



Tamils Rehabilitation Organisation

Head Office: 254 Jaffna Road, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka

Ph/Fax: +94 (0) 21 228 3947

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

02 December 2008

Re: SLAF Bombing of TRO IDP Camp – 29 November 2008

Between 1:30 and 1:55 am on Saturday 29 November 2008 the TRO Kallaru Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp (also called: Tharumapuram Kallaru Ranimayanathan Scheme or Ulavanoor Kudiyiruppu settlement) was bombed by the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF). The SLAF dropped 16 Russian made cluster bombs killing two civilians (a 5 year old child and an 80 year old man) and injuring 19 others (10 children were among the injured). A 77-year-old woman lost her left arm and a 39-year-old man lost his left leg.

The Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) ordered departure of the UN and international NGOs from the Vanni on 15 September 2008 has removed the independent, international witness to attacks such as these against civilians. TRO appeals to the international community and the Tamil Diaspora to pressure the GoSL to allow the UN and international NGOs to return to the Vanni on a permanent basis so that they may provide humanitarian assistance to the 300,000 IDPs, conduct needs assessments, and serve as a witness to the sufferings of and attacks on Tamil civilians.

The temporary housing settlement that was attacked on 29 November was constructed and is maintained by TRO and local NGO REERDO for families that had been displaced due to the Government of Sri Lanka's (GoSL) ongoing military offensive into the Vanni. The settlement was set up in an area that the GoSL had declared to be a "safe zone" at the beginning of November.

These IDPs were also affected by Cyclone Nisha's floodwaters last week and were being provided with cooked food and other support by TRO.

After the bombing, TRO helped to transport the injured to hospitals in the area. TRO also covered the expenses of the funeral and the final rites for the two persons killed in the bombing.

Details of the dead and injured (Source TRO/NESOHR):

Sivakumar family

Killed:

Sivakumar Sutharsan, child aged 5 years

Injured:

Sivakumar Sutharsiny, child aged 2 years

Sivakumar Rasakumary, mother aged 27 years

Ramasamy family

Killed:

Raman Ramasamy, husband aged 80 years

Injured:

Ramasamy Palanyammah, wife aged 77 years (left arm amputated)





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Rasenthiram family

Injured:

Kasipillai Rasenthiram, grandfather aged 60 years
Murugesu Rasenthiram, father aged 39 years (right leg amputated)
Rasenthiram Rukmanithevi, mother aged 35
Rasenthiram Thavaselvi, child aged 16 years
Rasenthiram Loginy, child aged 7 years

Nallaih family

Injured:

Nallaiah Puspavally, mother aged 28 years
Nallaiah Mathiyalagan, child aged 6 years
Nallaiah Jesinthan, child aged 10 years
Nallaiah Sasikumar, child aged 7 years

Ananthan family

Injured:

Ananthan Kamalathevi, mother aged 37 years
Ananthan Chithra, child aged 9 years
Ananthan Velavan, child aged 18 years

Others injured:

Thaynatham Pavithiran, male aged 5 years
Periyathamby Sankarapillai, male aged 55 years
Kannathasan Amaravathy, female aged 4 years
Nagan Sunmugam, male aged 55 years



Cluster bomb casing with Russian markings

