



Tamils Rehabilitation Organisation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1 February 2006
20:00 Sri Lanka Time

Re: UPDATE on TRO & PSEDC kidnapped persons

Two of the women who were traveling in the PSEDC vehicle on 29 January 2006 that failed to arrive in Kilinochchi for a meeting/training with FORUT at TRO Headquarters scheduled for Tuesday 31 January 2006 returned to their families on Monday 30 January and contacted TRO Batticaloa on Wednesday February 1 2006.

Ms. Punniyamoorththy Nadeswari and **Ms. Siththiravel Sivamathi** PSEDC Pre School Teachers at Vavunatheevu Pre School were traveling with Mr. Kasinathar Ganeshalingam (PSEDC North-East Province Secretary), Ms. S. Dosini (PSEDC Divisional Coordinator Mamunai North Division) and driver Thangarasa. They had departed Valaichenai on Sunday January 29 2006 for Kilinochchi. They were not heard from again by TRO until representatives of Ms. Nadeswari and Ms. Sivamathi contacted TRO Batticaloa personnel Wednesday.

The details are still emerging but it appears that the PSEDC vehicle driven by Thangarasa (vehicle Number: WP PA 3074) was stopped and hijacked on Sunday January 29 2006 at the same checkpoint as the vehicle (vehicle number: 250-8993) carrying the TRO accountants was hijacked and the 5 persons kidnapped on Monday evening.

Currently the following are still missing:

SUNDAY ABDUCTION from “near” Welikanda Checkpoint – STILL in custody of kidnappers:

Mr. Kasinathar Ganeshalingam	PSEDC North-East Province Secretary
Ms. S. Dosini	PSEDC Divisional Coordinator Mamunai North Division
Mr. Thangarasa	Driver (Vehicle Number: WP PA 3074)

MONDAY ABDUCTION from “near” Welikanda Checkpoint – STILL in custody of kidnappers:

Ms. Thanuskody Premini	TRO Batticaloa Chief Accountant
Mr. Shanmuganathan Sujendram	TRO Accountant, Manikkavasahar Children’s Home, Santhivelli
Mr. Thambiraja Vasantharajan	Accountant, TRO Batticaloa
Mr. Kailayapillai Ravindran	Accountant, Vipulananda Children’s Home, Palugamam
Mr. Arunesarasa Satheesharan	Accounts Trainee, Vellavali

These two (2) women from the Sunday 29 January kidnapping and the nine (9) who were hijacked and kidnapped and released on Monday 30 January were told not to make a report to the police or anyone else and thus fear for their lives and the lives of their family. TRO requests that the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and Civil Society exert pressure to ensure the safety of these women.



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TRO wishes to facilitate any and all police enquiries into these incidents and requests that the GoSL guarantee the safety of those being interviewed. TRO also wishes to request that the SLMM and/or ICRC to accompany these women in order to facilitate and ensure the safe travel of the women to the interviews with the Police.

In response to allegations from various sources TRO would like to state that:

- 1) TRO Administrative Officer Mr. S. Mahalingam in Batticaloa filed a Police Report at 11:00 am on Tuesday 31 January 2006 (Sri Lanka Time) at the Batticaloa Police Station concerning the group of TRO Staff that was abducted on Monday 30 January night.
- 2) Arjunan Ethirveerasingm, TRO Colombo, notified the IGP Chandra Fernando and the Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe at the Foundation for Co- Existence meeting on the Ceasefire Agreement on January 31 2006 publicly and privately of the events of Monday 30 January. He was assured by both that the matter would be investigated.
- 3) The families of the persons abducted Monday travelled to the Welikanda Police Station on Tuesday 31 January and attempted to file a Police Report. They were refused the opportunity to submit a Report.
- 4) The family of Ms. Premini, who live in Vavuniya, filed a “missing persons” report on Wednesday 1 February 2006 at the Vavuniya Police Station. The report was recorded by PC Wijesinghe (#31736)