reportedly commences a satellite TV station called National Television of Tamil Eelam (NTT), covering Europe from an undisclosed location in the Wanni area of Sri Lanka.
- March 29 Civilians in the welfare center for Internally Displaced People at Mandan in the Batticaloa district prevent a LTTE group from allegedly abducting a child for conscription.
- March 30 Suspected LTTE cadres attack a van carrying six EPDP activists at Aarumuhaththaan Kudiyiruppu, 12 kilometers north of Batticaloa.
- April 1 LTTE cadres kill a person believed to be close to the EPDP in Kommathurai, 17 kilometers north of Batticaloa
- April 4 LTTE's pistol group kills a senior Government functionary, T. Kailanandan, Director of Vocational Training Ministry at the Kattankudy Technical College, in Batticaloa.
- Suspected LTTE cadres threw a grenade targeting the EPDP office in Karaithivu, 45 kilometers south of Batticaloa.
- April 5 LTTE cadres shot dead a former cadre of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), John Silva Amerasingham, at Akkaraipattu in the Amparai district, 64 kilometers south of Batticaloa.
- A SLMM official, Alf Stoelam, on board a Navy patrol boat in the sea off Upparu in Trincomalee is wounded as LTTE cadres fired at the boat.

A former EPDP cadre, Arumugam Ambikaipahan, is shot at and wounded at a movie theatre in the Batticaloa town.

The UNICEF has reportedly stated that the LTTE recruited 106 child soldiers since the Tsunami on December 26, 2004.

- April 6 Suspected LTTE cadres kill a police constable and wounded another during an attack at Kalmunai, 40 kilometers south of Batticaloa.
- April 8 Cadres of the 'Colonel' Karuna faction attack a LTTE check point at Poonagar in the Trincomalee district killing two LTTE cadres manning the check point.
- April 10 LTTE frees a Sri Lankan soldier they captured a day earlier for allegedly trespassing on the former's territory, says Hagrup Haukland, head of the European cease-fire monitors.
- April 11 A member of the EPDP, Vijayadas Wijendran alias Kunjan, is shot dead by the LTTE in Trincomalee.
- April 13 A Muslim civilian abducted by the LTTE and held in captivity for two and a half months in the Mullaithivu jungles escapes and reaches Vavuniya.
- April 14 Five cadres of a 'paramilitary group' are killed during an attack on their camp by suspected LTTE cadres at Sorivil in the Welikanda area of Polannaruwa district, 80 kilometers northwest of Batticaloa.
- April 15 Divisional Secretary for Thirukkivil, A. K Thavarajah, is shot dead by an unidentified gunman in Thirukkivil.
- April 20 The Norwegian peace envoy, Erik Solheim, says that he will be able to establish a joint mechanism to provide post-Tsunami relief to victims in the North and East by concluding an agreement between the Sri Lankan Government and LTTE.
- April 21 Citing an intercepted rebel communication, military spokesperson, Brig. Daya Ratnayake, says that five LTTE cadres were killed and seven others wounded in a pre-dawn attack by the 'Colonel' Karuna faction at Kanjikudichcha Aaru in the Amparai district, about 250 kilometers east of the capital Colombo.
- Suspected LTTE cadres kill Sivagnanaselvam Kirubaharan, a suspected Karuna group cadre, in Valaichenai, 32 kilometers north of Batticaloa.
- April 24 Suspected LTTE cadres attack a Hindu religious procession in the Batticaloa town injuring four persons, including two schoolgirls.
- A senior police official, Inspector T. Jeyaratnam, responsible for the arrest of a large number of LTTE operatives, is reported missing from Colombo since April 20. Police said that Jeyaratnam was in the Terrorism Investigation Division (TID) at the Mt. Lavinia police, one of the most active police investigation units against the LTTE. The TID

- Officer had received threats from the LTTE following his involvement in tracking down several LTTE cadres in Colombo.
- April 25 Suspected LTTE cadres kill a cadre of the rival 'Colonel' Karuna faction, identified as Sellathurai Kopalkumar, and also abduct one of his colleagues at Karapola village in the Polannaruwa district.
- April 26 The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) says it opposes the proposed joint mechanism between the Government and LTTE as the latter had neither given up its separatist agenda nor taken the path to democracy. "Without an assurance by the LTTE in word and deed" that it would end child recruitment, stop political killings, end abduction of rivals and pave the way for "free and fair elections in the north and east," the JVP "will not agree to any programme" with the Tigers, JVP leader, Somawansa Amarasinghe, stated at a press conference in Colombo.
- April 27 A Police personnel, identified as Shelton Nawaratna, attached to the Counter Subversive Unit of the Eravur Police is shot dead by suspected LTTE pistol group cadres at Chenkaladi in the Batticaloa district.
- April 29 The dead body of an abducted journalist, Dharmaretnam Sivaram, is found at Himbulala. Sivaram, a senior editorial board member of a pro- LTTE news agency, TamilNet, was abducted by unidentified persons near Bambalapitya Police Station in Colombo a day earlier.
- April 28 An Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front member, Murgesu Wardharaja, is killed by a suspected LTTE cadre at Kalladi.
- The U.S. State Department in its annual terrorism report 'Country Reports on Terrorism 2004' has continued its designation of the LTTE as a terrorist group.
- May 3 The visiting Indian Foreign Secretary, Shyam Saran, says there was no conflict between India and Sri Lanka over the Sethusamudram canal project and Sri Lanka would be kept informed of any new developments on this issue. "There was no issue between Sri Lanka and India that we cannot sit down and talk," Saran stated at the India House in Colombo.
- India announces a debt moratorium of three years on repayment of debt by Sri Lanka in response to the latter's post-tsunami reconstruction needs.
- May 6 Sri Lankan military recovers bodies of two LTTE cadres, believed to be intelligence operatives, killed during a clash with cadres of the rebel 'Colonel' Karuna faction. Military spokesperson, Brig. Daya Ratnayake, said the bodies were found in the Welikanda area of Polonnaruwa district.
- May 9 A civilian is killed and at least 10 people sustain injuries as security forces (SFs) attempted to prevent an unruly mob from storming a checkpoint at Shanthiveli on the Polonnaruwa-Batticaloa road. Brig.

- Daya Ratnayake said the SFs manning the checkpoint had to fire shots in the air to control the violent protestors allegedly instigated by the LTTE.
- May 12 Four police officers sustain injuries when suspected LTTE cadres attacked their vehicle near the Valachchenai town in Batticaloa district while they were traveling with a group of high level EPDP delegation.
- May 14 A former Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam cadre, Ponniah Thamilvanan, who had deserted and refused to rejoin the outfit, was shot dead by suspected LTTE cadres in the Batticaloa district.
- May 16 President Chandrika Kumaratunga tells international donors that she will enter into a Tsunami aid-sharing deal with the LTTE despite threats to her life from “within and outside” her Government. She made these remarks at the opening of a two-day aid meeting attended by more than 125 participants including the World Bank, Japan and the United States. “In the decisions we are called upon to take, the lives of some of us are in extreme danger,” Kumaratunga said. While disclosing that there is a threat “from within” her Government as well, the President added “Our commitment to this cause will be steadfast despite various objections from extremists, from various groups.”
- May 17 The Sri Lanka Development Forum ends in Kandy with the international donor community making commitments and pledges exceeding US \$ 3 billion in the form of grants and moratorium on debts for the Tsunami reconstruction process and other development programmes initiated by the Government. Finance Minister Dr. Sarath Amunugama announces that: “Ninety five per cent of the assistance committed at the Forum comprises outright grants. There are no loans and there is no repayment also... There are absolutely no conditions for the disbursement of these funds to the Government.”
- A hand grenade lobbed by suspected LTTE cadres at Madathadi Junction in Trincomalee, where a new Buddha statue is being erected, kills one civilian and injures four others.
- May 18 Suspected LTTE cadres kill an EPDP activist, A. Murugapallai, and injure two others in the Batticaloa district.
- May 21 A woman, identified as Sinnathamby Annapillai, is killed when unidentified persons lobbed a grenade at the Periyakallaru LTTE political office in Batticaloa district.
- May 23 A LTTE cadre, identified as Nagappa Sivaraj, is shot dead by suspected gunmen of the rival ‘Colonel’ Karuna faction at Manampitiya in the Polonnaruwa district.
- May 25 Periyapodi Suriyamoorthy, former Chairman of the Trincomalee Urban Council, succumbs to gunshot injuries he had received on May 18 at his Trincomalee residence.

- May 27 SLMM chief, Hagrup Haukland, speaking to the Foreign Correspondents' Association of Sri Lanka in Colombo, states that the LTTE possesses an airstrip in the island's north, but warned that any move by Government forces to bomb it could lead to a resumption of war.
- May 28 LTTE cadres kill a Sub-Inspector attached to the Batticaloa Police, J. Felix Thiyagarajah, in Batticaloa town.
- During a formal ceremony at the White House where Sri Lanka's newly appointed Ambassador to the United States, Bernard A.B. Goonetilleke, presented his Letter of Credence, President George W. Bush reportedly stated that the LTTE "uses terrorism to achieve its political goals."
- May 31 The LTTE shot dead a Commanding Officer of the Army Intelligence Unit, Major Nizam Mutalif, at Polhengoda in the capital Colombo.
- June 2 The re-transmission station of an Indian television channel, Sun TV, at Vairavarpuliyankulam in the Vavuniya district which was operated by cadres of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization (TELO) is attacked with hand grenades by rival LTTE cadres, causing damages to equipment.
- June 3 An India-Sri Lanka Joint Statement issued in New Delhi, during the visit of President Chandrika Kumaratunga, has noted that she apprised Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of her efforts to establish a Post-Tsunami Operational Management Structure (P-TOMS) in the Tsunami-affected areas and that the "Prime Minister expressed understanding of and support for these ongoing efforts."
- June 4 Suspected LTTE cadres kill a teenaged former cadre who had deserted the group at Mannampitiya, about 230 kilometers northeast of capital Colombo.
- June 5 An EPDP cadre, Baskaran Preman Ashok, is shot dead by suspected LTTE cadres near Moothavinayagar Kovil at Anaikodai in the Jaffna district.
- Karuwathamby Packiyarajah, a 'Colonel' Karuna group cadre, is allegedly killed by the rival LTTE cadres at Aalankulam in the Batticaloa district.
- June 6 A LTTE cadre, identified as V. Indrakumar, is shot dead at Wellawatta in the capital city of Colombo by unidentified persons.
- The Sunday Times reports that the LTTE may be building an airfield in the Ichachalampatti forest areas of Trincomalee, close to the Sri Lankan Naval base in China Bay.
- June 7 Speaking at a press conference in Kilinochchi after the meeting with Norwegian Ambassador Hans Brattskar, LTTE 'political wing' leader S. P. Thamilselvan warned that the Government's continuing refusal to provide travel security to its military commanders across

- Government-controlled areas will lead to a 'potentially explosive situation'.
- June 8 LTTE cadres, Niveharan and Sutharanjan, are killed in a claymore landmine explosion triggered by suspected cadres of the rival 'Colonel' Karuna group in a no-man zone at Sangamankandy in the Batticaloa district.
- June 9 A civilian is killed and an Army soldier sustains injuries when LTTE gunmen open fire targeting an EPDP activist at Chenkaladi town in the Batticaloa district.
- The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) threatens to withdraw from the ruling coalition by June 15 if the Government did not call off a Tsunami-aid plan with the LTTE.
- June 11 A soldier of the Sri Lanka Light Infantry and an EPDP activist are killed in an improvised explosive device blast triggered by suspected LTTE cadres in front of the Vavuniya EPDP office. A police constable attached to the station at Muttur in Trincomalee is abducted by a group of LTTE cadres.
- June 13 One civilian is killed and 15 sustain injuries when an unidentified person threw a hand grenade at a funeral function in Soruwila, Polonnaruwa district.
- June 14 Suspected LTTE cadres fire at Navy personnel and injure one of them at Swamytottam in the Mannar district.
- June 15 Ruling United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) coalition ally, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), withdraws support to the Government.
- June 17 A police sergeant is shot dead by unidentified gunmen at Serunuwara in the Trincomalee district.
- A police constable and a PLOTE cadre are injured during a grenade attack by unidentified gunmen at Kallady near Batticaloa town.
- June 20 LTTE cadres shot dead a PLOTE member at Velikkulam in the Vavuniya district.
- LTTE cadres stabbed to death an EPDP member at Akkaraipattu in the Batticaloa district.
- A home guard at Serunuwara in Trincomalee district is abducted by a group of armed LTTE cadres.
- June 21 A 'Colonel' Karuna group member, identified as Chitravelauthen Satyanathen, is shot dead in Muttur by suspected LTTE cadres.
- June 22 One police personnel, Ranaweera Sisira, is shot at and wounded in Batticaloa by suspected LTTE cadres.

- Three Sinhalese civilians are injured in a grenade attack by the LTTE in Trincomalee.
- June 24 The Sri Lankan Government and LTTE sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishing a Post-Tsunami Operational Management Structure (P-TOMS), aimed at ensuring equitable distribution of international assistance for the reconstruction of the coastline.
- June 26 The Ampara district 'political head' of the LTTE, Kuylinpan, and 40 cadres escape an explosion at Welikanda in the Polonnaruwa district.
- June 27 A mutilated body of a home guard, identified as Sahan Nandasiri, abducted earlier by the LTTE cadres was recovered at Serunuwara in Trincomalee district.
- A soldier wounded in the June 9 LTTE attack on an EPDP vehicle at Chenkalady town succumbs to his injuries at the Colombo National Hospital.
- June 29 A LTTE cadre, reportedly distributing copies of the pro-LTTE Tamil newspaper *Sudar Oli* and the LTTE publication *Eelanadan*, is shot dead by an unidentified gunman at Kalawanchikudy in the Batticaloa district.
- June 30 Three soldiers are shot dead at Urani in the Batticaloa district by the LTTE.
- July 2 One police personnel, Chaminda Roshan, is killed at Kalkudah, 35 km north of Batticaloa, by suspected LTTE cadres.
- July 3 Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar stated in an interview to the *Sunday Island* newspaper that the impartiality of Norway as a peace broker is in doubt.
- July 4 Two civilians are killed by the LTTE in separate incidents in the Polonnaruwa and Trincomalee districts.
- S. P. Thamilselvan, leader of the political wing of the LTTE, states that the outfit did not accept Sri Lanka's sovereignty by signing the P-TOMS agreement.
- July 5 Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa presents the officially signed Post-Tsunami Operational Management Structure (P-TOMS) agreement in the Parliament.
- July 6 Two police officers of the National Intelligence Bureau, identified as M.O.L. Rafaideen and B.G. Kapilasiri, are shot at and wounded by the LTTE at Kalmunai in the Amparai district. Later, Rafaideen succumbs to his injuries.
- LTTE kills a 'Colonel' Karuna group cadre, identified as Selvaraja, at Valaichchenai in the Batticaloa district.

- Six LTTE cadres are arrested from the suburbs of Colombo along with a huge cache of arms and ammunition.
- July 7 The Sri Lankan Parliament adopts the Draft Bill to give effect to the Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Financing by a majority vote.
- July 10 Four LTTE cadres, including two senior leaders identified as Dikkan and Sinnavan, are killed by the rival 'colonel' Karuna group at the Selvanayagapuram Agriculture Training Institute in Trincomalee district.
- A soldier escaped with minor injuries when a suspected LTTE cadre detonated a hand grenade at Madco junction in the Trincomalee district.
- July 11 A student, identified as Sangarapillai Jerrymban, is killed in a grenade attack by suspected LTTE cadres at Eravur in the Batticaloa district.
- Secretariat for Co-ordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP) spokesperson, Sharminee Serasinghe, states that the Government has decided to provide security escort to the LTTE cadres within the Government-controlled areas.
- July 12 In a grenade attack carried out by suspected LTTE cadres, 13 police personnel are injured at Uppuveli in the Trincomalee district.
- July 13 Nine civilians are injured when a suspected LTTE cadre threw a hand grenade at a Tsunami relief centre situated in the Muttur area of Trincomalee district.
- In another grenade attack by the LTTE, 10 Army personnel, including one officer, attached to the Pansalwatte detachment are injured in Trincomalee district.
- July 14 Three civilians are killed by suspected LTTE cadres at Akkaraipattu in the Amparai district
- One suspected LTTE cadre is killed by the Sri Lankan navy personnel when the former fired at a navy check point in Kumurupiddi, Trincomalee district.
- Suspected LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres injure a police officer in an ambush at Thampalakamam in the Trincomalee district.
- Two civilians are injured in a grenade attack aimed at a military vehicle in the Anuradhapura junction area of Trincomalee district.
- July 15 The Supreme Court passes a stay order to block four key provisions of the P-TOMS agreement between the Government and LTTE.
- July 16 One security force personnel is shot dead by suspected LTTE cadres at Eravur in the Trincomalee district.

- July 17 Seven suspected LTTE cadres, including a woman and an explosive expert, are arrested along with 18 claymore mines and several remote control circuits from the Pallimunai and Thaalpaadu areas in Mannar district.
- S. P. Thamilselvan, in a news conference at Kilinochchi, says that the outfit will carry arms in Government-held areas and any effort on the part of the security forces to stop them will force them to take counter-measures which may lead to an imminent return to civil war.
- July 19 Key international donors the European Union, United States, Japan and Norway in a joint statement raise concern over the deteriorating security situation in Sri Lanka and demand immediate action from the Government and LTTE to prevent killings.
- July 20 Suspected LTTE cadres kill a village officer, identified as Marimuttu Paskaran, at Kalmunai in the Batticaloa district.
- Two civilians and one homeguard are injured in a grenade attack by unidentified assailants on a security checkpoint at Kalavaddam Junction in the Batticaloa district.
- Suspected LTTE cadres lob a grenade at a security checkpoint near a Tsunami refugee camp in the Akkaraipattu area of Ampara district injuring two commandos of the Special Task Force and a police constable.
- S. P. Thamilselvan, after a meeting with the Norwegian delegation says that it is the responsibility of the Government to salvage the cease-fire. He also claimed that there are no hindrances for the Government and LTTE to have direct talks.
- July 21 LTTE kills one Reserve Police Constable, identified as M. Weerasinghe, near the Bank of Ceylon Building at Pottuvil in Amparai district. A civilian, identified as Kanagasabai Ranjithkumar, who is injured in the crossfire between the police and LTTE succumbs to his injuries later.
- Suspected LTTE cadres lob a grenade at a security checkpoint injuring two civilians and a home guard in the Kalmunai area of Amparai district.
- July 23 Suspected LTTE cadres kill a retired home guard, identified as L. H. Dayananda, at Potkerny junction in the Thambalagamuwa area of Trincomalee district.
- July 25 The Sri Lankan President, while attending a meeting with the Tokyo Donor Conference Co-Chairs representatives states that the Government was willing to review the cease-fire agreement with a view to improve the security situation and build greater confidence.
- The UNICEF spokesperson, Jeffrey Keys, states that the LTTE recruited 28 children into their force during July 2005 alone.

- July 26 Unidentified assailants kill two civilians, identified as Kumaraswamy Pathmakaran and Subramaniam Kovulan, in the Manipoor area of Vavuniya district.
- 'Pistol gang' cadres of LTTE kill an EPDP member, identified as Pankirajah George, at Puthur in the Batticaloa district.
- Suspected LTTE cadre, identified as Krishnapillai Kiribarathnam, is shot dead at DAM Street, a Colombo suburb.
- July 27 LTTE Political Advisor, Anton Balasingham, states that the LTTE is not interested in renegotiating the cease-fire.
- July 28 'Pistol gang' cadres of the LTTE kill an EPDP activist, identified as Sooriyapillai Nixon, at Stanley road in the Jaffna district.
- July 29 The Sri Lankan Government files a review petition requesting the Supreme Court to reconsider its interim injunction on the P-TOMS agreement. The Government has reportedly asked the court that it be permitted to carry on with the operational aspect of the P-TOMS as it was a "delegated power" made by the Government to the LTTE and did not amount to granting the outfit the functions of Government.
- July 30 Suspected LTTE cadres shot at and injure a civilian, identified as D. Udayasiri, in the Pannalagama area of Ampara district. They also abducted two other civilians who were with him.
- August 1 A civilian, identified as R. Sivakumar, is killed when suspected LTTE cadres lobbed a grenade at a market place in the Batticaloa district.
- August 2 A Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam 'pistol gang' cadre shot dead a former home guard, identified as Sampath Kumara, at Welikanda in the Polonnaruwa district.
- August 4 According to the Sri Lankan Army, the Jaffna district Superintendent of Police, W. D. Charles Wijewardene, was abducted and hacked to death by a mob allegedly instigated by the LTTE at Jaffna-KKS road in the Paalaveddi area. Wijewardene was reportedly attempting to defuse tension which had erupted after a civilian, identified as J. Shantharoban, was killed in an accidental gunfire at Innuvil junction by a soldier.
- August 6 The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam cadres fired upon three civilians killing one of them, identified as S. Handunge Chaminda, in the Ambalama area of Batticaloa district.
- August 7 A civilian, identified as Pulandan Thirunavukarasu, is killed when a mine exploded accidentally in the Nunavil West area of Jaffna district
- August 10 Unidentified assailants shot dead two LTTE cadres, identified as Ramesh and Sujiventhan, in the Thirrukkovil area of Ampara district. One of the victims is reported to be a senior leader of the outfit belonging to its 'intelligence wing'.

- August 12 Foreign Affairs Minister, Lakshman Kadirgamar, is shot dead by a suspected LTTE sniper near his private residence on Bullers Lane in the heart of the capital Colombo.
- Shortly after the killing of Kadirgamar, a state of emergency is declared in the country.
- The 'pistol gang' cadres of LTTE kill two civilians, identified as Sinnadorai Selvarajah and his wife Welangee Selvarajah, inside their business centre at Wellawatta in the capital Colombo.
- A police personnel, identified as Athukorala, is killed in an ambush by the LTTE at Dehiattakandiya in the Polonnaruwa district.
- August 13 The LTTE leader S. P. Thamilchelvan denies his outfit's involvement in the assassination of Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar. The Government subsequently rejects this LTTE denial.
- August 14 President Chandrika Kumaratunga in her address to the Nation describes the assassination of Kadirgamar as a "horrendously barbaric act of terrorism". "Initial indications of the investigation seem to reveal the clear responsibility of the LTTE in his brutal murder," she disclosed.
- August 15 Suspected LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres kill a civilian, identified as Raja Piravu, in the Dalukana area of Polonnaruwa district.
- Unidentified assailants reportedly kill a 'Colonel' Karuna group cadre, identified as Mahathevarajah, in the Namalpockuna area of Polonnaruwa district.
- August 16 LTTE cadres kill one SF personnel, identified as Lance Corporal H. K. A. Hendeniya, in a sniper attack at Keselwatta security checkpoint in the Mutur area of Trincomalee district.
- August 17 Unidentified assailants kill a former TELO member, identified as Mathy, in the Kurumankadu area of Vavuniya district.
- Reports indicate that the United Kingdom Charity Commission has removed the pro-LTTE non-governmental organisation, TRO, from its registered charity list since August 10.
- August 18 The Sri Lanka Parliament extends the state of emergency by one month.
- August 19 The LTTE leader Anton Balasingham accepts the Norwegian proposal to hold direct talks with the Government on the "practical functioning" of the cease-fire agreement.
- August 20 Suspected LTTE cadres kill an EPDP member, identified as Nadaraja Kesavavarnan, in the Vavuniya district.
- Unidentified assailants lobbed grenades targeting the LTTE office at Vairavapuliyankulam injuring three female cadres of the outfit.

- August 23 The LTTE puts pre-conditions prior to any peace talks with the Government. The outfit has reportedly demanded safe passage for their cadres from Wannai to the East and vice versa.
- August 24 Suspected LTTE cadres kill a member of the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam, Rasarathnam Srikanth, in the Kovil Kulam area of Vavuniya district.
- The Government rejects the LTTE demand to hold peace talks in Oslo. A Government spokesperson stated in Colombo, "We cannot accept the view of LTTE to having peace talks in foreign soil without any good reason. This time they [LTTE] have to discuss their problems here in Sri Lanka."
- August 26 The Supreme Court orders the Election Commissioner to go ahead with his decision to call for nominations for a Presidential election in 2005. Delivering a 23-page judgment, Chief Justice Sarath Silva turned down President Chandrika Kumaratunga's claimed legitimacy of the controversial second oath-taking ceremony, reportedly held in the year 2000.
- August 28 Inspector-General of Police, Chandra Fernando, has stated that two persons involved in the assassination of Foreign Affairs Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar were arrested in Colombo a couple of days ago. "We have evidence on the conspiracy and role played by them in planning the assassination," Fernando disclosed.
- August 29 LTTE cadres kill a former member of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation, identified as S. Shivaruparasa, near Bathiya Mawatha on Saranankara road in Kalubowila in Colombo.
- One LTTE cadre is killed and three others are injured in an attack by cadres of the rival 'Colonel' Karuna faction in the Vaharai area of Batticaloa district.
- Two bodies with gunshot injuries are found in the Thepuwana area of Kalutara district.
- August 30 The SF personnel in the Kantale area of Trincomalee district arrest six LTTE cadres, including a member of their Sea Tigers wing, identified as Jeewarathnam Srikanth. Srikanth had Rupees 578,500 in his possession when he was arrested.
- A bullet-riddled body of an ex-LTTE cadre, who had gone reportedly missing from home since August 14 is recovered from the Poonani area of Batticaloa district.
- August 31 The LTTE has reportedly rejected a Government offer to hold talks in Sri Lanka. The outfit's response came a week after the Government refused Norway as a venue for the talks.
- September 1 The Sri Lanka Government has reportedly rejected the LTTE's demand to hold talks in Kilinochchi district and have offered for talks

- in 'no-man's land'. Spokesperson Nimal Siripala de Silva said: "As the government, we are against the LTTE's offer to hold the talks in their controlled Kilinochchi, which is the LTTE's political headquarters."
- September 2 Suspected LTTE cadres shot dead a former member of the 'Colonel' Karuna group in the Wennappuwa area of Puttalam district. The International Committee of the Red Cross officials has reportedly found a dead body of a LTTE cadre, identified as Gajaruban alias Niruban, in the Wannu district.
- September 4 The LTTE cadres fire at SF personnel posted at Kahapilima junction in the Batticaloa district, killing Private R. A. Anuruddha Kumara.
- Cadres of the 'Colonel' Karuna group lob a hand grenade towards the LTTE political office at Kaluwanchikudy in the Batticaloa district and subsequently shot dead a LTTE cadre, identified as K. Arulnesan.
- September 5 LTTE cadres lob a grenade targeting troops posted at the Black Bridge security check point in the Chenkalady area of Batticaloa district and subsequently shot dead a soldier, identified as Bombardier G. R. P. P. Bandara.
- September 6 Dead bodies of two civilians, identified as Kirupairasa Rupanraj and Muthuvel Jegatheeswaran, abducted earlier on September 5, are recovered from the Ragama area of Gampaha district.
- Three LTTE cadres are allegedly killed and five others wounded by the Karuna faction in an attack at the outfit's camp at Kattumurivu in the Vakara area of Batticaloa district.
- September 7 A group of LTTE cadres lob a grenade injuring four soldiers in the Urani junction area of Batticaloa district. One of the cadres is subsequently killed during retaliatory action by the SF personnel.
- September 8 LTTE cadres lob a hand grenade and subsequently opened fire targeting the security forces, killing two police personnel and injuring six others in the Kattankudy area of Batticaloa district.
- The police are reported to have shot dead a cadre of the 'Colonel' Karuna group in the Irudiyapuram area of Batticaloa district when he was allegedly caught firing towards a LTTE cadre.
- The LTTE rejects a Norwegian proposal of holding peace talks at the Colombo international airport.
- September 9 LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres shot dead a member of the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam, identified as Gopal Vilvarasa, and injured another civilian in the Vavuniya district.
- 'Pistol gang' cadres shot dead a Sri Lanka Military Intelligence personnel, identified as M.P.M. Mohamed, at the 2nd cross street in Vavuniya district.

The European Union has reportedly appealed to the LTTE to resume peace talks with the Government. EU Commissioner for External Affairs, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, told the media that “They have to come back to the negotiating table.”

September 11 A group of LTTE cadres abduct two civilians, identified as Mutturaja Muralidaran and Kulasekaram Udayakumaran, and subsequently kill them in the Welikanda area of Polonnaruwa district.

September 13 Unidentified assailants abducted a civilian, identified as Balasingham Sivanesan, from the Uduvil area of Jaffna district and subsequently killed him in the Innuvil area.

The Sri Lanka Supreme Court extends its interim injunction on the implementation of certain clauses of the Post-Tsunami Operational Management Structure agreement till November 22, 2005.

September 14 ‘Pistol gang’ cadres of the LTTE shot dead a civilian, identified as Sabhananda Sharma, at Anjaneer Temple in the Marandanamadam area of Jaffna district.

A soldier of the Sri Lanka National Guard, Staff Sergeant S. Navaratne Rajah, is killed in a grenade attack by the LTTE in the Batticaloa town.

September 16 Unidentified assailants shot dead Loganathan, a member of the EPRLF, along the A-9 highway in Vavuniya district.

S.P. Thamilselvan has reportedly called for immediate talks with the Sri Lankan Government on the cease-fire. He said the LTTE was ready “even in the next minute” to begin talks with the Government.

September 19 Two ‘pistol gang’ cadres of the LTTE shot dead a civilian, identified as Selvathurai Yoganadanrasa, in the Ganeshapuram area of Vavuniya district.

The LTTE ‘pistol gang’ cadres reportedly shot dead a former cadre of the outfit, identified as Malasurin Wimalleshvaran, in the Vellaveli area of Trincomalee district.

Sri Lanka’s international donors reiterated that the cease-fire agreement was facing its “most serious challenge” and wanted the LTTE to “take immediate public steps to demonstrate their commitment to the peace process and their willingness to change” and called for an “immediate end to political assassinations by the LTTE and an end to LTTE recruitment of child soldiers.”

September 20 The LTTE chief, Velupillai Prabhakaran, in a letter to the Norway’s newly elected Prime Minister, Jens Stoltenberg, has reportedly urged him for his Government’s continued role as a facilitator in Sri Lanka’s peace process.

- September 21 Unidentified assailants shot dead a local Government officer, identified as Alagaratnam Jeevaratnam, in front of his residence at Vinayakapuram in the Valaichenai area of Batticaloa district.
- The Sri Lankan Parliament extends the state of emergency, which was imposed after the assassination of Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar on August 12, by one month.
- September 23 Reserve Police Sergeant, T.K. Wimalawardane, who was shot at by the LTTE cadres at Mayalapu junction in the Akkaraipattu area of Batticaloa district on September 22, succumbs to his injuries.
- September 24 Unidentified assailants shot dead a civilian, identified as Welu Krishokumar, in the Batticaloa district.
- September 27 Suspected LTTE cadre shot dead a woman, identified as Leelawathi Subramaniam alias Shanthy, in the Navanthurai area of Jaffna district.
- Unidentified assailants shot dead a civilian, identified as T.M. Sunil, in the Navalady area of Batticaloa district.
- A civilian, Sinnaiyah Ramalingam, is hacked to death by a group of suspected LTTE cadres in the Ilandamoddai area of Mannar district.
- The European Union (EU) has barred LTTE cadres from visiting its member-states and said it is considering listing the group as a terrorist organisation.
- September 28 Unidentified assailants lob grenades targeting a Tamil Rehabilitation Office located on Station Road near Batticaloa Railway station, killing a civilian, identified as Thambyappa Velauthappillai and injuring two others.
- S. P. Thamilchelvan has reportedly appealed to the EU for reconsideration of its recent decision that “delegations from the LTTE will no longer be received in any of the EU Member States until further notice.”
- September 29 A civilian, identified as A.S. Hakeem, is shot dead by three suspected ‘pistol gang’ cadres of LTTE in the Palanagar area of Trincomalee district.
- September 30 Unidentified assailants shot dead two civilians, identified as Thillainathan Mathivathanan and Mahadevan Umathan, and injure another one at Pillayar Temple in the Valaichenai area of Batticaloa district.
- Another civilian, Krishnapullai Yogakumar, is shot dead by two unidentified assailants.
- October 1 Two suspected cadres of the LTTE shot dead a civilian, identified as R.B. Wickramarathne, in the Kalmunai area of Amparai district.

- The Sri Lankan Government spokesperson, Nimal Siripala de Silva, is reported to have said that cease-fire violations by the LTTE prompted the European Union to take action against the outfit.
- October 2 Suspected LTTE cadres in the Kudapokuna area of Polonnaruwa district kill a former LTTE activist, Candaiah Ponnarasa.
- October 3 LTTE cadres in the Vannarapannai area of Jaffna district kill Kitnan Parameshwaram, a supporter of the Eelam People's Democratic Party.
- Two 'pistol gang' cadres of the LTTE shot dead a civilian, Ponnathurai Subendran, when he reportedly refused to pay ransom to the outfit in the Chunnakam area of Jaffna district.
- A 22 year-old student is killed by the LTTE in Vallipuram area, as the student had not obtained a permit from the outfit to transport sand for his house construction work.
- October 4 A civilian, Rasarathinam Rajavinothan, is shot dead by unidentified assailants at Dutch road in the Uduvil area of Jaffna district.
- October 5 The LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres shot dead a civilian, S. Mohammed Vahab, and injure another one at Udayar junction in the Kalumunai area of Amparai district.
- The Police recover the dead body of a Home Guard, identified as N.Sarath Kumara, who had gone missing since September 21, from the Ariamankerni area.
- October 6 'Pistol gang' cadres of the LTTE shot dead an activist of the EPDP, Kinsley Weeraratne, in the Pallaiyuttu area of Trincomalee district.
- October 7 Two civilians, Selvarajah Selvakumar and Arumugam Paramanathan, are shot dead and eight others sustained injuries when unidentified assailants opened fire and simultaneously lob a grenade in the Valaichenai area of Batticaloa district.
- Another civilian, Kandasamy Senthil Kumar, who reportedly was a sympathiser of EPDP and a Chairman of a Hindu Temple, is shot dead by 'pistol gang' cadres of the LTTE in the Karaiyur area of Jaffna district.
- The Norwegian Embassy in Colombo, in a statement, rules out early direct peace talks between the Sri Lankan Government and LTTE.
- October 10 Cadres of the Karuna faction launch an attack on a convoy of LTTE 'Eastern military wing' leader Bhanu with claymore mines and completely destroyed four vehicles in the LTTE-controlled Vavunativu area in Batticaloa district.
- October 12 'Pistol gang' cadres of the LTTE shot dead a civilian, identified as K. Rajadurai, in front of the Weerasingham hall in Jaffna town.

- A LTTE cadre, Rasalingam Pugalenthiran, is shot dead by a group of unidentified assailants wearing military uniforms at Mayilavedduvan in the Eravur area of Batticaloa district.
- October 13 A SF personnel, identified as Private D.M.Dilanga Dissanayake, is killed when LTTE cadres lob a hand grenade and subsequently open fire targeting a security checkpoint in the Santhiveli area of Batticaloa district.
- Unidentified assailants shot dead a police personnel and injured another in the Nellyyadi area of Jaffna district.
- Norwegian peace envoy to Sri Lanka, Trond Furuhojve, hold talks with the political wing leader of the LTTE, S.P. Thamilselvam, in Kilinochchi and stressed the need for renewed peace talks between the Sri Lanka Government and the outfit.
- October 17 Unidentified assailants open fire on a SF checkpoint near the Mariamman Hindu Temple in Puttalam district, killing a police personnel.
- 'Colonel' Karuna, leader of the breakaway LTTE faction, has reportedly appealed to the Prime Minister of United Kingdom, Tony Blair, to take strong and firm action to proscribe the LTTE in the European Union member countries. He also urges the United Nations International Criminal Court that, "It is time that Prabhakaran was indicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity."
- October 18 Unidentified LTTE cadres shot dead a police personnel, identified as Kamal Indrajith, and injure another in the Kalavanchikudy area of Batticaloa district. The Sri Lanka Parliament extends the State of Emergency for another month till November 13.
- This is the second extension of the Emergency, which was imposed on August 13 following the assassination of Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar on the night of August 12.
- October 19 Two unidentified assailants shot dead a local village officer, identified as Perera Weerasingham, in the Kankankulam area of Vavuniya district.
- Unidentified assailants shot dead a civilian, identified as Meeralebbe Mohammodu Hanifa Muslim, in the Akkaraipattu area of Amparai district,
- October 20 The LTTE is reported to have rejected the Norwegian brokered peace talks. "We are informed that the LTTE remains unchanged and they are not ready for talks on the cease-fire agreement or the violations of human rights," stated Government spokesperson, Nimal Siripala de Silva. The spokesperson further told that the Sri Lanka Government totally denied that it had breached the cease-fire agreement by flying an Air Force unmanned aerial vehicle, which crashed in the Vavuniya district on October 19.

- October 26 Two LTTE cadres are killed by the breakaway faction of Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan alias 'Colonel' Karuna in eastern Sri Lanka's Polonnaruwa district.
- October 27 Suspected LTTE cadres shot dead an activist of the North and East Sinhala Organisation, identified as A.W.P Anura, in the ORRS hill area of Trincomalee district.
- October 28 The SLMM chief, Hagrup Haukland, holds discussions with the LTTE political wing leader, S.P. Thamilselvan, in Kilinochchi on upholding the cease-fire during the November 17 elections and strengthening it further in the future. He reportedly has urged the LTTE to expedite the release of three police personnel who were detained on September 9 for entering the outfit-held area to arrest a British pedophile.
- October 30 According to Sri Lanka Army reports, unidentified assailants shot dead a senior Army Intelligence Officer, Lieutenant Colonel T R Meedin of the Military Intelligence Corps, in the Kiribathgoda area of Colombo district.
- October 31 The LTTE cadres lob a hand grenade targeting a group of police personnel in the Jaffna district, killing a police constable, identified as G.R.Lalith Bndara, and injuring three others.
- A LTTE symathiser, suspected to be an informer of the outfit, is shot dead in the Valachchenai area of Batticaloa district.
- November 1 A civilian, Lyyadorai Ganeshan, is shot dead by suspected LTTE cadres in the Black Bridge area of Batticaloa district. Another civilian, identified as Rajendra Rejinikanth, is shot dead by the LTTE cadres in the Nelliady area of Jaffna district.
- November 2 A former cadre of the LTTE, Sellathambi Punyamoorthi, who had deserted the outfit and was leading a normal life, is shot dead by LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres in the Valachchenai area of Batticaloa district.
- November 3 A member of the EPDP, identified as Arumugam Pathmakanthan, is shot dead by unidentified assailants near a police post located north of Batticaloa town. A civilian and three police personnel are also injured in the incident.
- November 5 A civilian, identified as Sinnathrai Muratheelan, suspected to be a former police informant, is shot dead by alleged 'pistol gang' cadres of the LTTE in the Trincomalee district.
- November 6 Unidentified assailants shot dead a civilian, Thasaputhiran Thasakumar, in the Akkaraipattu area of Amparai district.
- November 7 Suspected 'pistol gang' cadres of the LTTE kill a civilian, identified as Velayudan Gnanendran, in the Kannagipuram area of Amparai district.

- November 9 The head of the Secretariat for Co-ordinating the Peace Process, Jayantha Dhanapala, resigns from his post.
- November 11 Two civilians, Mohammed Munas and Athambava Mohammed Lebbe, are killed and four others sustain injuries when a claymore mine exploded at Kirimichchai in the Vaharai area of Batticaloa district. Suspected 'pistol gang' cadres of the LTTE shot dead a police personnel, Constable Senanayake, in the Thirunelveli area of Jaffna district.
- November 12 Unidentified assailants shot dead an EPDP member, identified as Vellaipodi Rasanayagam, in the Wellawatte area of Colombo district.
- November 14 Cadres of the 'Colonel' Karuna faction abduct and subsequently kill two top LTTE leaders, including Amparai district 'military commander' Suresh, in the Akkaraipattu area.
- November 16 Unidentified assailants shot dead a civilian, Ahammad Lebbe Thaheer, in the Natpittymunai area of Amparai district on. Elsewhere, another civilian is shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Maruthamunai area.
- A civilian, identified as Rajmohan Seenithamby, a former member of the TELO, is shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Valaichenai area of Batticaloa district.
- LTTE kills Home Guard Susantha Pathma Kumara in the Handapanwila area of Pollonaruwa district.
- Another SF personnel, Home Guard Ranjith Kumara, is shot dead by a LTTE cadre in the Kalumunai area of Amparai district.
- SFs find two unidentified dead bodies of suspected LTTE cadres in the Navaldy area of Batticaloa district.
- The LTTE and TNA reiterate that there is no change in its position of not supporting any presidential candidate in the November 17 Presidential polls.
- The LTTE breakaway leader 'Colonel' Karuna calls upon the people of the Northeast not to boycott the election.
- November 17 Voting for the presidential poll is held under heavy police deployment across the country. A low voter turnout is reported from the Northern Province after the LTTE announced that it would not support any presidential candidate
- The LTTE cadres shot dead a Muslim religious leader in the Kalmunai area of Amparai district. Another civilian, identified as R.M. Hempala, is shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Ambuwelipuram area of Trincomalee district.
- Two LTTE cadres, Niroshan and Sathyan, are killed and six persons sustain injuries in the Kalumunai area of Amparai district when a

- claymore mine the cadres were preparing inside a civilian's house exploded.
- Security forces discover unidentified dead bodies of two youths allegedly killed by suspected LTTE cadres in the Valaichchenai area of Batticaloa district.
- November 18 Six civilians are killed and 21 others, including a child, sustain injuries when LTTE cadres lobbed hand grenades targeting a mosque in the Akkaraipattu area of Amparai district.
- Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party wins the Presidential poll by defeating Ranil Wickremesinghe of the United National Party.
- November 19 President Mahinda Rajapaksa says that he would restart the stalled peace talks soon. He invites the LTTE to participate in peace talks aimed at durable peace in the country. "I hope the LTTE will consider the peace offer seriously. Both parties can start the peace talks with an agreed timeframe once the LTTE readies for the talks," the President said while addressing the nation. He added that he would take several measures to amend the cease-fire agreement with the LTTE to ensure no future hostile situations.
- November 20 Unidentified assailants shot dead two civilians, Meerasaivu Ahammed Lebbe and his wife Fowziya Lebbaitnamby, in the Valachchenai area of Batticaloa district.
- The Norwegian Government has said that it is willing to continue its role as facilitator of the peace process if both parties - the Government and LTTE - ask for such assistance.
- November 22 The Government will continue the state of emergency, which was imposed after the assassination of Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar on August 12.
- LTTE rejects President Rajapaksa's call for peace talks.
- November 24 President Rajapaksa appoints Deputy Secretary General of the Government's Peace Secretariat, Dr. John Gooneratne, as its new chief. The former head of the Peace Secretariat, Jayantha Dhanapala, who had tendered his resignation to the then President Chandrika Kumaratunga on October 31, will continue as the advisor to the Sri Lankan peace process.
- November 25 In his Statement of Government Policy at the opening of the new Parliamentary session in Colombo, President Mahinda Rajapaksa set out the broad parameters of his Government's new and inclusive approach for 'peace with dignity' to end the ethnic conflict. "Our method is discussion instead of war. We are aware that such discussions are not simple and easy. Yet, it is the only way to peace," he said. Rajapakse added that the current Ceasefire Agreement would be revised to ensure the protection of human rights, prevent

- recruitment of children for war, safeguard national security, and prevent terrorist acts.
- November 26 A suspected LTTE cadre kills a civilian, identified as Marukanda Sashikara, in the Kayts area of Jaffna district.
- November 27 The LTTE issues an ultimatum to the new Government to come up with a 'reasonable' political settlement soon or risk the outfit setting up a separate state next year. LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran in his annual 'Heroes' Day' said their patience was wearing thin and he was making a final appeal for a political settlement that would answer their call for a separate state for the Tamils.
- November 28 President Rajapaksa invites the LTTE for peace talks and promises to maintain the cease-fire agreement.
- The leader of the breakaway faction of LTTE, 'Colonel' Karuna, said that "only India and the UK countries understand our problems very well" and "in particular, India is the country which should come forward to settle our problem." He also said, "The Sri Lankan government should also reconsider the role of Norway, which had facilitated the [Ceasefire] Agreement."
- December 1 Unidentified assailants kill two civilians, Shivakumar and Krisnakumar, and injure another in the Neerveli area of Jaffna district.
- In joint press statement released in New Delhi, Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera emphasizes the continued commitment of the Government to the maintenance of the Ceasefire, and the desire for a review of its operations, so that the implementation of the Agreement can be made more effective. The Government also extends a firm invitation to the LTTE to negotiations for a political solution, the statement added.
- Constitutional Affairs Minister D.E.W. Gunasekara dismisses the LTTE's ultimatum for a political settlement by next year and said no deadline could be imposed to resolve the long-standing ethnic conflict.
- December 2 A civilian, Hemasiri alias Lokku Iya, is shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Anuradhapura junction area of Trincomalee district.
- The Sri Lankan Government describes as "positive" the recent 'Heroes Day' address by LTTE chief Prabhakaran. The Government said that it would act with "responsibility" to the LTTE demand for a reasonable political framework by next year.
- December 3 A soldier, identified as Lance Corporal B.G.S. Jayawardene, is killed and three others are injured when LTTE cadres ambushed an Army truck in the Chavakachcheri area.
- December 4 Six soldiers are killed and four persons, including a soldier, sustained injuries when two claymore mines were detonated, reportedly by the LTTE at Kondavil on the Jaffna-Palaly main road.

At least six civilians are killed and two others sustain injuries in clashes between Muslims and Tamils in the Muttur area of Trincomalee since December 3.

Unidentified assailants have shot dead two civilians, identified as Nizwan and Rizwan, in the Maruthamunai area of Batticaloa district.

December 5 Four cadres of the 'Colonel' Karuna faction, including a senior commander, identified as Iniyabarathy alias Barathy, are killed by the LTTE in the Siyambalanduwa area of Amparai district.

December 6 Six SF personnel are killed and one sustains injuries in a claymore mine explosion in the Irupalai area of Jaffna district.

December 7 A 15-year old cadre of the LTTE open fire and subsequently lob a hand grenade, killing two of his own sisters, identified as Surerasa Yogeshwari and Surerasa Lingam Kutti, and injuring a two-year old infant, in the Mavadivembu area of Batticaloa district.

A civilian is killed and eight persons, including a soldier, sustain injuries when suspected cadres of the LTTE lob a hand grenade in the Vavuniya town.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa invites the Norwegian Government to continue its role as facilitator of the peace process. Norway, meanwhile, agrees to the request to re-start peace talks between the Government and LTTE, but only if certain conditions are met.

December 8 Unidentified assailants have shot dead a Muslim civilian, S. Samsudeen, and injured another one in the Eravur area of Batticaloa district.

December 9 Unidentified assailants have abducted and subsequently killed a LTTE cadre, identified as C. Jeevanandan, in the Valachchenai area of Batticaloa district.

A suspected LTTE cadre, K. P. Shashikumar, is killed by unidentified assailants in the Kiran area of Batticaloa district.

Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg has stated in New Delhi that Oslo will be willing to resume its role as a facilitator if both are "serious" and "respected the ceasefire."

President Rajapakse has told the visiting Japanese Peace Envoy, Yasushi Akashi, that the facilitators and monitors cannot be from the same country (Norway) and there should be two separate entities to facilitate the peace process and to monitor the cease-fire. He has further added that he would welcome monitors from Japan, South Asia and other Scandinavian countries to monitor the Norwegian brokered cease-fire agreement.

- December 10 The LTTE asks Norway to arrange urgent peace talks with the Government to prevent Sri Lanka from sliding back into war after 31 people died in a week of violence.
- December 11 LTTE cadres set free a women cadre of the outfit after killing a police personnel, identified as Mahesh Ranasinghe, on guard duty at a hospital in the Vavuniya district.
- Japan is ready to host direct negotiations between the Sri Lankan Government and LTTE to review the cease-fire agreement, which has been in force since 2002.
- The political wing leader of the LTTE, S.P. Thamilselvan, says that the outfit has vowed to use all available resources to fight unless given a homeland.
- December 12 Unidentified assailants abduct two civilians, Thambirasa Thambymuthu and Chandran Kandasamy, and subsequently shot them dead in the Kiran area of Batticaloa district.
- EPDP activist, Michael Collin alias Murali, is shot dead by LTTE cadres near Allers Garden Refugee Camp in Uppuveli, on the Trincomalee-Nilaveli main road.
- Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickramanayake has stated that in the future, the armed forces would not engage in ground level talks with the Tigers.
- December 14 Suspected LTTE cadres attacked a SLAF MI 17 helicopter on its way to pick up an Italian delegation, including Italian Deputy Foreign Minister, Margherita Boniver, which was on an official visit to Arugambe area in the Amparai district. The helicopter is slightly damaged, but no casualty is reported in the incident.
- A security force personnel, identified as Suresh Anthony, is shot dead by suspected cadres of the LTTE in the Paluuththuwa area of Trincomalee district.
- December 15 Suspected LTTE cadres shot dead a cadre of the breakaway 'Colonel' Karuna faction, Sivapulandu Passirasa alias Thran, in the Kudapokuna area of Polonnaruwa district.
- December 17 Rejecting the Sri Lanka Government proposal of holding the peace talks at an Asian venue, the LTTE has instead suggested Oslo as the ideal venue.
- December 19 A civilian, identified as H.M.Chandrasiri, is shot dead by the LTTE in the Anuradhapura area of Trincomalee district.
- December 20 Unidentified assailants shot dead a SF personnel, Ajit Kumara, in the Vadamarachy East area of Amparai district.

- December 21 Unidentified assailants shot dead a civilian, identified as K. Navaratnam, who was the Jaffna district organiser for the Tamil Resurgence Task Force, in the Hospital Road area of Jaffna town.
- LTTE cadres kill a SF personnel, Private P.A. Pridarshana, in Jaffna district.
- December 22 LTTE cadres shot dead a young girl, Vallinayagi Thambirajah, and injured her father, when she tried to foil their attempt to abduct her sister in the Eravur area of Batticaloa district.
- The LTTE is reported to have shot dead an Army intelligence officer in the Nuwara Eliya district.
- December 23 The LTTE is reported to have blown up a navy road convoy at Thalaimannar area in the northwestern district of Mannar killing at least 15 sailors and injuring 15 more. A defence ministry official told *AFP* the military suspected that LTTE cadres may have used a Claymore type surface mounted explosive device and also fired a rocket-propelled grenade at the convoy.
- LTTE cadres lobbed a hand grenade and subsequently opened fire targeting SF personnel in the Chavakachcheri area of Jaffna district, killing a woman, identified as Markandu Pushpamalar.
- December 24 LTTE cadres made an abortive attempt to ambush SFs who were conducting a cordon and search operation in the Fort area of Jaffna district, injuring three SF personnel. In retaliatory action, SFs killed five LTTE cadres, including a female identified as Tamil Etchchi.
- December 25 A Tamil National Alliance Member of Parliament, Joseph Pararajasingham, was shot dead inside a church in Batticaloa district in the early hours of Christmas day by an unidentified gunman.
- December 26 An army personnel shot dead two LTTE cadres while they were attempting to throw a hand grenade at troops who were on a foot patrol in the Santhiveli area of Batticaloa district.
- Two auto-rickshaw drivers are killed by the LTTE after being accused of being police informers in Trincomalee town.
- In Vavuniya, LTTE cadres shot dead a civilian, Veerappan Thripupathy.
- December 27 11 soldiers are killed and four others injured when LTTE cadres triggered a remote controlled claymore mine explosion targeting an army truck in the Puloly west area of Jaffna district.
- A SF personnel, identified as Sunil, is killed and his wife and brother-in-law are injured when unidentified assailants lobbed a grenade and simultaneously opened fire inside his house in the Sangamam area of Trincomalee district.

- LTTE cadres shot dead a police personnel, Constable Mohammed Meera Naiyaz, in the Kalumunai area of Amparai district.
- December 28 Sri Lankan Army soldiers manning the checkpoint at Mutthirai Junction in Jaffna district, shot dead two youths on a vehicle.
- During a meeting between Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse in New Delhi, the former remained non-committal on Rajapakse's suggestion for India's direct role in the peace process.
- December 31 Security forces detain at least 900 people in a major house-to-house search in the capital Colombo as part of a major hunt for LTTE cadres.
- <http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/shrilanka/timeline/Year2005.html> [37d]
- All the SATP timelines (which cover the years 2000-2006 and (less in detail) the period 1931-1999) can be accessed from the following link: <http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/shrilanka/timeline/index.html> [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)

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 Wannai 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 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]

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)

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]

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, CPSL, 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 17 March 2004, A. Balasingham, who lives in exile in London, is the chief Tiger ideologue. [9cn] On 13 May 2004 BBC News referred to Balasingham as the Tigers' spokesman and chief negotiator. [9cm] Pro-LTTE website TamilNet referred to Balasingham as political advisor to the Liberation Tigers on 14 May 2004 [38n] and as LTTE's political strategist on 17 June 2004 [38o]

BANDARANAIKE Sirimavo

Widow of Solomon Bandaranaike, the founder of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and former Prime Minister who was assassinated in 1959. Assumed the leadership of the SLFP after her husband's assassination and became Prime Minister. She was defeated in 1965, but was Prime Minister again between 1970 and 1977, and for a third term between 1994 and 2000. She resigned in August 2000, at the age of 84, citing ill health as one of her reasons. She died on 10 October 2000 shortly after casting her vote in the country's general election.

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]

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.... Both her parents had been prime ministers of Sri Lanka: her mother, Sirimavoh Bandaranaike, was the world’s first woman prime minister... During her 1994 election campaign and in power, Mrs Kumaratunga moved rapidly to accelerate the process of economic liberalisation in Sri Lanka. 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.... She continues as president, but has a rocky relationship with Mr Wickramasinghe’s government.... 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. In May 2003, she indicated that she would be prepared to sack Mr Wickramasinghe’s government if she felt it was making too many concessions to the rebels...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 2 February 2004 it was reported by BBC News that President Kumaratunga had dissolved the parliament, paving the way for snap elections that would be held on 2 April, nearly four years ahead of schedule [9ar] 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 July [2005] 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. [1b]

(See also Section 3 on History)

PRABHAKARAN (PIRAPAHARAN) Velupillai

Leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. 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]

PREMADASA Ranasinghe

UNP Prime Minister of Sri Lanka under President Jayawardene. He was elected President in December 1988 and sworn in the following month. He was assassinated by a bomb explosion in Colombo on 1 May 1993.

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.” He was prime minister until that moment, being sworn in on 6 April 2004, further to the general election of that month. (Europa World Online) [1b] As outlined in a BBC News profile dated 6 April 2004 the 58-year-old Buddhist lawyer in 1970, then aged 24, had become the youngest ever parliamentarian.

“He comes from a political family – his father, DA Rajapakse, represented the same region of Hambantota from 1947 to 1965. As labour minister, Mr Rajapakse tried to push through legislation to guarantee the rights of workers – but failed after complaints from big businesses.... Until his appointment as prime minister, he was opposition leader in parliament. He is a member of the coalition led by President Kumaratunga, the United People’s Freedom Alliance.” [9cp]

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]

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Annex E: Major incidents of terrorist violence in Sri Lanka, 1992 – 2006

The following list produced by SATP (South Asia Terrorism Portal) covers the major terrorist incidents in Sri Lanka between 1992 and 30 September 2006.

<http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/shrilanka/database/majorincidents.htm> [37g]

2006

September 30: Government officials claim that 16 cadres of the LTTE, 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.

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.

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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- September 14: Three civilians are shot dead by suspected LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres in the Mathawathakulam area of Vavuniya district.
- September 10: Three soldiers are killed in a LTTE triggered-pressure mine explosion in the Asikkulama area of Vavuniya 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 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- August 26-27: Nine soldiers are killed and nine others sustain injuries when an IED planted by the LTTE exploded in the Muhamalai area of Jaffna district.
- 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.
- August 24: Five cadres of the LTTE and a STF personnel are killed in the Urani area of Batticaloa 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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 Dehiwela Colombo. 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.
- 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 today succumb to their injuries.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- August 5: Security forces kill five LTTE cadres who infiltrated the security forces forward defence lines at Kothweli in the Kilali region of Jaffna district.
- 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.

- August 3: Fifteen 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 28: 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 in the Vavunathivu area of Batticaloa district.
- July 27: Sri Lanka Air Force fighter crafts struck selected LTTE targets in the east of Mullaittivu district, where the LTTE was reportedly constructing an illegal airstrip, killing six cadres and injuring five civilians.
- July 20: Five cadres of the LTTE 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- July 14: At least 12 soldiers and four LTTE cadres are killed in clash between the troops and the outfit cadres in the Vakaneri area of Batticaloa district.
- 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 Sea Tigers on board.
- July 3: Seven persons, including five SF personnel, are killed in a LTTE-triggered claymore mine explosion at Anuradhapura junction in the Trincomalee district. At least 14 persons are wounded in the blast.
- 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.
- 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 Vakaraia area of Batticaloa district.
- 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.
- June 20: Eight LTTE cadres are killed during an overnight clash with the 'Colonel' Karuna group cadres in the Trincomalee district.
- 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.
- 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.
- June 16: Three civilians are allegedly killed by the SLA personnel in the Welgampura area of Trincomalee district.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 accused 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.
- 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.
- June 6: Two police personnel and a civilian are killed in a 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.
- 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 Pollonaruwa district.
- 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.
- May 26: 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.
- May 25: Four police personnel are killed in an LTTE-triggered claymore mine attack in the Kattankudy area of Batticaloa district.
- May 24: Three SF personnel are killed in an LTTE-triggered claymore mine attack in the Thandikulam area of Vavuniya district.
- May 19: Five LTTE cadres are killed by cadres of the ‘Colonel’ Karuna group in the Sampur area of Trincomalee district.

- 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. In the first incident, nine members of two families are shot dead. The police also recovered four bodies with bullet wounds from the same area and said that all the murders are connected.
- May 11: At least 17 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.
- 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.
- May 4: Troops kill seven cadres of the LTTE in a retaliatory fire when outfit cadres attacked SFs with hand grenades at Nelliady in the Jaffna town, injuring two soldiers.
- May 2: Cadres of the 'Colonel' Karuna faction attacked the LTTE camp in Batticaloa, killing eight of the outfit's cadres.
- May 1: The LTTE triggers an improvised explosive device 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.
- April 30: The LTTE raids camps belonging to 'Colonel' Karuna faction in the Welikanda area of Polannaruwa district, killing 20 of its cadres.
- April 26: At least four civilians are killed and 12 others, including two sailors, are injured when the LTTE directed mortar fire towards the naval jetty in Muttur.
- April 25: Army Commander Lt. General Sarath Fonseka is critically injured while at least eight persons are 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.
- April 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 18: The pro-LTTE website Tamilnet claims that the Sri Lanka Army soldiers killed five Tamil civilians near the SLA 51-1 Division camp located at Vatharavathai, 13 km north-east of Jaffna.
- 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.
- April 15: At least four soldiers are killed and several others wounded in a suspected LTTE triggered claymore mine explosion in the Vavuniya district.
- April 12: LTTE cadres set off an IED outside a vegetable market, killing at least five people in the Trincomalee district. Six more persons were killed in the subsequent mob violence in which shops, including those belonging to Tamils and Muslims, are set ablaze. 38 persons were injured in the two incidents.
- 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 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.
- 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 on near a naval craft. The boat, believed to be carrying explosives, was approached by a Naval Fast Attack Craft to carry out an inspection when it exploded in the Kalpitiya region of Puttalam district, 200 km north of capital Colombo.
- 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 Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) personnel, killing four sea Tigers on board and injuring a SLN personnel, who succumbed to his injuries later.
- January 26: A senior LTTE cadre, identified as 'Major' Kavilan, is killed in the Vadamunai area of Batticaloa district.
- 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.
- January 23: Suspected LTTE cadres attack an army patrol near the Batticaloa town, detonating a claymore mine, killing three soldiers and wounding two others.
- January 21: Twenty-seven LTTE cadres are killed in an explosion that occurred in the Adampan area of Mannar district.

- 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.
- 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.
- January 15: Three women relatives of a LTTE cadre are shot dead by unidentified assailants in Manipay, close to the Manipay Hindu College in Jaffna district
- January 12: Nine SLN personnel are killed and eight others sustain injuries in a suspected LTTE triggered claymore mine blast in Chettikulam on the Mannar-Medawachchiya road.
- 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
- January 7: Fifteen 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.
- January 2: Five people are killed and two others sustain injuries in a bomb blast in Trincomalee.

2005

- December 27: Eleven soldiers are killed and four others injured when LTTE cadres triggered a remote controlled claymore mine explosion targeting an army truck in the Puloly west area of Jaffna district.
- December 6: Six SF personnel are killed and one sustains injuries in a claymore mine explosion in the Irupalai area of Jaffna district.
- December 5: Four cadres of the 'Colonel' Karuna faction, including a senior commander, identified as Iniyabarathy alias Barathy, are killed by the LTTE in the Siyambalanduwa area of Amparai district.
- December 4: Six soldiers are killed and four persons, including a soldier, sustained injuries when two claymore mines were detonated by the LTTE at Kondavil on the Jaffna-Palaly main road.
- At least six civilians are killed and two others sustain injuries in clashes between Muslims and Tamils in the Muttur area of Trincomalee since December 3.
- November 18: Six civilians are killed and 21 others, including a child, sustain injuries when LTTE cadres lobbed hand grenades targeting a mosque in the Akkaraipattu area of Amparai district.

- November 14: Cadres of the 'Colonel' Karuna faction abduct and subsequently kill two top LTTE leaders, including Amparai district 'military commander' Suresh, in the Akkaraipattu area.
- November 11: Two civilians, Mohammed Munas and Athambava Mohammed Lebbe, are killed and four others sustain injuries when a claymore mine exploded at Kirimichchai in the Vaharai area of Batticaloa district.
- October 7: Two civilians, Selvarajah Selvakumar and Arumugam Paramanathan, are shot dead and eight others sustained injuries when unidentified assailants opened fire and simultaneously lob a grenade in the Valaichenai area of Batticaloa district.
- September 8: LTTE cadres lob a hand grenade and subsequently opened fire targeting the security forces, killing two police personnel and injuring six others in the Kattankudy area of Batticaloa district.
- September 6: Three LTTE cadres are allegedly killed and five others wounded by the Karuna faction in an attack at the outfit's camp at Kattumurivu in the Vakarai area of Batticaloa district.
- August 12: Sri Lanka's Foreign Affairs Minister, Lakshman Kadirgamar, is shot dead by an unidentified gunman near his private residence on Bullers Lane in the heart of the capital Colombo.
- LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres kill two civilians, Sinnadorai Selvarajah and his wife Welangee Selvarajah, inside their business centre at Wellawatta. While Sinnadorai was a strong supporter of the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam, his wife Welangee was an ex-announcer at the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Cooperation and Sri Lanka Rupavahini Cooperation.
- July 14: Three civilians are killed by suspected LTTE cadres at Akkaraipattu in the Amparai district.
- July 13: Nine civilians are injured when a suspected LTTE cadre threw a hand grenade at a Tsunami relief centre situated in the Muttur area of Trincomalee district.
- In another grenade attack by the LTTE, 10 Army personnel, including one officer, attached to the Pansalwatte detachment are injured in Trincomalee district.
- July 12: Thirteen police personnel are injured at Uppuveli in the Trincomalee district in a grenade attack carried out by suspected LTTE cadres.
- July 10: Four LTTE cadres, including two senior leaders identified as Dikkan and Sinnavan, are killed by the rival 'colonel' Karuna group at the Selvanayagapuram Agriculture Training Institute in Trincomalee district.
- June 30: Three soldiers are shot dead at Urani in the Batticaloa district by the LTTE.

- May 31: The LTTE shot dead a Commanding Officer of the Army Intelligence Unit, Major Nizam Mutalif, at Polhengoda in the capital Colombo.
- April 21: Five LTTE cadres are killed and seven others wounded in a pre-dawn attack by the 'Colonel' Karuna faction at Kanjikudichcha Aaru in the Amparai district, about 250 kilometers east of the capital Colombo
- April 15: Divisional Secretary for Thirukkivil, A. K Thavarajah, is shot dead by an unidentified gunman in Thirukkivil.
- April 14: Five cadres of a 'paramilitary group' are killed during an attack on their camp by suspected LTTE cadres at Sorivil in the Welikanda area of Polonnaruwa district, 80 kilometers northwest of Batticaloa.
- April 4: LTTE's pistol group kills a senior Government functionary, T. Kailanandan, Director of Vocational Training Ministry at the Kattankudy Technical College, in Batticaloa.
- March 26: Five LTTE cadres are killed by cadres of the rival 'Colonel' Karuna faction at Tharavai in the Batticaloa district.
- March 5: Six civilians are shot dead at Welikanda in the Polonnaruwa district by cadres of the LTTE.
- February 7: LTTE's Eastern Political wing leader, Kaushalyan, his deputy Nedimaran and three other LTTE cadres are killed during an ambush at Poonani in the Batticaloa district. Ariyanayagam Chandra Nehru, ex-Tamil National Alliance Member of Parliament for the Amparai district who got injured succumbs to his injuries in Colombo on February 8.

2004

- December 11: At least two persons are killed and 15 others sustain injuries during a bomb blast at the end of a concert by Shahrukh Khan, an Indian film actor, in the capital Colombo.
- September 29: Five LTTE cadres and a civilian are killed in clashes between warring factions of the outfit in the Batticaloa district.
- July 25: Seven suspected cadres of the LTTE faction led by 'Colonel' Karuna and a civilian are shot dead at a house in Kottawa near the Sri Lankan capital Colombo.
- July 7: A suspected woman LTTE suicide bomber blows herself up at the Kollupitiya Police station next to the Sri Lankan Prime Minister's official residence in Colombo killing herself and four police personnel and injuring nine persons.
- May 31: A senior journalist, G. Nadeshan, is shot dead by suspected LTTE cadres at Manmunai junction in the Batticaloa district.

- April 9: At least 22 people are reported killed as heavy fighting erupted between the LTTE factions of Velupillai Prabhakaran and Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan alias 'Colonel' Karuna near the Verugal River, 78 Kilometers from Batticaloa.
- January 9: Three people are killed and 38 others sustain injuries when a hand grenade allegedly lobbed by two LTTE cadres exploded at a funeral house in the LTTE-held Vakaneri area of Batticaloa district.

2003

- November 26: Three Muslims are killed and six others injured in a grenade attack by the LTTE in the Trincomalee and Kinniya area.
- March 20: Suspected Sea Tiger cadres of the LTTE sink a Chinese fishing trawler, 33km northwest of Mullaithivu. While 16 fishermen are reported missing, 16 more are rescued.
- February 8: In a serious violation of truce terms, three Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) cadres blow themselves up in a boat carrying arms and ammunition off Delft island.

2002

- March 21: A blast at an ammunition dump of the Sri Lankan Army in Vavuniya destroys a large stock of 7.62 ammunition and 150 grenades, 120 smoke bombs.

2001

- November 18: Senior Buddhist monk and chief priest of Sripura, Ven.Pihimbiyagolle Dhammaloka, is killed in a claymore mine blast while three others, including two clerics, are injured when their vehicle hits a claymore mine at Konamariyawa.
- November 15: Three Army intelligence personnel and a civilian are killed while eight others are injured in a suicide bomb attack at a high security zone in Batticaloa.
- October 30: Suicide squad of the Sea Tigers destroys an oil tanker, mt Silk Pride, 12 nautical miles north of Point Pedro. Three Navy personnel and four LTTE cadres are killed.
- LTTE cadres kill 11 police personnel in an attack on their post two kilometers away from Muttur, near the 64th milepost.
- October 24: Seven Army personnel, including a Lieutenant Colonel, are killed in a claymore mine blast in Nellyyadi, Jaffna peninsula.
- October 9: Four Air Force personnel are killed as LTTE attacks an Air Force detachment at Volverikulam, 10km north west of Trincomalee.
- September 16: 15 naval troops are killed in a LTTE Sea Tigers' attack off-Point Pedro.

- August 20: LTTE cadres attack the main police station in Central Camp, 35km away from Batticaloa and kill 15 police personnel and injure 17 others.
- July 24: LTTE attacks the Air Force base in Katunayake and the Bandaranaike International Airport, on the outskirts of Colombo. Eight military aircraft, including Kfir jets, and six Airbus passenger aircraft are destroyed or damaged in the attack. Seven security force personnel are killed while 12 more are injured in the attack.
- June 25: LTTE targets a bus ferrying government troops with a claymore mine in Madduvil North, near Jaffna, killing six troops and injuring 20 more.
- May 28: Senior PLOTE member Arunthavarajah Thamilvasan is shot dead in Mannar.
- May 22: 10 naval personnel are killed and 17 others are injured as LTTE carries out a claymore mine blast in the Thambalagamuwa general area, 40km away from Trincomalee.
- March 21: At least 15 naval personnel are killed in a LTTE attack on two Dovra class fast attack craft of the Sri Lankan Navy.

2000

- November 7: TULF Member of Parliament representing Batticaloa district is shot dead in Chenkaladi, near Batticaloa.
- October 23: LTTE shoots down helicopter gun ships and in a suicide attack on the Trincomalee harbour destroys two naval vessels.
- October 19: Three civilians are killed and 21 others, including three American nationals, are injured in a suicide bomb attack near the Colombo Town Hall as the new Cabinet takes oath.
- BBC correspondent Mylvaganam Nirmalarajan is killed by unidentified terrorists in Jaffna.
- October 5: Deputy Minister for Health and Indigenous Medicine, Tissa Karaliyaddea, survives a suicide bomb attack at an election rally. 12 people, including a police officer, are killed in the attack.
- September 30: Deputy Posts and Telecommunications Minister survives an assassination attempt in Batticaloa.
- September 10: Chelian Perinpanayagam, the former Mayor of Batticaloa, is shot dead along with a supporter in eastern Kalumunai.
- September 1: 15 Air Force personnel are killed in a LTTE attack on their vehicle in northern Sri Lanka.

June 7: C. V. Gooneratne, Minister for Industrial Development, is assassinated by a male LTTE suicide bomber in Ratmalana, near Colombo.

1999

September 18: Suspected LTTE cadres, many of them women, attack three villages killing 50 persons.

December 18: LTTE makes an unsuccessful attempt on the life of President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

1997

October 15: 18 persons are killed as LTTE suicide bombers drive a truck packed with a large quantity of explosives into the twin tower World Trade Centre building in Colombo.

1996

July 24: 70 persons are killed and approximately 600 others are injured as LTTE bombs a passenger train near the capital Colombo.

January 31: An estimated 91 persons are killed in an attack on the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in Colombo.

1995

November 11: 15 persons are killed in a failed LTTE attack on the Army Headquarters in Colombo.

1998

January 25: 13 persons are killed in a LTTE suicide attack at Sri Lanka's holiest Buddhist shrine, Temple of Tooth, in Kandy.

1994

May 1: President Ranasinghe Premadasa is assassinated by the LTTE at a rally.

1992

November 16: Suicide attack kills the Commander of Sri Lankan Navy, Vice Admiral Clancy Fernando.

August 8: The Army chief, Lt. Gen. Denzil Kobbekaduwa is killed in a landmine blast in Kayts, northern Sri Lanka.

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Annex F: Incidents involving the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam)

A list produced by SATP (South Asia Terrorism Portal) covers incidents involving the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) from 1976 onwards. The section reproduced below covers the incidents that happened in August and September 2006. The full list can be accessed from:

http://www.satp.org/satporqtp/countries/shrilanka/terroristoutfits/LTTE_tl.htm [37h]

2006

September 30: Government officials claim that 16 cadres of the LTTE, 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. A former member of the EPDP, Ponnaiya Srikanan, is shot dead by suspected LTTE cadres in the Point Pedro area of Jaffna district.

Two civilians are abducted by the LTTE cadres from the Thamparaveli area to an undisclosed destination. 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.

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. LTTE cadres shot dead a civilian, R. Ampalangan, at Irupalai in the Jaffna district.

A Police constable is shot dead and three others are wounded by suspected LTTE cadres in the Vavuniya town.

Three soldiers are injured in LTTE firing towards troops on duty in the Ariyalai area of Jaffna district.

A soldier receives injuries due to LTTE triggered explosion of anti personnel mine at Vempotukerni in the Batticaloa district. 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 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.

LTTE cadres, using mortars, intermittently attack troops deployed in the Ampan area, injuring three soldiers.

A soldier is injured during an APM explosion carried out by the LTTE in the Kattiaran area of Ampara district. One soldier is injured in a LTTE-triggered APM explosion in the Ponnar area of Ampara district.

One civilian is injured in a LTTE mortar fire directed towards the Sangamankanda Special Task Force camp in the Ampara district.

September 27: A suspected LTTE cadre shot at and wounded a woman in the Uduppiddy area of Jaffna district. One LTTE cadre surrenders before the troops at the Kadjuwatta Army camp in the Trincomalee district.

September 26: One soldier is killed in a LTTE fire in the Eluthumadduval area of Jaffna district.

Two children are injured when suspected LTTE cadres shot at them in the Kalawanchikudi area of Batticaloa district.

One Army officer is injured in an APM explosion carried out by LTTE cadres in the Selvanagar area of Trincomalee district.

One soldier received injuries in an APM explosion, planted by LTTE during a clearing operation in the Muhamalai area of Jaffna district.

A LTTE cadre surrenders before the troops at the Kallar Army detachment in the Batticaloa 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.

September 25: A civilian, identified as Mohammed Musur, is shot dead by a suspected LTTE cadre in the Trincomalee town.

Suspected LTTE cadres detonate a roadside bomb in Vavuniya, killing a SLAF personnel and injured another.

One soldier is injured in a LTTE fire in the Kalladichchenai area of Trincomalee district.

Six LTTE cadres surrender at the Home Guards point at Rideetenna in the Welikanda area of Pollonaruwa district, after escaping from the LTTE's military stations in Vakarai.

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 [sic] LTTE fire in the Iluppukulam area of Trincomalee district and recovered the dead bodies of two outfit cadres from the incident site during the subsequent search operation. Four civilians abducted by LTTE cadres from Hiralugama in the Anuradhapura district return home safely.

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 23: Three home guards sustain injuries in a LTTE fire on the Police post at Bakmitiyawa Kovil junction in the Damana area of Ampara district.

A home guard is injured when LTTE cadres open fire towards the Pillumalai Special Task Force camp in the Ampara district.

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.

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.

Another woman, identified as Ilayathambi Appuda Malar, is shot dead by LTTE cadres in the Eravur area of Batticaloa district.

A civilian, identified as Thambirajah Kandanadan, is shot dead by the LTTE in the Wilpattu sanctuary area close to Andimunai in the Puttalam district.

Elsewhere, the same group of LTTE cadres lobbed a hand grenade towards civilians in the Chilaw area, injuring two of them.

LTTE cadres shot dead a postman, Navarasa Thavarsa, attached to the Thelippalai Post Office in the Chankani area of Jaffna district. A civilian, K. Amirthalingam, is shot dead by LTTE cadres in the Velvetithurai area of Jaffna district.

One soldier is injured in an exchange of fire between troops and LTTE cadres in the Kodikamam area of Jaffna district.

During subsequent search operations, troops recover the dead body of one LTTE cadre from the incident site. Three Sinhala civilians, employed as labourers for a Tsunami reconstruction site in the Komari area of Ampara district, sustain injuries in a LTTE grenade attack.

One soldier is injured in an LTTE attack at Iruppukulam in the Vavuniya district.

According to reports, a cluster of LTTE boats trying to reach the shores off Nagarkovil area are chased away by the troops after firing towards them.

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.

The only survivor of the Pottuvil massacre, who is now at the Ampara hospital, claims that the LTTE killed his colleagues at the anicut.

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.

The Sri Lankan Air Force attack LTTE positions in the Batticaloa district, where soldiers escaped injury from a roadside bomb explosion. One LTTE cadre involved in the blast is later arrested.

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.

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.

September 17: The Sri Lankan Navy and Air Force in a coordinated attack on September 17 sank a 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.

Suspected LTTE cadres detonate a roadside bomb targeting SFs on foot patrol in the Trincomalee district, wounding four persons. The injured includes three civilians and a soldier.

The Sri Lankan authorities exhume the bodies of three aid workers for a French charity - Action Against Hunger - who were among 17 killed in Muttur in August.

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 15: A Naval personnel was killed by LTTE cadres in the Trincomalee town.

Troops attack LTTE targets in the Trincomalee 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.

The Army releases a CD containing photographs of the aerial attacks carried out by the Air Force on identified LTTE targets in the north and east. It contains a list of 11 locations.

September 14: Three civilians are shot dead by suspected LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres in the Mathawathakulam area of Vavuniya district.

A civilian, identified as Arunasalam Satkunarajah, is shot dead by LTTE cadres in the Trincomalee town.

One SLA officer and a soldier are injured in a LTTE artillery fire towards the SFs in the Muhamale area of Jaffna district.

Four LTTE cadres, including two minors, surrender to the Mankerni Army detachment in the Punani area of Batticaloa district.

September 13: One Police constable is killed as police retaliated an LTTE attack on a Police post in the Murunkan area of Mannar district. A soldier is killed as he got trapped in a LTTE booby trap in the Kilaly area of Jaffna district.

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.

One soldier is killed and four others are wounded when LTTE fire artillery shells and mortar bombs at the SFs defense line in the Jaffna district.

LTTE cadres attack SFs foot patrol in the Nagarkovil area close to Muhamale in Jaffna district, killing two soldiers.

Three soldiers are injured in an attack by the LTTE cadres towards Muhamale Army camp in the Jaffna district.

One of them later succumbs to his injuries. One soldier is killed in a LTTE mortar bomb attack in the Trincomalee district.

SFs kill two LTTE cadres when they attacked a military camp in the Vavuniya town 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, succumbs to their injuries today.

One LTTE cadre swallows cyanide capsule and commit suicide when troops tried to overpower him as he attempted to lob a hand grenade towards them in the Valachchenai area of Batticaloa district.

At least 13 civilians, including three women, were injured in a LTTE grenade attack in the Vavuniya town.

Two soldiers are injured when LTTE cadres detonated a claymore mine using remote control device targeting troops in an area between Nelukkulam and Raasedrakulum of the Vavuniya district.

Troops retaliate [sic] two separate LTTE attacks near the Mavil Aru defense line and a bunker in the same area of Trincomalee district, injuring at least three outfit cadres. One SF personnel is also injured in the incident.

One soldier is injured in a LTTE fire towards the Kilaly Forward Defence Line of SFs in the Jaffna district. LTTE cadres lob a hand grenade at the political office of TMVP, a breakaway faction of the outfit led by 'Colonel' Karuna, in the Chenkalady area of Batticaloa district.

A LTTE area leader and his two bodyguards who accompanied the bodies of five LTTE child soldiers killed in recent Jaffna battles to be handed over to their parents in Adampan in the Mannar district are assaulted by villagers.

September 12: An infant and her father were shot dead by 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.

Three civilians and an equal number of police personnel were injured when LTTE cadres detonated a claymore mine targeting a police vehicle, close to a school that has housed displaced people in the Trincomalee town.

Two police personnel 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.

Three home guards out of a group of four on duty in the Kuriniyankulam, area of Trincomalee are missing since September 11-afternoon after LTTE terrorists opened fire at them while they were on duty in the area.

LTTE cadres abduct a 15-year-old boy, A. Subhaschandra, from the Karuwankerny area of Batticaloa district.

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.

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.

A civilian, identified as Nahaman Shanmugan, who reportedly refused to plant an LTTE bomb targeting troops is shot dead by LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres in the Chenkalady area of Batticaloa district.

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, are killed in the confrontations in Jaffna since September 8. Reports added that 130 LTTE cadres are among the 260 wounded.

Unidentified assailants in the Trincomalee district kill an aid worker, identified as Rangunathan Ramalingam, for the Seattle-based non-profit group, World Concern.

September 10: Three soldiers are killed in a LTTE triggered-pressure mine explosion in the Asikkulama area of Vavuniya district.

A civilian is shot at and injured by LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres in the Chundikuli area Jaffna district.

LTTE cadres detonate a claymore mine targeting troops on foot patrol near the Jaffna Hindu College, injuring one civilian.

The dead bodies of at least 11 LTTE cadres are recovered from the newly captured Forward Defence Lines, and are handed over to the ICRC.

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 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.

A civilian, Nandaraja Jagadeeswaran, is shot dead by LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres in the general area (area under Government control) of Jaffna district.

Two LTTE cadres, Sutha and Viji. P. Thayamohan, are killed by SFs in the Valaichenai area of Batticaloa district.

Suspected LTTE cadres shot at and injured a civilian in the Potankadu area of Trincomalee district.

Suspected LTTE cadres shot at and injured a civilian in the Potankadu area of Trincomalee district.

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.

Six civilians, including two schoolgirls, and one police personnel are injured in a claymore mine explosion in the general area (area under Government control) of Vavuniya district.

The dead body of a civilian, abducted a day earlier by LTTE cadres, is recovered from the incident site.

One soldier is injured in a LTTE grenade attack at troops in the Velvetithurai area of Jaffna district.

Another soldier is injured in a LTTE mortar fire on the SFs Forward Defence Line in the Muhamalai Entry/Exit point area of Jaffna district.

One soldier is injured in a LTTE attack towards troops on duty at Vavunathivu Divisional Secretariat building in the Jaffna district.

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.

LTTE cadres fire artillery towards the SFs FDL in the Kilali area of Jaffna district, killing one soldier.

Two soldiers are injured in a LTTE anti-personnel mine explosion in the Navatkuli area of Jaffna district.

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.

A civilian, identified as Sivarasa Sivasekaran, is shot dead by LTTE cadres at Kokuvil in the Jaffna district. One woman is also injured in the incident.

Another civilian, Sathgunarasa Rusanthan, is shot dead by LTTE cadres in the Thirunelveli area of Jaffna district.

One soldier is killed and three others sustain injuries in a LTTE artillery and mortar fire on SFs Forward Defence Line at Nagarkovil in the Jaffna district.

Troops kill one LTTE cadre in the Eathawetunawewa area of Trincomalee district. One civilian is injured in a LTTE fire in the Meesalai Perumkulam area of Jaffna district.

LTTE cadres fire mortars towards the SFs FDL in the Muhamalei area of Jaffna district, injuring two soldiers. One police constable attached to the Mannar Police station is shot and injured by LTTE cadres on Pallaimunnai road.

Another police personnel is injured in a LTTE grenade attack towards Police personnel providing security to the S L M M office in Vavuniya.

September 5: An active member of the EPDP, Nallathambi Punarathnam, is shot dead by LTTE cadres in the Valaichchenai area of Batticaloa district.

A civilian is shot dead by LTTE cadres in the Vinayagapuram area of Batticaloa district.

A civilian, identified as Vishwalingam, is shot dead by LTTE cadres in the Trincomalee district as he refused to pay extortion money to the outfit cadres.

LTTE cadres open fire from the Pallukudiyaruppu area towards troops on clearing operation at Sampur in the Trincomalee district, killing one soldier and injuring 31 others.

LTTE open fire towards the Selvanagar Army camp in the Sampur area of Trincomalee district killing one soldier and injuring four others.

LTTE cadres open fire on troops in the Mavilaru area of Trincomalee district, injuring a soldier.

A suspected LTTE cadre lobs a hand grenade targeting a strong point of the SFs in Kokuvil area of Jaffna district, injuring a civilian, as the grenade missed its intended target.

LTTE detain at least 15 trucks out of a total of 127 that entered into the Kilinochchi and Mullaittivu districts with consignments of essential food items during 26th August - 1st September 2006.

September 4: 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.

LTTE cadres shot dead a civilian, identified as Loganadan, in the Avarankal area of Jaffna district.

A civilian along with his wife and daughter is slain by a LTTE cadre in the Inuvil area. The victim, Muththuthambi Jeganadan, dies on admission to the hospital, but his wife and daughter escaped with minor injuries.

September 3: A suspected LTTE cadre shot dead a civilian, identified as Sellaiya Sevaraja, near the Kalaimagar School in the Trincomalee town.

A soldier is killed in LTTE artillery fire towards the Selweanagar Army detachment in Trincomalee district.

Two soldiers are injured in a LTTE mortar attack towards the troops at Eluthumaduval FDL in Jaffna district.

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.

September 2: One soldier is killed and two others sustain injuries in a LTTE artillery fire targeting troops at Nagarkovil Forward Defence line. Troops confirm that at least 15 LTTE cadres, including two area leaders, are injured during retaliation.

One LTTE cadre surrenders to the troops on route clearing patrol at LB 2 in the Kanthale area of Trincomalee district.

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 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."

- 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.
- Two police personnel are injured when a LTTE cadre lobbed a hand grenade at the police roadblock in the Chenkalady area of Batticaloa district. The cadre is arrested later.
- LTTE cadres shot at and injured a police personnel in the Eravul area of Batticaloa district.
- 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.
- Five LTTE cadres, including two child soldiers, surrender to the ICRC office in Batticaloa town.
- 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.
- 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.
- Two dead bodies with gun shot injuries were recovered near Kandaswamy temple in Vavuniya district. 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. A woman who was shot at and injured by LTTE cadres in the Batticaloa district on August 27 when she opposed to their attempt to abduct and conscript her son to the outfit reportedly succumbs to her injuries later.
- LTTE cadres shot dead a former cadre of the outfit, Periyathambi Velupillai, for his refusal to re-join the organization in the Valaichchena area of the Batticaloa district. Three SF personnel are injured when LTTE cadres directed mortar fire at Army detachments in the Sittandy and Sandiveli areas of the Batticaloa district.

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 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.

One soldier is killed and another sustain injuries at Susaipullaiyarakulam in the Vavuniya district when LTTE cadres shot at the troops.

Four soldiers are injured in a LTTE mortar fire directed towards troops in the Kilaly area of Jaffna district. Three soldiers are injured an LTTE-triggered claymore mine explosion while they were on foot patrol in the Sarasalai area of Jaffna district. One sailor is injured when LTTE using explosion of a claymore mine ambushed a Navy route clearing patrol at Pesalai in the Mannar district.

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.

August 27: The death toll of soldiers in the LTTE-triggered Improvised Explosive Device blast at Muhamalai in Jaffna rose to nine.

LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres shot dead a Muslim civilian, identified as Mohomad Jefthri Abdul, in the Linganagar area of Trincomalee district.

Seven soldiers are injured when LTTE cadres fired mortars and artillery towards troops attached to the Selvenagar Army Detachment in the Trincomalee district.

In retaliation, troops launched direct and indirect fire on identified LTTE positions in the Sampoor area.

LTTE cadres shot at and injure a woman who refused to hand over her young son to the outfit at Vandaramoolai in the Batticaloa district.

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.

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. Troops damage one LTTE boat in a retaliatory fire on a flotilla of LTTE boats in the seas off Elephant Point in the Batticaloa district. One civilian is injured in the LTTE fire.

One soldier is injured in a LTTE fire towards an Army picket point at Meesalai in the Jaffna district. A home guard is shot at and injured by LTTE cadres in the Deegawapiya area of Ampara district

August 25: One LTTE cadre is killed when police personnel retaliated LTTE fire in the Thirukkivil area of Ampara district.

The dead body of a civilian with gun shot injuries is recovered at Welikanda on the Polonnaruwa-Batticaloa main road.

One women home guard is shot at and injured by LTTE cadres in the Vavuniya town.

The SLAF jets attack a LTTE base east of Iranamadu in the Kilinochchi district and destroyed several camps there.

August 24: Five cadres of the LTTE and a STF personnel are killed in the Urani area of Batticaloa district.

An attack launched by LTTE cadres towards the Mahakachchakodiya Forward Defence Line in the Vavuniya district killed one soldier.

Troops killed one cadre of the outfit in the retaliatory fire. The dead bodies of a civilian and an off-duty soldier killed by LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres are recovered from railway track near the Vavuniya railway station.

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.

A civilian, identified as D.A. Lenin Perera, is killed by LTTE cadres in the Thorankadu area of Trincomalee district. Troops retaliate LTTE fire at Nawakkulam Forward Defence Line in the Omanthai area of Vavuniya district, killing one LTTE cadre. The SLAF destroys a LTTE sea base in the Mullaitivu district as SLAF planes launched two air strikes on August 24-morning. The office of TRO, a LTTE front organization, in the Jaffna district is torched with documents burnt.

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.

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 23: 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.
- One civilian and a police personnel are injured in a LTTE fire in the Salambaikulam area of Batticaloa district.
- 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.
- One soldier is injured in a LTTE fire targeting troops on foot patrol in the Vandaramoolai 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.
- August 22: LTTE cadres lob a hand grenade at a sentry point of the security forces at Achchuveli in the Jaffna district, killing one soldier and injuring three others.
- One soldier is injured when LTTE cadres fire mortar shells on Vavunathivu Army camp in the Batticaloa district.
- The Colombo Police foils a suspected LTTE attack targeting a legislator after defusing a 15-kilogram claymore mine rigged to a vegetable seller's bike in a busy market area. The SLA claims that it destroyed an ammunition dump of the LTTE close to the frontline of fighting in the Jaffna district. The head of the LTTE's Political Wing, S. P. Thamilchelvan states that it was the Colombo Government, which launched a major military offensive in Trincomalee against the outfit and thereby triggered defensive measures by the LTTE resulting in an escalation of hostilities.
- 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.
- One police personnel is injured in a LTTE-triggered claymore mine explosion targeting police personnel on duty at Salambakulam in the Vavuniya district.

Another soldier is injured in an exchange of fire between troops and LTTE cadres in the Kinniady area of Batticaloa district.

August 19: Military sources said that more than 80 LTTE cadres are killed during two days of intermittent artillery fire near security forces Forward Defence Line in the Muhammalai area of Jaffna peninsula.

At least 10 soldiers are killed and more than a dozen are wounded by LTTE cadres when the troops were in the process of recovering the dead cadres, sources said.

The SLAF jets destroy a LTTE sea base in the Jaffna district in an overnight air strike, killing an unspecified number of outfit cadres. A civilian, identified as Suriyapalan Mauran, is shot by LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres in the Nallur area of Jaffna district.

Thirteen 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.

The LTTE Peace Secretariat claims that at least 141 ethnic Tamil civilians have been killed in SLAF air attacks and Army shelling since August 8.

The total do [sic] not include the killing of 17 workers for the international aid group, Action Against Hunger, in the Trincomalee district on August 5.

August 18: One police personnel is shot dead by LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres in the Pompaimadu area of Vavuniya district.

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 sustain injuries in the exchange of fire. The Sri Lanka Air Force bomb a previously well-identified Sea-Tiger boat yard at Thalayadi in the Trincomalee district causing destruction to many cadres of the outfit and damaging an unspecified number of their boats.

Five civilians are injured when LTTE-artillery fire targeting troops fell in populated areas of Kodikamam and Maseri in the Jaffna district.

The Eravur Police in the Batticaloa district receives complaints that the LTTE have abducted three youths from the area on August 14.

Three LTTE cadres surrender to the SFs in the Welikanda area of Batticaloa district.

August 17: The dead body of a police personnel, abducted and subsequently killed by the LTTE, is recovered from the Thirukkivil area of Ampara district.

Four SF personnel and two civilians sustain injuries in a LTTE grenade attack on an Army checkpoint in the Trincomalee town.

One soldier is injured during confrontations with the LTTE when the outfit cadres reportedly attempted to reach the Forward Defence Line across the lagoon area in the Poonarin region of Jaffna district.

One LTTE cadre surrenders before the SFs in the Kadjuwatta area of Batticaloa district.

One LTTE deserter surrenders to the Vavuniya Police.

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.

Two Sri Lanka Navy personnel who sustained injuries due to LTTE firing at Salliya Sambalathivu in the Trincomalee district succumbed to their injuries today.

Two youths are reportedly abducted by LTTE cadres from the Ampara district.

LTTE cadres abduct a Grama Seva Niladhari (local village official) from the Kalmunai area of Ampara district.

LTTE cadres assault a civilian in the Henanigala area of Polonnaruwa district.

SLAF jets took two more identified LTTE targets in the Iranamadu area of Kilinochchi district as troops held their defences in Muhamalai and Kilaly area of Jaffna district.

The SLAF jets target LTTE-controlled area in the Jaffna district.

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.

LTTE cadres shot dead a civilian at Marathady junction in the Jaffna district.

One soldier is killed by LTTE cadres in the Inuvil area of Jaffna district.

A 12-year old boy is among nine Muslim civilians injured in a LTTE grenade attack at the public market in the Ottamavadi area of Batticaloa district.

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.

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.

One soldier is killed and four soldiers are injured in a LTTE attack in the Vettukadu and Kalmunai areas of Jaffna district.

August 12: Troops kill a LTTE cadre in a retaliatory fire in the Thempitiya area and subsequently recover one T-56 weapon.

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.

Another civilian, identified as H.K. Ranjith Hetti Kankanam, is killed in LTTE artillery fire in the same region.

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.

Troops retaliate to LTTE fire and kill one cadre in the Mahaoya area of Ampara district.

Two soldiers are injured in LTTE firing in the Kumburmoolai area of Batticaloa district.

One civilian is wounded in a cross fire between troops and LTTE cadres in the Murunkan area of Vavuniya district.

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 today succumb to their injuries.

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, while heavy fighting is continuing in the Trincomalee district around the disputed Mawilaru waterway.

Confirming the air strikes the SLAF spokesperson, Group Captain Ajantha Silva, said that the SLAF took two LTTE targets in Batticaloa, which were considered as a threat to the ground troops, engaged in the Mawilaru operation. SFs retaliate to LTTE artillery and mortar fire on Muhamalai and Nagarkovil FDLs in the Jaffna district.

SLAF jets destroyed clusters of weapons-carrying LTTE cadres and one of their jungle hideouts, as they were moving out to replenish their lost cadre in Trincomalee. The LTTE warns the people from Puloli, Eluthumadduval, Kilali, Manthuvil, Varani, Kachchai, Kodikamam and Meesali areas to flee from their villages close to the FDLs in Jaffna, sources said.

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. A soldier is killed and two others sustain injuries in a LTTE-triggered improvised explosive device blast in the Kokuvil area of Jaffna district.

LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres shot at and injured a police constable in the Kattankudy area of Batticaloa district.

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.

A civilian, identified as Silvaraja Rathnakumar, is shot dead by LTTE cadres in the Sandilipai area of Jaffna district.

A Police personnel is wounded in a suspected LTTE attack in the Mannar district, the army said. The LTTE are insisting that cease-fire monitors to leave the SLMM by the original deadline of September 1 amidst the Norwegian efforts to drop the outfit's demand.

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. LTTE 'pistol gang' cadres kills a civilian, identified as Sudasivan Adarjun, in the Kondavil area of Jaffna district.

Officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross lodges a complaint against a group of LTTE cadres who hijacked their vehicle while they were proceeding from Arippu to Murunkan in the Mannar district.

The LTTE unilaterally lifts the waterway blockade in the east even as the Army continued to target the outfit's positions in and around the waterway.

August 7: Suspected LTTE cadres ambush and kill 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.

A LTTE cadre, Kaaththamuththu Jeyananthan, is shot dead by the SF personnel at Santhiveli near Batticaloa Town.

August 6: A civilian, identified as Kandiah Sudhakaran, is shot dead by LTTE cadres at Kopay junction on Jaffna - Point Pedro road.

Troops arrest two LTTE suspects along with two pistols and a magazine with ammunition from the Ambuwelipuram area in the Trincomalee district.

August 5: A civilian is shot dead by LTTE cadres in the Maradanamadam area of Jaffna district. The dead body of a civilian, identified as Arumugam Udayasooriyan, killed by suspected LTTE cadres is recovered from Thambisetti area in Jaffna district.

Intercepted LTTE radio transmissions have 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 Kilali in Jaffna district.

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 outfit cadres.

The Karadeniya Police in the Galle district seizes a huge cache of weapons and explosives transported from the Northeast to the South following intelligence information about the LTTE preparing to transport weapons to the region. One Army personnel is killed when LTTE cadres open fire at troops in the Parappakandal area of Mannar district.

The dead body of a Police Sergeant who is believed to have died during confrontation with the LTTE is recovered from the general area (area under Government control) of Muttur town in the Trincomalee district.

August 3: Fifteen 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.

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.

Two civilians, S. Thavaruban and T. Ravichandran, are killed by suspected LTTE cadres in the Achchuveli and Kadirippai regions of Jaffna district. One soldier is killed and another injured in a LTTE-

triggered claymore mine explosion in the Uylankulam area of Mannar district.

A Police personnel is injured in a LTTE fire in the Murunkan area of the Mannar district. LTTE robs the People's Bank in Muttur town in Trincomalee district.

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.

One civilian is killed and 13 others wounded when LTTE mortar shells fell in a civilian area in the Muttur region of Trincomalee district.
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Annex G: Fatalities by district

The following charts produced by SATP (South Asia Terrorism Portal) cover the number of fatalities divided by district for 2006 (with data until 21 September 2006) and the year 2005.

A) Fatalities District-Wise 2006

http://www.satp.org/satporqtp/countries/shrilanka/database/FatilitiesDisticwise_2006.htm [37f]

State	Civilians	SFs	Terrorists	Total
Ampara	22	06	07	35
Anuradhapura	69	09	00	78
Badulla	00	00	00	00
Batticaloa	95	37	113	245
Colombo	22	14	02	38
Galle	00	00	00	00
Gampaha	01	00	00	01
Hambantota	00	00	00	00
Jaffna	160	157	872	1189
Kalutara	00	00	00	00
Kandy	00	00	00	00
Kegalle	00	00	00	00
Kilinochchi	00	00	00	00
Kurunegala	00	00	00	00
Mannar	27	23	81	131
Matale	00	00	00	00
Moneragala	00	01	00	01
Mullaitivu	00	00	08	08
Muttur	00	00	00	00
Nuwara Eliya	00	00	00	00
Pollonaruwa	16	09	20	45
Puttalam	00	13	18	31
Ratnapura	00	00	00	00
Trincomalee	277	121	439	837
Vavuniya	40	56	29	125
Total	729	446	1589	2764

*Data till September 21, 2006

B) FATALITIES DISTRICT-WISE 2005

http://www.satp.org/satporqtp/countries/shrilanka/database/FatilitiesDisticwise_2005.htm [37b]

State	Civilians	SFs	Terrorists	Total
Ampara	20	05	15	40
Anuradhapura	00	00	00	00
Badulla	00	00	00	00
Batticaloa	51	16	33	100
Colombo	07	01	02	10
Galle	00	00	00	00

Gampaha	02	00	00	02
Hambantota	00	00	00	00
Jaffna	22	37	05	64
Kalutara	00	00	00	00
Kandy	00	00	00	00
Kegalle	00	00	00	00
Kilinochchi	00	00	00	00
Kurunegala	00	00	00	00
Mannar	02	18	00	20
Matale	00	00	00	00
Moneragala	00	00	00	00
Mullaitivu	00	00	00	00
Muttur	00	00	01	01
Nuwara Eliya	00	01	00	01
Pollonaruwa	14	02	23	39
Puttalam	00	01	01	02
Ratnapura	00	00	00	00
Trincomalee	23	06	07	36
Vavuniya	12	03	00	15
Total	153	90	87	330

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Annex H: 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 – 6 September 2006).

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/satporgtp/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, Polonnaruwa	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, Polonnaruwa	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, Polonnaruwa	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 Vakara 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

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Annex I: List of abbreviations

AHRC	Asian Human Rights Commission
AI	Amnesty International
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CPJ	Committee to Protect Journalists
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 for 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
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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