

The tragic fate of TRO employees abducted

by Sri Lankan Auxiliary forces

One year has passed since the abductions and resultant disappearances of seven Tamil Rehabilitation Organization (TRO) employees took place in Welikande . Five TRO persons travelling from Batticaloa to Kilinochchi were abducted on January 29th Three were released subsequently. On the following day (30th) another TRO vehicle going from B'caloa to Kilinochchi was hi-jacked at Welikande. Five full time TRO employees and ten trainee recruits were on board. The ten rookies were released later but the other five were not.



The TRO Coordinator Regi meeting ex-Secretary General of UN



Kasinathar Ganeshalingam, Kathirkamar Thangarasa, Thanuskody Premini, Shanmuganathan Sujendram, Thambiraja Vasantharajan, Kailayapillai Ravindran and Arunesarasa Sathesaran, all employees of the Tamil relief and development charity, Tamils Rehabilitation Organization (TRO), were abducted in two separate incidents in late January 2006. It is feared that they may have “disappeared” and there are grave concerns for their safety.”

The loved ones of the “missing” have not and will not forget. A ceremony was held end of January in Kilinochchi to remember the missing seven. The mother of one woman and the wife of one man addressed the gathering. They expressed the belief that the persons were still living and appealed to the world to ensure that they return. Hope springs eternal!



The USA Congressmen Patrick Tiberi and Sherrod Brown made an appeal to then Asst. Secretary of State Christina Rocca to release TRO Employees.



The UN agencies in Sri Lanka deplore the reported abduction of 10 humanitarian aid workers employed by the Tamils Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO), an aid organisation registered with the Government of Sri Lanka, and call for their immediate release. These are humanitarian aid workers who devote their professional lives to serving those in need. Therefore, they have the right

Extract from D. B. S. Jeyaraj's Article

The (Sri Lankan Auxiliary force) Karuna faction has a man called “Pillaiyan” who is described as the supreme military commander of the TMVP military wing. Pillaiyan was responsible among many things for the assassination of G. Nadesan the “Virakesari” Batticaloa correspondent. He is said to be the main “link” between the TMVP and its military intelligence handlers. Pillaiyan is also the alleged mastermind behind the on going “abduction of Tamil businessmen for ransom” racket in Colombo.

Theevuchenai is a village in the Polonnaruwa district on the borders of Batticaloa. The TMVP had a string of camps in the adjoining jungle areas. An order was given to TMVP cadres at Theevuchenai by Pillaiyan over the telephone.

A TMVP team led by a man called Sinthujan alias Pratheepan was given the task. The Karuna faction cadres in the abduction team were Jeyanthan, Kumar, Pulenthiran, Siranjeevi and Yogan. All of them are in their early twenties.

The three females were questioned by Sitha alias Pradeep the head of TMVP intelligence along with two others and released. . Sitha's claim to notoriety was after the murder of former Tamil National Alliance National list MP Joseph Pararajasingham on Christmas day in 2005

Ganeshalingam was from Thellipalai in Jaffna while Thangarasa was from Kilinochchi were interrogated and executed by Sinthujan.

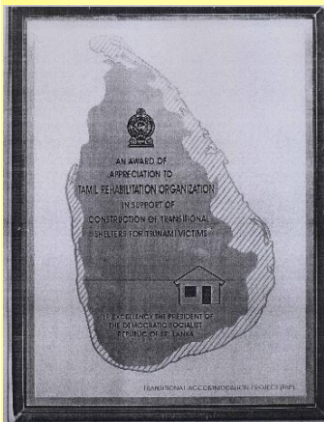
Nadeswari and Sivamathy were required to give statements to the Police. They were harassed by Police officials who kept them at the station overnight. The victims were treated as suspects. Both of them also went to Colombo and voluntarily tendered statements to the Human Rights Commission. Ms. Doshini has not made a statement to the HRC.

On the following day (Jan 30th) the same team abducted fifteen people. After the interrogation ten of them were released.

The five persons kept at Theevuchenai were Aruneswararajah Satheeswaran; Kailayapillai Ravindran, Palugamam, Shanmuganathan Sujendiran,; Thambyrajah Vasantharajan and Ms.Premini Thanuskody .

The four males were “interrogated” intensively by TMVP intelligence led by Sitha and they were asked to dig a huge pit. When it was over the weeping men were lined up and shot. TMVP cadres quickly covered up the grave.

The fate of Premini was terrible. She was raped first by Sinthujan himself and gang raped by TMVP cadres. She was apparently hacked to death and thrown into the bushes.



The Award received from the Sri Lankan ex- President Chandrika Kumaratunga for Tsunami Rehabilitation Work



The Special Envoy for Tsunami Rehabilitation Mr. Bill Clinton meeting TRO Coordinator Mr. Regi



K. Thangarasa
Pre-School teacher at the Vavunatheevu pre-school and vehicle driver .



T. Vasantharajan
Acct at B'caloa TRO office



K.Ganeshalingam
North East Province Secretary of Pre-School Education Development Centre (PSEDC)



K. Ravindran
The accountant at Vipulananda Children's home, Palugamam



A. Satheesharan
An accounts trainee from Vellaveli



S. Sujendram
The accountant of Manikkavasagar Children's home, Santhively



T.Premini
The chief TRO accountant for the Eastern Province.

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International donors are supervising TRO Rehabilitation work

“TRO is a legally registered Sri Lankan charity and its mission is to provide much needed relief, rehabilitation and development for the people of the northeast of Sri Lanka”.