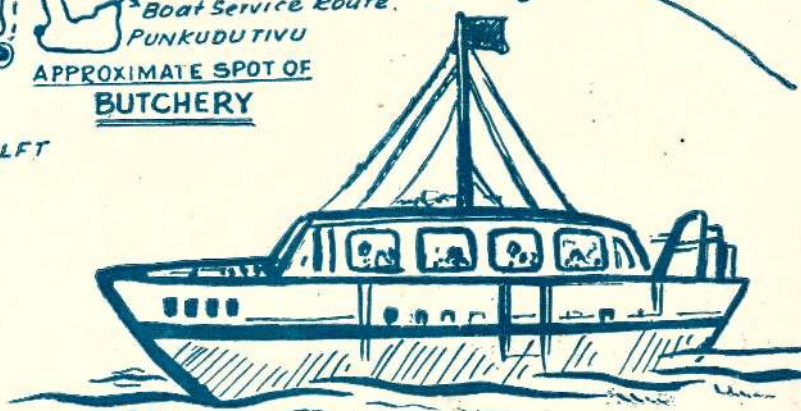
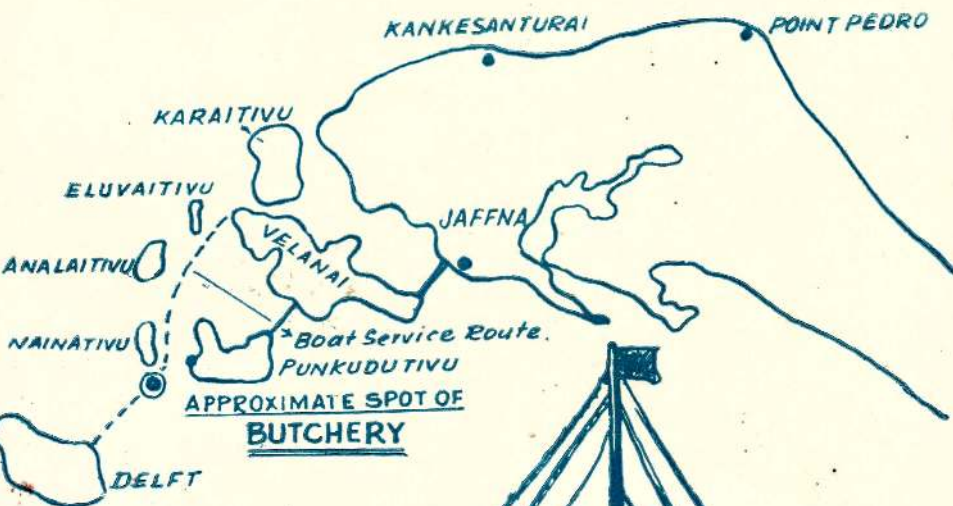


# Genocide of Innocent Sri Lankan Tamils In Mid Sea On 15TH MAY 1985



## KUMUTHINI MASSACRE

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## The Merciless Attack AT NEDUNTHEEVU ON 15-5-85

Passengers who were travelling in a launch named "Kumuthini" from Neduntheevu to Kurikattuvan were subjected to merciless attack. It has been reported that as usual the launch was searched and the passengers were questioned by the Navy before departure. At about 8.30 a.m, while the launch was approaching Nainatheevu, the crew were signaled to stop by persons in two plastic boats that came along. As the launch was stopped, the armed gang in the plastic boats entered it and attacked the passengers cruelly.

Though they had guns, they cut and hit the passengers with knives and on bars. These victims who raised cries like "Aiyu Aiyu" had no way of escape as they were in high seas. Thirtytwo persons including men, women and a three year old girl were killed during the attack.

Thirty others were seriously wounded. Several other injured persons were said to have been thrown in to the sea. After having attacked every passenger, the armed gang got on the two plastic boats and went away. "Kumuthini" was towed by a boat belonging to the co-operative society to the shore at Nainatheevu and then taken to kurikattuvan in Pungudutheevu.

The deceased were taken to Pungudutheevu hospital while the injured were rushed to the Jaffna hospital.

One of the injured persons giving evidence at the Magisterial inquest held into the death of the thirty five passengers stated as follows:-



"I had earlier seen two of those who attacked us in uniform at the Nainatheevu jetty. I can identify the two persons in the morning of the 15th of this month. I travelled by this launch, which left at 7. 40 a m. there were 60 to 70 passengers. They were known to me"

After the boat had travelled for about half an hour, a plastic boat approached us between Nainatheevu. There were seven to eight persons in the boat with guns in their hands. Some were wearing shorts and banians. Some were wearing shirts. Having come close to our boat, they ordered us to stop. The launch was stopped."

(Eelanadu on 18. 5. 85)

## **MAGISTRATES COURT, JAFFNA.**

**CASE NO. INQUEST 9055.**

**Jaffna Govt. Hospital Ward No. 25 - 4-25 p. m**  
16-5-85

**P. S. 8161 Parameswaran Present.**

**Mr. Thambiratnam, Mr. Visuvanathan, Mr. R. Balasubramaniam and Mr. Rajarajeswaran Thangaraja - Attorneys - at law present and watch the interests of the deceased. Police Sergeant 8161 Parameswaran calls injured Kangesu Santhalingam to give evidence:-**

(The injured has injuries on his head, left leg, ankle and knee bandaged).

**Kangesu Santhalingam, 28 yrs, ward No. 2, Delft-Hindu, Casual Labourer, Labour Dept, Delft. Affirmed.**

# KUMUTHINI

The caption of this issue "KUMUTHINI" refers to the Passenger launch that plies between the Island of Delft (known in Tamil as Nedun Theevu meaning LONG ISLAND) and KURIKADDUVAN one of the coastal landing Jetties as Pungudutheevu KUMUTHINI, a government owned passenger launch has to do daily two scheduled voyages, up and down between these two points without which the government link with the island will remain cut off, and social and community life in this island will come to a halt as the economy therein could only service its needs in food items such as fish and some varieties of vegetables.

The Island of Delft is situated 9 miles away from Kurikadduvan and 35 miles from the mainland - the Jaffna Peninsula., with an area of 10 square miles, and a population of over 10,000 all being Tamils by descent and belonging to different religions- Roman Catholics, different denominations of Christians and Hindus. The island functions as a separate Revenue District. This island created history, when in 1955, the people of this island crowned Sir John Kotalawala, the then Prime Minister of Ceylon as their King as their King return for the Prime Minister's categorical pronouncement "Sinhala and Tamil will enjoy parity of status throughout the Island of Ceylon and the Constitution of Ceylon will be amended to this effect".

Such a grateful people, never in their dreams, anticipated a tragedy like the one that overtook them on that fateful day of 15th May, 1985. If the inanimate KUMUTHINI were to be animated, we will be having shocking and perilous tales than the ones recorded in this note about the fateful day which made the blue ocean turn bloody red with the blood that flowed into the ocean from the bodies of

the 35 (thirty five) men, women and children who were salughtered to death and of the 71 (seventy one) who were subjected to severe injuries. All these 'feats' were by the Sri Lanka Navy based at Karainagar in the Jaffna Peninsula under the title of SLNS - ELARA, and captained by the Commanding Officer A. I. JAYAWARDENE. Not even the seven month old baby - Miss Subagini Viswalingam or the 70 year old lady - Mrs Aiyampillai Deivanai could win the sympathy of the swords and knives of the Sri Lanka Navy men by whom this massacre was caused on board the vessel KUMUTHINI.

The term ELARA captioned for the Karainagar based Navy regiment, is the name of the Tamil King who ruled the Island of Ceylon 2000 years ago and about whom reference had been made in the Mahavansa - the ancient Chronical of this Island, as the one who stood for Righteousness or DHARMA. What a heinous crime in the name of this great Soul and Dharma a word much pronounced by his Excellency Junius Richard Jayawardene, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.



Yesterday that is on 15.5.85 morning about 7.40 I boarded the boat named Kumuthini at Delft to come to KuriKadduvan along with my wife, cousin and relatives. There were about 70 to 80 passengers in that boat. This boat set out from Delft about 7.40 a.m. After our boat had travelled about half an hour that is when the boat was travelling between Delft and Nainativu a plastic boat came towards our boat. As the people in the plastic boat came closer to our boat. They ordered our boat engine to be stopped in broken Tamil. The crew of our boat stopped the boat there as ordered. The people in the plastic boat came round our boat and joined our boat with theirs. There were 7 or 8 persons in this plastic boat. Some of them were dressed in short trousers and T shirts, some in long trousers and shirts and some in ordinary shirts. They were armed with guns. They ordered the crew in the engine room and those passengers in the rear room to climb up the tools. At the time I was in the rear room of the boat. Then I heard them ordering those on top of the tools to go into the front room. Accordingly those on the tools got into the front room. In the process all came into the front room. Those who came in the plastic boat waited with guns. Then they ordered the passengers to shout out their names addresses, occupations and their places in a loud tone. They asked whether they had their identity cards. Then the passengers were ordered to shout out their names together in a chorus. They ordered all males to cross over the engine room to the rear room leaving spaces between each other. When the people went that way gun shots were heard. At the time we were uttering our names etc aloud and we only heard the gun shots. We did not hear any other noises. Since I had no room to sit down I kept standing like myself. Then I saw the bodies of people in the rear room falling into the sea. In that process people were being called over, it came to my turn. When I went to the rear room the people there were bleeding from their bodies. When I saw this I got shocked and cried out. Then one of those in the boat hit me with a baton. I then fell on top of the bodies



there. Then they dragged me and chopped me with a battle axe. They again dragged and attacked me. I protested. At the time I received a stab on my leg. Then I lay as if I was dead. Then they left me and further called the other people and continued to attack them. I felt the attacked bodies falling over my body. The upper part of my body was under the wooden cover. The attacked bodies fell over my leg. This attack continued for about one hour or one and a quarter of an hour. From Delft my wife Kusalakumari, her sister Anusiya, my wife's aunt Saroja, her infant child Laxi went with me. Of them my wife Kusalakumari and Anushiya are dead. After attacking us those people got into their boat and started its engine and went away. Then those injured who escaped said that they had gone. Then I pulled my leg out of those fallen there. Then I looked to see the dead bodies of males, females and small children heaped up. I somehow came out. Then since our boat engine did not work, the boat was receding towards Punkuduvivu. Then we all there showed a red bag to those in the shore and called them. They came in another boat and coupled our boat and dragged our boat to and brought us to Kurikadduvan. Then I was sent along with other injured to the Hospital. I have earlier seen one of those who came in that boat and attacked us. He bore a short beard. I had seen them on duty along with other Navy officers at Nainativu causeway. Then he was seen in Navy uniform. If I see that person I could identify him. This is all I have to state.

Read over and accepted as corrected

Signed. K. Santhalingam.

Addl Magistrate.

Jaffna Govt. Hospital, Ward No. 25 Time 12.05 p m 17.5.85  
 PS. 6552 Sevaratnam, PS 8161 Parameswaran PC. 6239 Thabalasingam of Jaffna Police are present.



M/S. Thambiratnam, Visuvanathan, Balasubramaniam Rajarajeswaran Thangarajan, Somasundaram, Sivanesen, Thiagarajah, Visuvalingam, Sivasubramaniam - Attorneys-at-law are present, They are watching the interests of the deceased persons.

PS. 8161 Parameswaran calls injured Kanapathippillai Ganesa. pillai to give evidence (Injured is seen with injuries on his lower lip, cheek, right forehead, and top of head bandaged. The lower lip is sutured.)

**Kanapathipillai Kanesapillai. aged 35 yrs. Rural Bank Manager,**

Hindu, Delft, affirmed:-

On 15. 5. 85 morning, I left Delft for Jaffna, and boarded that boat named "Kumuthini" bound to Kurikadduvan from Delft. This boat set out about 7. 40 a m. from Delft. At the time there were about 60 or 70 passengers on board with me. Those passengers were known to me. When our boat had travelled about half an hour, that is when the boat was travelling between Delft and Nainativu, a plastic boat came towards our boat. There were about 7 or 8 persons in that plastic boat They were armed with guns. Some of them were dressed in short trousers and T. Shirts. Some were in long trousers and T. shirts. Others were in long trousers and ordinary shirts. Then the boat that approached our boat ordered us to stop. The crew of my boat obeyed that order and stopped our engine. At the time I was in the front room of the boat with other passengers. There were other passengers in the rear room I did not notice whether anyone was seated on the tools of the boat. As our boat was stopped the plastic boat came round and joined it with our boat. Then they boarded our boat and called all those in the boat to go up. Then they ordered all passengers to go into the front room. Then the passengers and crew came into the front room. Then they asked the passengers for



their names, addresses, occupations etc. After asking that while two of them were guarding the two entrances they asked the males to come one by one at intervals to the rear room. At the same time they ordered the passengers to shout out their names and addresses in a loud tone. Then all those in the front room shouted out together their names and addresses. The engine is situated between the front room and the rear room and so what happened in the rear room we could not see from the front room;

Then I heard noises like gun shots. When it came to my turn I was also sent from the front room to the rear. As I went there a person there hit me on my head with a short baton. Another person chopped me on my head with an axe without its handle. After, these attacks I fell down. As I entered that room other bodies were lying there with bleeding injuries. When I saw it I shouted out. While I was down another person who came in that plastic boat split my mouth with a long instrument like a knife. I received injuries on my mouth. I had the axe cut injury on my head. In this condition I rolled on the footboard plank and went under it. At the same time another passenger came forward and they set upon him leaving me. I continued to hear the cries of the passengers. This attack continued for about an hour. There after I heard the sound of the plastic boat leaving.

When I looked I saw the bodies of injured heaped on us. Some of them were conscious like me with injuries. I heard the voices of people talking. Of them Kangesu Santhalingam was one. Santhalingam showed a red bag and beckoned to those in the shore to come. Our boat was drifting towards Punkudutivu. On seeing the signal from Santalingam those at Kurikadduvan shore came in a boat and towed our boat to Kurikaddavan. From there I was despatched to the Hospital. I now hear that many of those who came with me at the time in our boat died. Those persons who came and attacked us in that plastic boat spoke



to the people in broken Tamil. At the time they came round and joined their plastic boat to our boat, they conversed amongst themselves in Sinhalese. I have earlier seen two of those who attacked us. I had seen them on duty at Nainativu shore in Navy uniforms. I have also seen those two in civil clothes at the Nainativu shores on duty. If I see those two persons I could identify them. This is all I have to state.

Read over and accepted correct and signed.

Sgd K. Kanesapillai.

Sgd.

Addl. Magistrate

Before:

**Addl. Magistrate Mr. K. S. P. Varatharaja.**

**Magistrate's Court, Jaffna.**

**CASE NO INQUEST 9055. 24-5-85**

Jaffna PS. 7972 Manicavasaker and PS. 8161 Parameswaran are both present.

M/S. Thambiratnam, Visuvanathan, Balasubramanian, Rajarajeswaran, Thangarajah, Somasundaram, Sivanesan, Thiagarajah, Visuvalingam, Sivasupramaniam, Kanagasabapathy, Thavabalan, Logeswarn A - A - Law watch the interests of the deceased.

PS: Parameswaran calls

Sithamparapillai Kasirasa, Pubic Works Dept, Boat service Kurikadduvan, Hindu, Affirmed:-

For the last 9 months I have been serving at Kurikadduvan. On 15-5-85 morning I was on duty at Kurikadduvan terminal About 10 or 10-30 a. m. I saw boat "Kumuthini"



coming from Delft. But the boat did not appear to be coming in the normal way, but came crosswise as if it was staggering. When I watched the boat "Kumuthini" carefully I did not notice anyone at the steering. But from the Passengers side I noticed a red object visible in that section being continuously waved. Then I spoke to the Co-operative Boat people and said that the boat "Kumuthini" appears to be in difficulty and requested them to come along to see what is was about. They agreed to my suggestion. Then the driver of that boat, his assistant and I went in that boat towards "Kumuthini". Then "Kumuthini" was drifting towards Kurikadduvan. As we went closer we saw two of them with bleeding injuries. They said that all the passengers were cut. Those two injured persons were not even in a position to get hold of the rope that was being offered from my boat. So we took our boat up to boat "Kumuthini" and joined our boat and entered that boat. In the rear passengers room of that boat I found the dead bodies of several persons with bleeding injuries. Some were groaning. Then we coupled "Kumuthini" and brought it to Kurikadduvan side. At the shore the Chairman of the Village council Kanapathippillai and others were present. I then asked them to look up the deceased persons and those groaning and came to the head office of Jaffna. I think there would have been about 30 persons dead in the boat "Kumuthini". There were injured persons too. I do not know the count. The Delft former Village Council Chairmsn Kanapathippillai said that he would look into the injured and deceased and send them to Hospital. This is all I have to state.

Read over and explained and accepted as correct and signed.

Sgd. S. Kasirasa.

Sgd. Addl. Magistrate.

PS: 8161 Parameswaran calls Kanapathippillai:

**Maruthainar Kanapathippillai, 78 yrs, Former Delft V.C.Chairman,**



Ward 12, Delft, Hindu, Affirmed:

On 15-5-85 at about 9.45 or 10 a. m. I was waiting at Kurikadduvan shore terminal to go to Delft. At the time the boat "Kumuthini" was coming towards the terminal. Then PWD mechanic and two of them working in the Co-operative boat went and towed the boat "Kumuthini" to Kurikadduvan shores. When we looked into the boat the passengers were dead with injuries and some still groaning. Immediately in two lorries and in a Doctor's car brought about 23 injured to Jaffna General Hospital, and informed the Govt. Agent. We got back to Kurukadduvan. Then those who assisted me had taken the dead bodies of about 31 dead persons to Kayts Hospital. Then on the following day 16-5-85 on the orders of the Govt. Agent as requested by the Doctors with the assistance of the Grama Sevaka and the public those 31 bodies were brought from Kayts Hospital to Jaffna Hospital Mortuary. On 15-5-85 itself the valubles like jewellery, things and cash were taken charge of by the Grama Sevaka to my knowledge. Then at the inquest before the Addl. Magistrate, I identified the dead bodies of some of the dead persons. This is all I got to say.

Read over and explained and accepted as correct.

Sgd. M. Kanapathipillai.

Sgd.

Addl Magistrate.

PS: 8161 Parameswaran calls Vadivel to give evidence:

**Thambiah Vadivel, 56, yrs, Grama Sevaka No. 5, Kayts, West, Hindu, Affirmed:-**

On 15 5 85 about 3-45 p. m. I was travelling in private bus from Velanai AGA's Office towards Kayts. Then I heard that people in uniform attacked the passengers travelling in boat "Kumuthini" and many were dead and many were injured.



Then I went to Kayts Hospital. One of the injured admitted there died. Others were treated. At the time the dead bodies of 30 persons were brought in a private bus to Hospital with the dead woman's body. There were 31 dead bodies at the Hospital I then aranged and numbered the dead bodies in order and took charge of the Jewellery, cash and things in the possession of those dead persons. At the time the former V. C. Chairman came and said that the Govt. Agent was informed and that he returned from Jaffna. Later on the instructions of the Medical Officers and other Officials as the inquest and Postmortems cannot be held at Kayts Hospital, on the instruction of the Govt. Agent I al along with former V C. Chairman Kanapathipillai and others on 16. 5 85 in the afternoon took the dead bodies of all 31 persons from kayts Hospital to Jaffna Hospital Mortuary. The inquest commenced on 16. 5. 85 on orders of the Addl Magistrate the relatives of deceased persons obtainesd the dead persons jewelleryes and cash and things giving me proper receipts therefor. Only some of the things remained to be handed over. I will inform the relatives of the deceased concerned and hand over them too. This is all I have to say.

Read over and explained and accepted as correct and signed.

Sgd. T. Vadivelu, GS. K. 5.

Sgd.

Addl. Magistrate

Before : Addl. Magistarte K. P. S. Varatharaja.

Case No. Inquest 9055.

29. 5. 1985;

Jaffna PS. 8161 Perameswaran and PS. 7972 Manicka-vasagar present. M/s. Thambiratnam, Visuvanatha Balasubramaniam, Rajarajeswaran Thangarajah, Somasundaram, Sivanesan, Thiyagarajan, Visuvalingam, Sivasubramaniam, Kanasabapathy, Thavapalan, Yogeswaran, Attorney at law for deceased.



PS: : 3161 Parameswaran calls JMO Saravanabavanandan:-

**Prof. Navaratnam Saravanabavanandan, MRCP (U.K.)**  
 D. M. J (Lond) FRCP (Lond) 50 years, Lecturer, Medical  
 Faculty, University, Jaffna. and Judicial Medical Officer,  
 General Hospital, Jaffna, Hindu, Affirmed:-

On 16. 5. 85 and 17. 5. 85 at the request of Addl: Magistrate Jaffna, I along with the assistance of Drs. Vigneswaran Paramanathan, Raja Gnanasampanthan, Sangaralingam, Paramalingam Sivalingam, conducted / postmortems in all 32 bodies. I conducted the postmortem examination. Findings are as follows:-

1. Iyan Sinniah- In my opinion Iyan Chinniah has come by his death due to the stab injuries inflicted on his stomach resulting in shock and haemorrhage.
2. Muttan Maniam - In my opinion death was due to the multiple fractures caused to his skull.
3. Sandayan Kovindan - In my opinion Sadayan Govindan's death was due to shock and haemorrhage resulting from the stab injuries inflicted on his chest.
4. Nimili Pathmanathan: In my opinion his death was due to shock and haemorrhage due to the stab injuries inflicted on his liver.
5. Namasivayam Kandiah, In my opinion his death was due to the injuriens caused to his skull bond and brain with a heavy blunt weapon and the stab injuries inflicted on his liver and stomach.
6. Pathinathan Yogarajah, - In my opinion death was due to the injuries caused to the skull bone and brain with a heavy blunt weapon.



7. **Visuvalingam Subashini** alias **Krishnakumari** - I produce her postmortem report marked P7. In this report I have mentioned the injuries found on her body in detail. In my opinion, her death was due to the injuries inflicted to her skull bone and brain with a heavy blunt weapon and due to the stab injuries caused on her lungs and heart with a sharp cutting weapon.
- This deceased was aged about 8 months. I found three external injuries on this child. Those three injuries were inflicted with sharp instrument. These three injuries were about 3 inches in depth. **A. Satchidanandam** identified her body.
8. **Iyampilai Theiyanaipillai** - I produce her postmortem report marked P8. I have mentioned in detail the injuries found on her body. According to my opinion there were three torn injuries on her head with the skull bone fractured. When I examined her dead body her brain was in a highly decomposed state. Therefore I could not express a definite opinion about her cause of death. Her death could have been either caused due to the injuries caused to her brain or as a result of her body getting crushed by other bodies due to asphyxia.
9. **Gregory Elizabeth** - In my opinion death was due to the injuries caused to the skull bone and brain with a blunt heavy weapon.
10. **Velupillai Pushparance** - In my opinion **Velupillar Pushparance** has come by her death due to the injuries caused to her skull bone and brain with a blunt heavy weapon on his liver and stomach.
11. **Kumarasamy Vinayagamorthy**, - In my opinion his death was due to the injuries caused to his skull bone and brain by a heavy blunt weapon, and by the injuries caused to the liver with a sharp cutting instrument.



12. **Sebamalai Anthonipillai** - In my opinion his death was due to the injuries caused to the skull bone and brain with a heavy blunt weapon.
13. **Pasupathy Nirmalathevy** - In my opinion her death was due to the injuries caused to her skull bone and brain with a heavy blunt weapon and by the injuries caused on her stomach with a sharp cutting weapon.
14. **Tharmalingam Alalasdaram** - In my opinion his death was due to the injuries caused to his skull bone and brain with a heavy blunt weapon and by the stab injuries caused on his stomach with a sharp cutting weapon.
15. **Sinnayan Anthony** - Either he could have died to the injuries caused to his brain or due to asphyxis as a result of his body getting caught underneath other dead bodies.
16. **Raman Murugan** - In my opinion Raman Murugan has come by his death due to the injuries caused to his skull bone and brain caused by a heavy blunt weapon.
17. **Gnanapragasam Thevasagayampillai** - In my opinion his death was due to shock and haemorrhage due to the stab injuries caused to his chest with a sharp cutting instrument.
18. **Ramanathan Kanagammah** - In my opinion Ramanathan Kanagammah has come by her skull bone and brain with a heavy blunt weapon.
- To Court, Q - Are there any common features in the injuries found on all these 18 deceased persons?
- A - Four of them have been stabbed with sharp cutting instruments. All other 10 persons have been



struck on the back of head with heavy blunt weapon.

All those who have received injuries with blunt weapon have received their injuries mainly on the back of their heads. There is evidence to show that most probably those injuries were inflicted when the deceased persons were in a bent position. In so far as those deceased who were attacked with blunt and sharp cutting weapon, there is evidence according to my opinion to show that they were first hit with the blunt weapon and then when they had fallen down the sharp cutting instrument injuries had been inflicted. As stated earlier I am unable to give the exact cause of death of two of the deceased mentioned above. In both their cases there were injuries to show that they had been attacked with blunt heavy weapons. They could have died as a result of those injuries. Even their death could have been due to asphyxia due to their bodies lying under other dead bodies. But these two deaths were not due to natural causes. This is all I have to state.

Read over and explained and accepted correct and signed .

Sgd. Addl. Magistrate.

**Dr. Vijayakumar Wigneswaran Paramanathan,**

28 yrs, Medical Officer, General Hospital, Jaffna, Hindu,  
Affirmed:-

Pursuant to the directions given to me by JMO Dr. Saravanabavanandan I held the postmortem examinations on the bodies of six dead bodies in the Jaffna Hospital Mortuary on 16. 5. 85 & 17. 5. 85 My examination details are as follows:-

1. On 16 5. 85 - Sivakumar Jesudasan - In my opinion Sivakumar Jesudasan came by his death due to the injuries





*Man's inhumanity and beastliness to Man!*







Man's responsibility and bestness to Man





caused to his skull bone and brain with a blunt heavy weapon which resulted in shock and haemorrhage.

2. **Pasupathy Sornammah** - In my opinion her death was due to shock haemorrhage due to the injuries inflicted on her heart with a sharp cutting instrument.
3. **Kumaravelu Kanagalingam** - In my opinion Kumaravelu Kanagalingam came his death due to the injuries caused to the skull bone (fracture) and the brain with a heavy blunt weapon.
4. **Kandiah Sadasivam** - In my opinion Kandiah Sadasivam came by his death due to the injuries caused to the skull bone and brain with a blunt heavy weapon.
5. **Thomman Nagendran** - In my opinion his death was due to shock and haemorrhage due to the sub injuries caused with sharp cutting instrument on his stomach and chest. In this particular body the injury has commenced from the back of the abdomen and gone through the right liver, diaphragm and up to the middle lobe of right lung. From this I could say that this injuries was inflicted by a sharp cutting long instrument.
6. **Gnanapragasam Mariam Maniccam** - In my opinion Gnanapragasam Mariam Maniccam has come by his death due to the injuries caused with a heavy blunt weapon on his skull bone and brain. This is all I have to state. Read over and explained and accepted as correct and signed;

Sgd: Addl. Magistrate

**Dr. Paramalingam Sivalingam, Medical Officer,**  
General Hospital, Jaffna, Hindu, Affirmed:

On the instructions of Dr. Professor Saravanabavan Andan on 17-5-85 I held postmortem examination on the dead.



bodies of four persons at the Jaffna General Hospital Mortuary. The details would be as follows:-

1. Velupillai Kandiah - In my opinion Velupillai Kandiah came by his death due to shock and haemorrhage resulting from the stab injury caused with sharp cutting instrument on his stomach.
2. Sebaresu Rodesian Chandrakumar - In my opinion Sebaresu Rodesian Chandrakumar came by his death due to the injuries caused with a heavy blunt weapon on his skull bone and brain.
3. Sinnathamby Thillainathan, - In my opinion death was due to shock and haemorrhage due to the stab injury with a sharp cutting weapon caused on his right heart.
4. Tharmalingam Bapu - In my opinion Tharmalingam Bapu came by his death due to the injuries caused with a heavy blunt weapon on his skull bone and brain and by the injuries caused with a sharp cutting instrument on his chest and abdomen.

This is all I have to state.

Read over, explained and accepted as correct and signed.

sgd, Paramalingam Sivalingam.

Sgd. Addl. Magistrate

**Dr. Raja Gnanasampanthar Sankaralingam, 38 yrs.**

**Medical Officer, General Hospital, Jaffna, Hindu, Affirmed.**

On the instructions of the JMO Jaffna Dr. Professor Saravanabavanandan I held the postmortem examinations on 16.5.85 and 17.5.85 on four dead bodies - details of which are as follows:-



1. On 16. 5. 85 Pathinathar Mariammah - In my opinion her death was due to the injuries caused with a heavy blunt weapon on her skull bone and brain.
2. Ariyanayagam Kusalakumari - In my opinion her death was due to the injuries caused with a heavy blunt weapon on her skull bone and brain and due to shock and haemorrhage due to the injuries caused by a sharp cutting instrument on her heart and lungs.
3. Ariyanayagam Anusooya - I am of opinion that her death was due to the injuries caused with a heavy blunt weapon on her skull bone and brain.
4. Sebamalai Christine - In my opinion Sebamalai Christine has come by her death due to shock and haemorrhage due to the injuries caused by heavy blunt weapon on her skull bone and brain.

To Court. Q - Did you find any injuries on any of the four bodies that you examined consistent with it being caused with an axe.

A - There is evidence to show that the head injuries found on deceased Kusalakumari and Anusooya could have been caused with an axe.

This is all.

Read over, explained and accepted as correct.

Sgd.

Sgd. Addl. Magistrate.

Verdict 31-5-85

Sgd. Addl. Magistrate

29. 5. 85



Before: Addl. Magistrate Mr. K. P. S Varatharajah  
Magistrate's Court, Jaffna.

CASE NO INQUEST 9055.

31-5-85

Jaffna PC. 3301 Varatharajah - pt.

M/s. Thambiratnam, Visuvanathan, Balasubramaniam, Rajarajeswaran Thangarajah, Somasundaram, Kanagasabapathy, Sivanesan, Thiyagarajah, Visuvalingam, Sivasubramaniam, Thavapalan, Logeswaran watch the interests of the deceased.

### Verdict

On the evidence led at this inquest it has been established that all the dead persons were passengers on board the boat Kumuthini on 15. 5. 85 travelling from Deflit to Kurukadduvan. They consist of persons ranging from infant aged 8 months to aged men aged 84 years; like children, youth, young girls middle aged persons. The court accepts all the evidence led before this court.

Accordingly I return a verdict of homicide on the death of Muththan Manivannan who died as a result of severe fractures of his skull bone.

2. I return a verdict of homicide in regard to the death of Iyan Sinniah who died as a result of injuries inflicted with a sharp cutting instrument on his stomach resulting in shock and haemorrhage.
3. I return a verdict of homicide in regard to the death of Sadayar Govindan who died as a result of shock and haemorrhage due to the stab injuries caused with a sharp cutting instrument on his chest.
4. I return a verdict of homicide in regard to the death of Pathinathar Nimili who died as a result of shock and





*Did this baby, whatever its race  
deserve this savagery?*





Did this baby, whatever its race  
deserve this sorrow?



haemorrhage due to the injuries inflicted on him with a sharp cutting instrument

5. I return a verdict of homicide in regard to the death of deceased Namasivayam Kandiah due to the injuries inflicted on his skull bone and brain with blunt weapon and due to the injuries caused to his liver and stomach by stab injuries.
6. I return a verdict of homicide in regard to the death of deceased Pathinathar Yogarajah who died as a result of the injuries caused to his skull bone and brain with a heavy blunt weapon.
7. I return a verdict of homicide in regard to death of Visuvalihgam Subashini alias Krishnakumari who was not identified before me, but at the postmortem examination before the Judicial Medical Officer, An infant aged 8 months old female child, as a result of the injuries caused to its skull bone and brain with a heavy blunt weapon and as a result of the injuries inflicted on her heart and lungs with a sharp cutting instrument
8. I return a verdict of homicide as regards the death of deceased Iyampillai Theivanaipillai who died as a result of asphyxia due to the injuries caused to her brain-
9. I return a verdict of homicide on the death of the deceased Gregory Elizabeth who died as a result of the injuries sustained with a blunt weapon on her skull bone and brain.
10. I return a verdict of homicide on the death of the deceased Velupillai Pushparance who died as a result of injuries caused with a heavy blunt weapon on her skull-bone and brain.



11. I return a verdict of homicide on the death of the deceased Kumarasamy Vinayagamoorthy who died as a result of the injuries caused with a heavy blunt weapon on his skull bone and brain and with a sharp cutting instrument on his liver
12. I return a verdict of homicide on the death of the deceased Sebamalai Anthonipillai who died as a result of the injuries caused with a heavy blunt weapon on his skull bone and brain.
13. I return a verdict of homicide on the death of the deceased Pasupathi Nilmaladevy who died as a result of the inflicted with a heavy blunt wapon on her skull bone and brain and with a sharp cutting instrumet on her stomach.
14. I return a verdjct of homicide on the death of the deceased Tharumalingam Alalasunderam who died as a result of the injuries caused with a heavy olunt weapon on his skull bone and brain and with a shard weapon on his abdomen.
15. I return a verdict of homicide on the death of the deceased Sinnavan Anthony who dies as a result of the injuries caused to his brain or due to asptyxia.
16. I return a verdict of homicide on the death of the deceased Raman Murugan who died as a result of the injuries caused with a heavy blunt weapon on his skull bone and brain.
17. I return a verdict of homicide on the death of the deceased Gnanapragasam Thevasagayampillai who died as result of the injuries caused with a sharp weapon on his chest and as a result of a stab which resulted in shock and haemorrhage.



18. I return a verdict of homicide on the death of the deceased Ramanathar Kanagammah who died as a result of injuries inflicted with a heavy blunt weapon on her skull bone and brain;
19. I return a verdict of homicide on the death of the deceased Swakeen Jesudasan who died as a result of the injuries inflicted with a heavy blunt weapon on his skull bone and brain resulting in shock and haemorrhage.
20. I return a verdict of homicide on the death of the deceased Pasupathy Sornammah who died as a result of the injuries inflicted with a sharp weapon on her heart resulting in shock and haemorrhage.
21. I return a verdict of homicide on the death of the deceased Kumaravelu Kanagaratnam who died as a result of the injuries inflicted with a heavy blunt weapon causing multiple fractures of the skull bone and injuries to the brain.
22. I return a verdict of homicide on the death of deceased Kandian Sadasivam who died as a result of the injuries caused with a heavy blunt weapon on his skull bone and brain.
23. I return a verdict of homicide on the death of the deceased Thomman Nagendram who died as a result of shock and haemorrhage due to the injuries inflicted with a sharp weapon on his chest and abdomen.
24. I return a verdict of homicide on the death of the deceased Gnanapragasam Mariam Maniccam who died as a result of the injuries inflicted with a blunt weapon on his skull bone and brain.
25. I return a verdict of homicide on the death of deceased Veluppillai Kandiah who died as a result of injuries



- inflicted with a sharp weapon on his stomach which resulted in shock and haemorrhage.
26. I return a verdict of homicide on the death of deceased Rodesian Chandrakumar who died as a result of injuries inflicted with heavy blunt weapon on his skull bone and brain.
27. I return a verdict of homicide on the death of deceased Sinnathamby Thillainathan who died as a result of the injuries inflicted with a sharp weapon on the right side of his heart resulting in shock and haemorrhage.
- N. B (Magisterial Proceedings Continue on Page 23)

### Saturday Review's Comments

Then on 15th May, events in the North took a diabolical turn.

The regular launch "KUMUTHINI", plying between the Island of Deift and Kurrikadduvan, was returning to the mainland when, as usual, the Identity of the passengers was checked by Navy personnel who arrived in one of their patrol craft, Near Nainativu, another two plastic boats had approached the launch and some persons from them had got in, apparently to do another check.

Minutes later, 34 of the passengers lay dead, while 30 others were seriously injured;

The bodies of the dead were taken to Pungudutivu Hospital, and later brought to Jaffna Hospital. The injured are at the Jaffna Hospital. Three of them succumbed to their injuries.

The surprising fact is that, according to medical evidence, not a single of the dead or injured had bullet wound. Was it a 'hatchet gang' or pirates who carried out the attack as the SLBC (Tamil) broadcast of the 16th evening seemed to suggest? Anyway, official sources have denied that any Navy personnel were involved.



Dharmalingam Babu who died as a result of the injuries inflicted on him with heavy blunt weapon on his skull bone and brain and as a result of the injuries on his chest and abdomen.

22. I return a verdict of homicide on the death of the deceased Pathinathan Mariamma who died as a result of the injuries inflicted on her with heavy blunt weapon on her skull bone and brain.
30. I return a verdict of homicide of death of the deceased Ariyanayagam Kusalakumari who died as a result of the injuries inflicted on her with a heavy blunt weapon on her skull bone and skull and with a sharp weapon in her lungs and heart resulting in shock and haemorrhage.
31. I return a verdict of homicide on the death of the deceased Ariyanayagam Anusooya who died as a result of the injuries inflicted with a heavy blunt weapon on her skull bone and brain.
32. I return a verdict of homicide on the death of the deceased Christie Sebamalai who died as a result of the injuries inflicted on him with a heavy blunt weapon on his brain resulting in shock and haemorrhage.

The Judicial Medical Officer Professor Saravanabavandan who held the postmortem on 18 of the deceased said that ten of them had been attacked with blunt weapons and most probably those ten persons were struck in a bending position, according to the evidence available before him at the postmortem examinations. He has said that four of them were attacked with sharp weapons only. The balance four he said had been attacked both with the blunt weapons as well as with sharp cutting weapons according to his findings. One of the four who was attacked both with the blunt weapon and with the sharp cutting weapon, and who had been identified as Visuvalingam Subhashini alias Krishnakumari aged 8 months old. It is significant to note in the



evidence of the Judicial Medical Officer that this infant had been attacked on the skull bone and brain with the heavy blunt weapon and its heart and lungs attacked with a sharp cutting instrument, and it died of those injuries. Further according to its postmortem report there have been three external injuries.

The question that now arises is who are these people who attacked and killed these 32 persons. In this regard the evidence of two witnesses are worthy of consideration. Witness Kangesu Santhalingam has clearly stated one thing in his evidence. That is, while they were travelling in their boat, some persons who came in another plastic boat attacked them was seen by him earlier and one had short beard.

He had seen this person at Nainativu terminal in the company of other naval officers in uniforms and on some occasions he had seen him in civil as well and if seen could point out that person. According to the evidence of Kangesu Santhalingam one of those who died was his wife Kusalakumari and another was his wife's sister Anuoshiya which is significant. Providentially Kangesu Santhalingam survived with injuries.

Another injured, Rural Bank Manager Kanapathipillai Ganeshapillai also testified that he had earlier seen two of those persons who had attacked them that day. He said that he had seen those earlier at the Nainativu terminal while on duty along with co-naval officers, and sometimes they were seen in civil and that if he saw them he could identify them.

Hence I direct the Police to make further investigations in this regard and bring those responsible before the law and make order accordingly

Sgd.

Addl. Magistrate. 31-5-85.



# Murders In The Passenger Launch "Kumuthini" 15th May 1985

Name	Address	Age	Civil Status	Occupation	No. Of Dependents
1. Anthres Anthonypillai	Ward No. 8 Delft	41	Married	Coxwain	4
2. Gnanapragasam Devasahayampillai	Ward No 9 Delft	42	"	"	2
3. Mrs. Christian Sabamalai	Ward No. 10 Delft	53	"	Teacher	3
4. Mrs. Elisam Gregory	Ward No. 8 Delft	63	"	"	2
5. Thomman Nagenran	Ward No. 10 Delft	24	"	Labourer in the Delft Hospital	4
6. Mrs. Maria Maniccam Gnanapragasam	Ward No. 10, Punkuduthivu.	45	"	—	3
7. Kandiah Sathasivam	Ward No 11. Delft East, Delft	51	"	Retired Teacher	6
8. Kanapathypillai Karthihesu	Ward 12. Delft	47	"	Watcher at M.P.C.S.	5
9. Kumaravelu Kanakalingam	Karampan, Kayts.	36	"	Boatman	5



10. Nirmalathevi Pasupathy	Ward No. 14 Delft	18	Single	Student A/L	-
11. Swakin Jesuthasan	Gurunagar, Jaffna,	52	Married	O. I. C. Inspector of Internal Trade, Jaffna.	6
12. Rookeshar Chandrakumar	Ward No. 7 Delft;	19	Single	Student	-
13. Velupillai Kandiah	Ward No. 15 Delft.	47	Married	M. P. C. S. Kayts. watcher	4
14. Subagini Visvalingam	Ward No. 12 Delft.	7 mths	Baby	-	-
15. Namasiyayam Kandiah	Ward No. 3 Delft;	46	Married	C. T. B. Driver	5
16. Sadaiyappu Kovinthan	Ward No. 2, Delft.	45,	"	C. T. B. Conductor	9
17. Kusalakumari Santhalangam	Ward No. 2 Delft.	24	"	-	-
18. Anusha Ariyanayagam	co/ V. Ariyanayagam Pandateruppu.	20	Single	Seamstress	-
19. Tharmlingam Amirthalingam	Ward No. 4 Delft	18	Single	Student	-
20. Kumarasamy Vinayagarurty	Ward No. 2 Delft	27	Single	Farmer	2
21. Vaithilingam Sathasivam	Ward No. 4 Delft	42	Married	Employee in the Govt Motor Boat	7
22. Aiyampillai Deivanai	Ward No. 4 Delft	70	"	-	-
23. Mrs. Velupillai Puspasane	Ward No. 4 Delft	60	"	Retired Principal	3



24	Sinnavan Anthony	Ward No; 12 Delft	68	Married	Pensioner	2
25	Tharmalingam Rajeswaran (Babu)	Ward No, 3 Delft	12	Single	Student	-
26.	Thillainathan	Karampan, Kayts.	36	Married	Boatman	7
27.	Ramanathan Kanagamma	Ward No.: 3 Delft	48	Married	Farmer	-
28.	Mariamamma Pathinather	Anna Veechi Vasavelan Palaly	49	"	-	-
29.	Nirmala Pathinathar	"	15	Single	Student	-
30.	Yogarajah Pathinathar	"	14	Single	"	-
31.	M. Jesunayagam	Ward No 6 Myliddy K. K. S	24	Married	Fishing	-
32.	Aiyan Sinnavan	72/30 Rajasingam Road, 23 Jaffna		Married	Labourer at Kacheri	-
33.	Muththan Manivannan	Ward No. 5 Delft	13	Single	Student	1
34.	Raman Murugan	Ward No 5 Delft	85	Married	Pensioner	2
35.	Sasikala Thanapalasingam	Ward No. 3 Delft	2	Baby	-	-
36.	Mrs. Sornammah Pasupathi	Ward No. 1 Delft	60	Married	Farmer	-



**Lanka Puwath - the news agency of the Sri Lanka Government, and the so called national dailies of Sri Lanka did not dare to make reference to the Massacre.**

Tamil dailies Veerakesari, Eelanadu, Eelamurasu, and the only Regional English Weekly - Saturday Review, gave full coverage to this tragedy. Our thanks to these news media.



# The Unanswered Questions:

1. *Why has the Sri Lankan Government failed to carry out the directions of the Learned Magistrate? Was he partial? If so why keep him?*
  2. *Or did the masacre recive the blessings of the powers that be?*
  3. *At any rate wither bound BUDDHIST SRI LANKA The Paradise island!*
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