

Ground Realities: Challenges Faced by Humanitarian Actors

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For the past three years I have worked in Colombo and the NorthEast for the Tamils Rehabilitation Organization. Earlier this year I was forced to leave the country due to the degrading security situation for Tamils in Colombo and the harassment of TRO by security forces and the police. TRO's bank accounts were frozen and the police removed all the computers and files from the office. All the offices in the Government controlled areas were raided, photographs taken of all the employees and our home addresses were recorded. The police and army also visited my home numerous times and we received numerous anonymous death threats.

My topic for this seminar is the "Current obstacles faced by humanitarian organization working in the NorthEast." To put this in context I will give a brief background to the current situation

At the time of the signing of the Cease Fire Agreement (CFA) in 2002, there was no institutional mechanism available to plan, coordinate and implement the necessary, and expected, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development. It was imperative that the initial focus of any "peace talks" would be the "humanitarian situation" in the NorthEast and the return of the 730,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

International humanitarian relief and developmental aid was to be channeled through the Government of Sri Lanka and its institutions despite the fact that the GoSL lacked adequate human resources, organizational structures and physical infrastructure to deliver the aid in the NorthEast.

Additionally, the centralized nature of the Sri Lankan political bureaucracy meant that the majority of policy and funding decisions, as well as needed inspections, approvals and permit processes had to come from the central government in Colombo. This led to delays, inappropriate projects and misappropriation of funds due to endemic corruption. The politicization of aid and development also limited and delayed humanitarian relief and development.

Local and International NGOs (LNGOs, INGOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) struggled to fill the gap between the promises made by the international community and the GoSL and the ground realities because the funds for post-CFA development and reconstruction, and post-Tsunami reconstruction never materialized at the expected levels. LNGOs, INGOs, and CBOs faced structural and monetary problems due to constantly changing systems and institutional structures mandated by the GoSL and the International Community, such as SIRHN & P-TOMS, which were never funded or implemented. This resulted in severe limitations in the pace of reconstruction, rehabilitation and short and long term development which in the end negatively impacted the delivery of the "peace dividend" to the NorthEast.

In the absence of the institutional mechanisms, local NGOs, such as TRO, sought to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population and provide immediate relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development.

The plight of the IDPs and the civilian population has worsened over the last 20 months due to the resumption of hostilities. There are more IDPs now, approximately 850,000, than at the beginning of the CFA.

A Breakdown of IDP figures:

- There are approximately 350,000 pre-CFA conflict displaced
- There have been 350,000 IDPs displaced in 2006-2007 due to the resumption of hostilities
- And there are approximately 150,000 tsunami IDPs still in temporary shelters

The humanitarian situation, which is reaching crisis proportions, and the obstacles and difficulties faced by the humanitarian community, must be seen in the larger context of the attacks on Tamil civil society, the media and the Tamil community at large. The GoSL Security Forces and affiliated paramilitaries have participated in:

1. Restricting the flow of humanitarian relief and access to IDPs
2. Indiscriminate shelling and bombardment of IDP Camps, schools, and communities, which at times has seemed designed to displace the population prior to a military offensive and
3. Attacks on and harassment of humanitarian aid workers & projects

From the perspective of local NGOs and CBOs in the NorthEast, the initial rush of interest in development in the post-CFA and post-Tsunami periods led to an influx of numerous multi-lateral and bi-lateral donors, INGOs, UN Agencies, and other international organizations. Many of these actors attempted to institute their own “systems”, “delivery mechanism”, “visions” and “organizational cultures”; in essence they sought to dictate to the LNGOs and CBOs who had served the affected populations during the years of war when funds were scarce and international attention even scarcer. This led to a degree of tension when the local organizations attempted to assert their right to choose development that was in line with their guiding principles and the wishes of the beneficiaries. Organizations such as TRO, other LNGOs and CBOs, continued to function with the systems and structures that they had used prior to the CFA, which were based on their knowledge of the ground realities, local customs and culture, while attempting to absorb and adapt to the new partners’ *modus operandi*.

I will now move on to the obstacles currently faced by Humanitarian Organizations operating in the NorthEast

Due to the resumption of hostilities at the beginning of 2006, the amount of “development work” that can be performed in most areas of the NorthEast is severely limited. The current focus is providing emergency humanitarian relief and shelter to those who have been displaced. The GoSL has also severely restricted access for local and international humanitarian agencies, and in some cases has for extended periods enforced a complete embargo and ban, on humanitarian aid to parts of the NorthEast.

Over the past 20 months, the GoSL has pursued a premeditated and deliberate policy of restricting and denying humanitarian aid and relief to the Tamil people of the NorthEast. The freezing of the TRO bank accounts in Sri Lanka is part of the GoSL’s policy to restrict access, aid and relief to the affected populations. The freeze has been effective in severely limiting the amount of humanitarian relief reaching the war and tsunami affected communities.

Some of the obstacles & difficulties that aid organizations have faced:

1. Attacks on Humanitarian Aid Workers and Organizations

The harassment and physical attacks on humanitarian aid workers, including the killing of 58 humanitarian workers, (*Since delivering this speech the number has increased to 59 due to the killing of Rev. Fr. Nicholaspillai Packiyaranjith, Manner Coordinator for the International Humanitarian Organisation Jesuit Refugee Service by a Sri Lanka Army Deep Penetration Unit on 26 September 2007 as alleged by local NGOs and civil society*) almost all of whom are Tamils, without any investigation, arrests, prosecution or convictions has reinforced the prevailing culture of impunity that exists in Sri Lanka. (See Appendix I for the full list) Some of the major killings and attacks on humanitarian workers and organizations have been:

- a. The abduction, rape, and execution of 7 TRO humanitarian workers in January 2006 by paramilitary forces affiliated to the GoSL
 - b. The Execution of 17 ACF humanitarian workers by GoSL armed forces (as alleged by the independent Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission);
 - c. The 2 Sri Lanka Red Cross workers who were abducted in June 2007 in Colombo and later found dead
 - d. There have also been attacks on the humanitarian community in general and specific organizations in particular via the state media, government representatives and Members of Parliament. UN Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Sri John Holmes was called a terrorist by a senior Sri Lankan Minister for having stated the obvious fact that Sri Lanka was a dangerous place for humanitarian workers.
2. **Access** - The restriction of “access” to the NorthEast Tsunami and War affected IDPs by the GoSL is achieved through a variety of unnecessarily restrictive and excessive rules and regulations, “unpublicized restrictions”, and an outright refusal by the government to allow humanitarian access and the flow of adequate humanitarian relief, especially food and medicine, to the worst affected areas.
- a. At times there has been an outright denial of access by the GoSL to civil society, NGOs, INGOs and the UN to areas and populations affected by the conflict
 - b. Permits: The imposition of excessive and restrictive permit procedures & processes imposed by the GoSL on all humanitarian organizations operating in the NorthEast
 - c. Restrictions and impediments imposed by the GoSL on access by local and international humanitarian organizations to areas controlled by the LTTE
 - d. Restrictions on work and scope of humanitarian agencies aimed at limiting their ability to assist affected persons
3. **Embargos:** In April 2006, the GoSL began restricting the transportation of construction materials (cement, iron bars, etc.) to the LTTE controlled Vanni. In August 2006 the GoSL enforced a complete ban on construction material to the Vanni. As a result, all tsunami reconstruction work, including permanent housing, has halted. Some international agencies are trying to complete projects by using construction items that are available at extremely high prices in the local market.

4. **Restricted Items** There are restrictions on the transportation of a variety of materials and goods to LTTE controlled areas:
 - a. Ministry of Defense (MoD) clearance is required for the transportation of all food, medicine and Non Food Relief Items (NFRI) – for the most part the quantities initially requested are slashed to a fraction of the required amount.
 - b. Government imposed restrictions on the movement of essential items, such as fuel, medicines and food, to the LTTE-controlled north (Vanni) have persisted since August 2006. Prices of these basic and essential items have thus risen significantly.
 - c. Fuel for Vanni: UN agencies and some INGOs are allowed a quota but this is usually slashed by as much as 50%. The UN must sign off on the INGO requests as the 21 agencies allowed to work in the Vanni are UN partners. No fuel is allowed for local NGOs and
 - i. The current Fuel Allotment for the Vanni is only 50% of the usual (pre-August 2006) need.
5. **Unpublicized Restrictions:** Refusal by GoSL checkpoint personnel throughout the NorthEast to allow access or transportation of building materials. The GoSL security force personnel at the checkpoint request a “permit” from “Colombo” to allow the material through, but when queries are made with the authorities in Colombo they deny that such permits are required
 - a. There are also items which are arbitrarily banned at checkpoints by the soldiers or OIC
 - b. Despite a policy decision to allow items approved by the Commissioner General of Essential Services (CGES) to be freely transported to the Vanni the policy is not being adhered to at the check point.
6. **Checkpoints:** The GoSL has permanently closed the A9 at Muhamalai and the Omanthai checkpoint is frequently closed. An INGO staffer stated that: *“...when crossing the Forward Defensive Lines (FDLs) the soldiers and police at the checkpoint usually question the agencies extensively, especially national workers, regarding their activities. At times the searching takes hours and the vehicles are searched inch by inch.”*
7. **Visas & Work permits:** In early 2006 the GoSL instituted a “work permit” requirement for all “international staff” of NGOs (other than the UN & ICRC). This work permit was an additional procedure that was instituted by the Ministry of Defense (MoD) despite the fact that all these persons already had “work visas” issued by the GoSL. Very few work permits have been approved for the LTTE controlled areas forcing many INGOs to suspend work in these areas or drastically cut back the scope of their projects. As a result INGOs are not able to access some of the most severely affected IDPs. The GoSL has also denied work visas to some and the renewal of visas for international staff who they view as “troublesome”
8. There has been **Pressure** on INGOs to work in areas controlled by government and not in LTTE controlled areas despite the presence of IDPs and conflict & tsunami affected populations. There has been:
 - a. Pressure to focus on or transfer projects to the so called “liberated” East and to the South. This is unofficial, subtle pressure for organizations to make interventions directly or through government departments and government sponsored CBOs like the Rural Development Societies.

9. **Corruption** – Beneficiaries forced to pay bribes to government officials in order to be included on the government beneficiary list and thus be eligible for assistance.
10. **Government Responsibility:** There is a lack of information and transparency regarding the humanitarian policies of the government. A large number of Ministries and government departments are responsible for IDPs and humanitarian response and at times it is unclear to the humanitarian community and the government officials themselves, where certain responsibilities lie.
11. **Militarization of the Administration of the “East”**
 - a. The GoSL has declared large portions of Sampoor and Muthur to be High Security Zones (HSZ) and are not allowing the IDPs to return to their homes and farms. There are plans to turn the area into an “Economic Development Zone”.
 - b. In order to work in the East NGOs and INGOs have to get permission from respective Government Agents and the military commanders.
 - c. Development and reconstructions is now coordinated and controlled by the military.
 - d. The Increased militarization of the East has created an environment which is conducive to military oversight and control of civil society and NGOs... Increased militarization of the region is evident in the form of military checkpoints and the active engagement of the military in the return, resettlement and rehabilitation processes.
 - e. The GoSL has appointed military personnel to high posts in the Provincial Council of the Eastern Province. The Governor is a retired military officer.
 - f. This military oversight of INGO activities has created a militarized civil administration in the East”
 - g. An example is the Directive sent out by Major General Parakrama Pannipitiya, Security Forces Commander (East) to officials and senior security officials in the East, which states that police & armed forces should supervise the development of the East and that it is mandatory to include a member of the armed forces and the police in the committee. Additionally, the police should be the ones to name the members of the committee to be chosen from the community.
 - h. Due to this high level of military influence and participation at all levels of humanitarian relief and development the sense of fear and intimidation felt by the humanitarian community and beneficiaries is very high. Additionally, due to the “...inclusion of military commanders in the reconstruction of the East, NGOs and community based organizations (CBOs) are extremely reluctant to voice their opinions freely, particularly during meetings with government officials.”

II. Example of denial of access: Vaharai

During the offensive to capture Vaharai the GoSL closed the A15 highway denying access to civilians in desperate need of humanitarian relief. Convoys were only allowed to proceed under special circumstances and even when allowed in did not carry adequate quantities of supplies to meet the needs of the population.

In violation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) denied humanitarian agencies, the UN and ICRC, access to the 45,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The GoSL enforced an embargo on the transportation of food, medicine, shelter, and non-food relief items (NFRI) to the area for over two months.

Throughout the crisis the GoSL restricted the transportation of food, medicine and all other humanitarian relief to the area and allowed only token convoys of relief on an ad hoc basis restricting the amount allowed per convoy to approximately 60% of the required amount.

The restriction on the freedom of movement of international humanitarian personnel, and the ensuing denial of access to IDPs on the pretext of “security” in situations of armed conflict, in which the suspension is used for military and political objectives, and on a discriminatory basis is a violation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

III. Attacks on TRO

There have been 19 major attacks, and numerous minor attacks, on TRO aid workers, offices or projects over the past two years. The most recent of these occurred on Thursday 20 September 2007 when the Sri Lanka Air Force bombed the TRO Mullaitivu District Office injuring 6 civilians and severely damaging the buildings.

These attacks have forced TRO to take extra security measures to ensure the safety and security of staff and beneficiaries. TRO aid workers in GoSL controlled areas have been intimidated, threatened, harassed, assaulted, and “disappeared” by the GoSL security forces and paramilitary forces. TRO projects, IDP camps and TRO Children’s Homes have been bombed and shelled by the GoSL and hand grenades have been thrown into the Batticaloa and Jaffna offices with the latter also being burnt to the ground. These attacks and the attackers have sought to intimidate TRO staff and restrict the delivery of humanitarian relief and development to the war and tsunami affected communities of the NorthEast.

a. Abduction of TRO Staff

In January 2006 seven (7) TRO humanitarian aid workers were abducted by armed paramilitary gunmen affiliated to the GoSL. The abductions occurred on the 29th and 30th of January in the GoSL controlled Wellikanda area in the vicinity of SL Army roadblocks/checkpoints. One of the abducted Mr Ganeshalingam, was a member of TRO’s Board of Governors and was Secretary of the Pre School Education Development Center (PSEDC). He and his driver were abducted on the 30th January while traveling from Batticaloa to Kilinochchi during a tour of Pre Schools in the East. The previous day the Batticaloa Chief Accountant, Ms Premini (25), and her team of accountants were traveling from Batticaloa to Vavuniya for in service training when they were abducted.

At the time of the abductions GoSL representatives at all levels - from the Sri Lanka Foreign Minister to the Inspector General of the Police made statements that the abductions were a hoax staged by TRO. TRO officials and family members of the abducted in the East and Colombo encountered resistance when trying to file police reports and convince the police to investigate the abductions. The witnesses, two preschool teachers in their early 20’s who were abducted while traveling with Mr. Ganeshalingam and were then released, also faced difficulties when trying to make police reports at the Batticaloa Police station. In fact, they were held overnight in

the Batticaloa Police Station Jail when they appeared to make their statements. They also had to journey to Colombo to have the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) and the Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission (SL-HRC) record their statements.

TRO officials in Colombo attempted to raise the profile of the case through meetings with the Diplomatic missions, the UN, ICRC, INGOs, the media, and GoSL representatives including Mahinda Samarasinghe (Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights), the Police, the CID and the SL-HRC.

None of the investigative bodies of the GoSL ever produced any arrests, convictions, or information on the fate of the 7 humanitarian workers. The SL-HRC investigators who “investigated” the abductions prepared a report and submitted it to the Commissioner, Rathika Coomaraswamy. This report was never released and soon after receiving the report Ms. Coomaraswamy left the island to take up her position with the United Nations.

Twenty months after their abductions these 7 humanitarian aid workers remain “disappeared”. Reports in the media state that a few days after being abducted the 7 were tortured and executed. The reports also stated that Premini was raped for several hours before being brutally hacked to death with a machete. Mr. Ganeshalingam and Premini were co-workers that had stay in my house while in Colombo.

b. Shelling of TRO IDP Camps

Another recent atrocity was the shelling by GoSL forces of clearly designated and registered (with the GoSL) TRO IDP camps in the Vaharai area. On 8 November 2006 Sri Lanka Army (SLA) artillery shells fell in and around a school in Kathiravelli, Vaharai being used as an IDP camp for over 5,000 persons. At the time the GoSL claimed that the LTTE had fired artillery from the area, a fact that Human Rights Watch contradicts in their report “**Return to War: Human Rights Under Siege**”:

“Human Rights Watch conducted interviews with 12 witnesses to the attack. All said that the shells landed without warning and that, while the LTTE was frequently milling about the area, no LTTE fighters were located in or adjacent to the IDP camp at the time of the attack or directly before... In total, 62 people died. According to hospital records obtained by Human Rights Watch, 47 people, ranging in age from one to 74 years old, suffered injuries. Twenty-three of these victims were under 18. Twenty-one were women and 26 were men.”

“Human Rights Watch spoke with three international organizations with direct knowledge of the Vaharai area and the Kathirivelli incident, and none of them had any direct knowledge, or had heard credible reports, of the LTTE using civilians as “human shields.””

“In addition, the location of the displaced persons camp was known to the government and should have been known to local army commanders.”

TRO's Sonobo Children's Home was also damaged and 12 children were injured during this shelling.

On 10 December 2006 a similar incident occurred when the GoSL shelled 3 TRO IDP camps in the Vaharai area; 40 IDPs were killed and 100 injured in this incident.

c. Claymore Mine Attack

On 24 March 2007, , the TRO Director of Disaster Management, was killed while traveling in a clearly marked TRO vehicle when a Sri Lanka Army Deep Penetration Unit (DPU) triggered a Claymore mine. The Disaster Management Team was coordinating the humanitarian assistance for IDPs displaced by recent SL Army offensives. Three others were severely injured during the attack.

d. Attacks on TRO Batticaloa Office and other TRO Projects

The TRO Batticaloa office has been attacked 3 times on: 7 August 2003, 13 June 2005, and 27-28 September 2005 by paramilitaries with grenades and machine guns. A TRO Security Guard was killed during the 27-28 September attack and 2 Staffers injured & 5 vehicles destroyed during 13 June attack. TRO closed the Batticaloa Office soon after the September attack due to the inability of the GoSL security forces to stop attacks and ensure the safety of humanitarian workers.

In August 2006, the Vadamarachchi East TRO Boatyard and the Eachchilampattu TRO Boatyard were both destroyed by the Sri Lanka Air Force. The boatyards were constructed to build "day-trip" boats for local fishermen and provide a local place to repair the boats (the only other facilities were in the South).

Post tsunami permanent housing and pre schools that TRO constructed throughout the NorthEast have also been either completely destroyed or damaged.

APPENDIX I

Abductions and killings of humanitarian workers in 2005-2007						
Source: Law & Society Trust (Sri Lanka) & TRO ¹						
	Date	Place, District	Organization	Names	Age	Type of attack
1	28-Sep-05	Batticaloa	Tamils Rehabilitation Organization (TRO)	Thambyappa Vellaiuthapillai	70	Machine gun and grenade attack on TRO Batticaloa Office
2	11-Jan-06	Point Pedro, Jaffna	Danish Demining Group (DDG)	T. Tharmasiri	28	Abducted - presumed dead
3				N. Kandeepan	30	Abducted - presumed dead
4	29-Jan-06	Welikanda / Batticaloa	Tamils Rehabilitation Organization (TRO)	Kasinathar Ganeshalingam	52	Abducted - presumed dead
5				Kathirkamar Thangarasa	43	Abducted - presumed dead

¹ Numbers 2-58 are listed in the "Working document on humanitarian workers and religious leaders killed, disappeared and abducted – 1st Jan 2006 – 22 Aug 2007; Compiled by Law & Society Trust. Number 1: details provided by TRO due to the fact that the individual was killed in 2005.

6	30-Jan-06			Thanushkodi Premini	25	Abducted - presumed dead
7				Shanmuganathan Sujendran		Abducted - presumed dead
8				Thambiraja Vasantharajan		Abducted - presumed dead
9				Kailasapillai Ravindran	25	Abducted - presumed dead
10				Arulthavarasa Satheesharan		Abducted - presumed dead
11	04-Feb-06	Jaffna	HALO Trust	Gunaratnam Logithas	23	Abducted - presumed dead
12	17-Feb-06	Batticaloa	Mines Advisory Group (MAG)	Parameswaran		Abducted - presumed dead
13	09-Apr-06	Jaffna	HUDEC – Caritas Jaffna	Shanmugaratnam Pathmanathan	55	Killed – Claymore, suspected to have targeted a SLA convoy
14			HUDEC – Caritas Jaffna	Chelvendra Pradeepkumar	29	Killed – Claymore, suspected to have targeted a SLA convoy
15	16-May-06	Vavuniya	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Jeyaruban Gnanapragasam		Killed
16	26-May-06	Kalviyankadu, Batticaloa	North East Irrigated Agriculture Project (NEIAP)	Ratnam Ratnaraja	48	Killed
17	02-Jul-06	Valachenai, Batticaloa	Tamils Rehabilitation Organization (TRO)	Krishnapillai Kamalanathan	26	Abducted & released
18	08-Jul-06	Polikandy, Vadamardchy, Jaffna	Mason in a Tsunami Housing Scheme funded by FORUT	Rasiah Muraleswaran	42	Killed
19	05-Aug-06	Muttur, Trincomalee	Action Contra La Faim (ACF)	Kokilavathani	29	Killed
20				Romila	25	Killed
21				Kavitha	27	Killed
22				Kovarthani	28	Killed
23				A.L.Mohammed Jawffar	31	Killed
24				Sritharan	36	Killed
25				Kodeeswaran	31	Killed

26				Jaseelan	27	Killed
27				Ganesh	54	Killed
28				Narmathan	24	Killed
29				Ketheswaran	36	Killed
30				Rishikesan	27	Killed
31				Muralitharan	34	Killed
32				Arulrajah	24	Killed
33				Pratheepan	24	Killed
34				Koneswaran	24	Killed
35				Anantharajah	32	Killed
36	20-Aug-06	Cheddikulam, Vavuniya	Sri Lanka Red Cross Society	Nagarasa Thavaranjitham	23	Killed
37	24-Aug-06	Thirukkivil, Ampara	UNOPS	P. Jestly Julian		Killed
38	01-Sep-06	Karavedyy, Jaffna	Sewalanka	Sathiyamoorthy Selvaroopan	25	Killed
39	12-Sep-06	Nilaveli Road, Trincomalee	World Concern	Ragunathan Ramalingam	31	Killed
40	17-Nov-06	Jaffna	HALO Trust	Charles Huston Ravindran	30	Abducted - presumed dead
41	23-Nov-06	Kalmunai, Ampara	Terre des Hommes	Sabarathnam Rubesh	31	Killed
42	04-Jan-07	Jaffna	HALO Trust	Subramaniam Parameswaran		Abducted - presumed dead
43	09-Feb-07	Jaffna	HALO Trust	Nagarasa Narenthiran	27	Abducted - presumed dead
44	09-Feb-07	Jaffna	HALO Trust	C. Rajendran	35	Abducted - presumed dead
45	24-Mar-07	Mannar	Tamil Rehabilitation Organization (TRO)	Muthuraja Aruleswaran		Killed BY Sri Lanka Army – Deep Penetration Unit Claymore Mine Attack
46	01-Apr-07	Mailampaaveli, Batticaloa	Village of Hope	W. Chandrasiri		Killed
47	01-Apr-07			T. M. Dhanapala		Killed
48	01-Apr-07			W. Dhanapala	18	Killed
49	01-Apr-07			T. Wijekoon		Killed

9	07					
5	01-Apr-07			L.M. Dayananda Kapporal		Killed
5	01-Apr-07			Maduranga Kapporal		Killed
5	02-Jun-07	Colombo / Ratnapura	Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRC)	S. Shanmuganathan		Abducted and killed – shot
5				K. Chandramohan	20	Killed
5	19-Jun-07	Jaffna	Danish Demining Group (DDG)	Sivarasa Vimalarasa		Abducted - presumed dead
5	18-Jul-07	Jaffna		Sivalingam Prabakaran	34	Abducted - presumed dead
5	23-Jul-07	Jaffna	Danish Refugee Council	Arumainayagam Alloysius	26	Killed
5	06-Aug-07	Trincomalee	Methodist Community Organization for Refugees (UMCOR)	Mohamed Zavahir Mohamed		Abducted - presumed dead
5	20-Aug-07	Kasthooriar Road, Jaffna	Danish Demining Group (DDG)	Sivasamy Sritharan	31	Killed
5	26-Sept-07	Kalvilaan: Mankulam - Vellaakulam Road	Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)	Rev. Fr. Nicholaspillai Packiyaranjith	40	Killed BY Sri Lanka Army – Deep Penetration Unit Claymore Mine Attack