

Inside Report

Tamil EElam News Round-up

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15th, AUGUST 1993

Govt. Says Willing To Exchange Prisoners **LTTE SAYS IT IS A FEIGN**

On 13th August evening Sri Lankan Radio announced, that the government is willing to exchange with the LTTE Tamil prisoners in its custody to get back the Sinhalese POW in the custody of the LTTE. The announcement also said that the government has conveyed this message to the LTTE through the Representatives of the I.C.R.C and had forwarded a list of 60 Tamils kept in detention by it whom it suspects as Liberation Tigers. Up to the time of that announcement neither the I.C.R.C here nor the LTTE has received any such message.

The LTTE thinks that this announcement of the government is a feign made to appease the Sinhala POW in Jaffna and their relatives in the south.

When the Sinhala POW staged a fast unto death for the first time the government came out with the prisoner exchange proposal. Then the LTTE wanted a List of Tamil prisoners in the custody of the government whom the government suspects to be Liberation Tigers. To that the government refused then but now it says that it is willing to it.

Sinhalese POW Gave up Death Fast

The 33 Sinhalese POW in the custody of the LTTE in Jaffna, who started for the second time a fast unto death on 29th July, demanding the Sri Lankan government to take actions to get them freed, have given up their fast after 15 days on 12th August. It was said that; since their parents and relatives who were with them here having come when they fasted on the previous occasion have decided to return back to Colombo, to agitate with their government to get them freed, they have ended up their fast. The relatives returned to Colombo at 4.00 p.m. on the 12th by air from Palaly.

They all bid tearful farewells and left heavy heartedly. One of the relatives Mr. Sunethra Perera had not gone and is staying back.

Passenger Boats Capsized In Kilaly Lagoon 19 Dead By Drowning

On 10th August night around 9.00 p.m. 2 boats ferrying passengers across the Kilaly lagoon got capsized due to rough weather and sunk in the middle of the lagoon. As a result 19 passengers including children died. Their bodies were recovered and brought and handed over to the mortuary of the General Hospital.

A whole family of father mother and 3 children got killed in that incident.

There were 35 passengers altogether in both the boats including the 4 boatmen being 2 for each. The boatmen, it was reported had swam to safety. Eleven passengers including 4 women who were clinging on to the boats and fighting for life were rescued by two other boats that were transporting goods and had been in that vicinity.

Elephant Pass War Martyrs Commemorated Memorial Edifice Inaugurated at Kodikamam

The Memorial Edifice built at Kodikamam to commemorate the Liberation Tiger Martyrs of the Elephant Pass war of 1990 was inaugurated on 31st July.

Thousands of people gathered enthusiastically to participate in the inaugural function. They earnestly lined up and went and paid their heartfelt homage and offered floral tributes to the portraits of the

Thiru. Sornam a Senior Commander of the LTTE.

Thiru. Pottamman a Senior member of the LTTE ceremonially opened the memorial building.

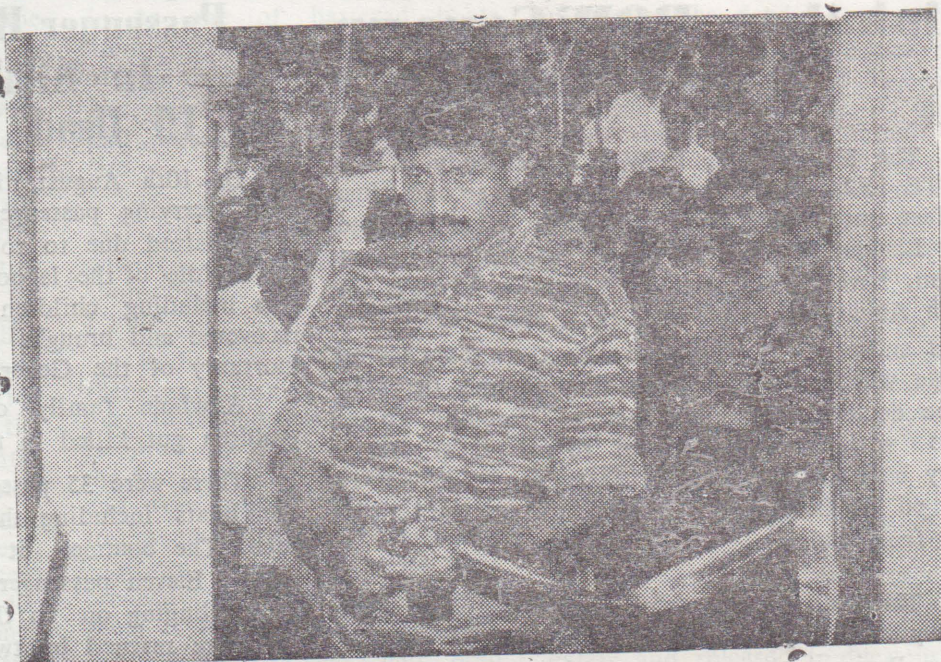
Many prominent LTTE members participated in the events of the occasion and they lined up and garlanded the portraits of the Elephant Pass War Martyrs.

Thiru. Pottamman in his speech said that the Elephant Pass War has demonstrated to the enemy and the world the determination and urge of the Tamils to achieve freedom.

602 Elephant Pass War Martyrs that were enshrined in the memorial building.

The parents of the martyrs were specially invited welcomed and honoured on that occasion. The way they paid their emotional homages to their pride and hero sons was a very heart rending sight.

The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Thiru. Kandanna the Leader of the Political Section for Thenmaradchchi Thiru Kuna the special Leader for Thenmarachchi area lighted up the ceremonial offer flame. The Deputy Commander of the LTTE Thiru. Palaraj hoisted the national flag of Tamil Eelam. The memorial plaque was unveiled by



War or Peace Wijetunga's Dilemma

President Mr. Wijetunga, since his assumption of office is in a state of confusion with regard to a resolution to the ethnic problem. Will he opt for a military solution or a peaceful political process to solve this intractable conflict of the Island. His statements on the ethnic conflict have exposed his policy dilemmas.

Soon after his assumption of office of President, he proclaimed a willingness to hold direct talks with the LTTE Leader Mr. V. Prabhakaran. There was a shift in his position when, in a later statement, he referred to the ethnic problem in the Island as a problem of "terrorism." His statement seemingly closed the doors for peaceful negotiations.

His policy confusion was further compounded by a recent statement in which he articulated the possibility of finding a solution to the ethnic conflict with the assistance of international agencies. Furthermore, Mr. Wijetunga, who earlier commented that the war would come to an end within three months is now saying that it would be impossible to end the war within such a short span of time.

The confusing and contradictory statements expressed by the Sinhala government was the cause of the deadlock in the negotiations for the release of the thirtynine Sinhala prisoners of war. In the initial round of talks to free the prisoners the government agreed to lift the economic blockade imposed on the Tamils in the north in return for the release of the prisoners of war. The freeing of the prisoners and the lifting of the economic blockade would create a congenial atmosphere for future peace talks. The government changed this position and the steps towards the release of the prisoners became stalemated.

Several Sinhalese critics are rejoicing among themselves; that the three year war and the economic blockade, has weakened the LTTE. Sinhala army commanders postulate that, if the war is continued, the Liberation Tigers could be crushed. They have persuaded the government of Mr. Wijetunga to continue with the war. Nevertheless, pursuing the military option adds to the mounting burden of military expenses causing further problems for the government.

Can Mr. Wijetunga whom some foreign critics have described as a weak head of state of a weak government, settle this most complicated historic enmity between the two nations on this Island?

Mr. Wijetunga in a show of belligerence has opted for the continuation of the war as a solution to the conflict. But the successful attack on the Mankindi malai army camp by the Tigers and the heavy losses sustained by the army has made the Sinhala nation tremble. The devastation of the camp by the Tigers has shattered the myth that the Liberation Tigers have been militarily weakened. The attack raises the question as to whether an army that was incapable of safeguarding a strategically important and fortified camp would be able to continue to wage war against the Tigers and achieve victory? Since the independence of the Island from British colonialists the Sinhala government has not been able to find a permanent settlement to the problem of the Tamils. The military option and political negotiations have failed.

Viduthalai Pulikal, July, 1993.

Sudden Confrontation In Mannar 3 Soldiers Killed. 4 Tigers Embraced Heroic Death

On 30th July at 3.00 p.m. at Karichchattipalam, a place inbetween Mannar Island and Thalladi camp, which are areas under the control of the army, there was a sudden clash in which the Tigers killed 3 armymen and captured from them two T 56 rifles with 2 magazines and 15 inter medium rounds.

In this combat 4 Liberation Tigers; Lt. Thamban, Captain Eelavan, Major Raymon and Tigers Hero Elilventhan embraced heroic death.

Mourning was observed very emotionally all over the Mannar District on the loss of the four martyrs. Black flags were tied and many meetings were held to pay respect and homage to them.

An Inspiring Exhibition At Nallur

The annual grand festival of the Nallur Hindu Temple is going on now since last 3 weeks and will end with the water cutting ceremony on 17th August. It is one of the local religious feasts that draw very large crowds of people during the festival days. Thousands of devotees come there to fulfill their religious rituals and to part take in the holy rites. There are many thousands of others who visit to enjoy the fan-fare and for sight seeing and walking around and buying things at the special festival time fancy bazaar.

The Tamil Eelam Economic Development Organisation (TEEDOR) has put up an interesting exhibition at the festival bazaar. Entrance is free.

In the context of the prevailing war situation here, and the economic and other blockades imposed by the hegemonic Sri Lankan government on the Tamil people living in the northern province; this exhibition is of much informative and educational value, and inspires hope and courage to forge towards self sustenance.

This exhibition imparts much technical know how on making use of the locally available raw materials and resources to get maximum utility out of them.

By looking at the local traditional handicraft and wares that are exhibited there, one can easily realise how much the quality, finish and beauty of those products, have improved and developed during the recent past few years, in incorporating into their make new technics and innovations. No doubt TEEDOR has done much service for the advancement of local handicrafts and cottage industries.

The land and land uses section of the exhibition, gives out a wealth of useful information and data on the land and aquatic area of Tamil Eelam and the natural resources found there.

The economic blockade on the north in force since last 3 years, includes the prohibition of power and fuel supply. Because of that, locally available fire wood resources are getting consumed fast. Therefore there prevails a big scarcity for fire-wood and the costs are also very high. At such a time, TEEDOR technicians have made a timely innovation, by producing a novel model baked clay stove. It is very economical, durable, safe, easy to handle and fuel efficient and produces more heat with less fire wood consumption. It costs only Rs. 250/- and there is a very big demand for it.

Many Siddha and Ayurvedic pharmaceutical preparations made by the Siddha Medical Co-op. Society of Sittankerny are available at the exhibition for sale. In these times of severe scarcity and non availability of western medicines in this northern Tamil Eelam; siddha medical treatment has been of immense help to the people.

To overcome the non availability of soft wood timber necessary for making catamarans, TEEDOR has introduced a suitable alternative in cotton wood and mullumurukku (erythrina verigata) wood. The second named wood is not so much durable as other traditional woods; but is efficient for making catamarans to last for a few months.

Many of the local industries have got adversely affected due to the ban imposed by the government on the import of industrial chemicals into this area. Men at TEEDOR have researched and introduced methods of tanning leather with locally available herbal derivatives. This apart from being economical, the finish and quality of leather so tanned is also of some good standard.

There is no doubt that the TEEDOR is serving its purpose fully for the good of its people.

Bishop Writes To President To stop Bombing

Rt Rev. Dr. Jebanesan the Bishop of the Church of South India in Jaffna, has written to Mr. D. B. Wijetunga the President of Sri Lanka, protesting against aerial bombing in Jaffna. He has said in his letter that he was very much worried about the resumption of bombing here, from the last week of July. He has

informed the President that, by the aerial bombings carried out in that week many innocent civilians including school children have been wantonly killed.

He has also said that at the bombing done on 30th on Vaddukoddai and Sithankerny a student of Jaffna college Vaddu

koddai was killed and another girl student and her mother were seriously injured.

The Bishop has said in his letter that he hoped that the President would take suitable actions to prevent the occurrence of such mishaps.

EDITORIALS

Genocide Has Become A Daily Routine

The genocidal actions of the Sri Lankan government is on the increase during the last few days. The government cannot at all give any reason, for those mass acres that are being committed by its forces with the full knowledge that those whom they are killing are innocent Tamil civilians.

On 27th July when the Airforce planes bombed places in Jaffna, and 6 civilians including 3 children on the way to school were killed. On 29th night Navymen waylaid over Kilaly lagoon passenger boats ferrying civilians and attacked them wantonly inspite of having known that they were all ordinary passengers. As a result of it, 8 were killed and several others were seriously injured and 6 persons are missing. Most probably they too would have got killed.

Now it has become futile to make protests anymore when ever the Sri Lankan forces cause any genocide, for such actions have become a daily routine.

There are several forces which act as catalysts to those genocidal actions of the Sinhala Buddhist hegemonists. They support directly as well as indirectly, by pretending not to have seen what really happens. The Tamil Groups in Colombo that are aligned to the government and those pretenders who have self styled themselves as the Human Rights Activists Group of the Jaffna University Teachers' Association are some of them.

Their stance against the Liberation Tigers has become something that encourages the Sinhala Government to commit genocide on the Tamils. With the help of such dissident groups consisting only of a few individuals the hegemonistic government is trying to show out that racial harmony is prevailing in Sri Lanka.

Foreign governments and International Monetary Agencies that grant aid and loans to Sri Lanka for economic development too are in a way giving help and encouragement to the Sri Lankan government to carry

on its genocidal actions on the Tamils. They are in the habit of making a hue and cry regarding the maintenance of human rights every time before they grant the aid.

But in actuality their motive in giving aid in that way is not their interest in safeguarding human rights but the aim of securing their investments and getting income out of them.

Because Sri Lanka gets loans and aids only it is able to continue with the war. Therefore now the Tamil people have got to fight not only against the Sinhala government but also against those aid granting Institutions as well. Because when the aid granting bodies say that they have evaluated the position regarding the maintenance of human rights much of the others in the world do not take much heed regarding the violations that are reported from here. Aid givers are not only giving funds but also aid and encourage Sri Lankan Government to commit more genocide.

Eelanatham 31-7-93

It Would Be Just to Exert Pressure on Government

The Sinhalese government is very silent with regard to the release of the POW. as if it had nothing to do with them. The parents of those men are now appealing to Leader Prabakaran, to release the 33 prisoners in the custody of the LTTE.

Liberation Tigers have already agreed to the release the prisoners. For that, they even relaxed their stance in order to reach an agreement at the negotiations that the government had with them; during previous fast unto death by the Sinhalese POW in Jaffna. This had even been pointed out, by Mr. Dias Silva, the

father of one of the POW constable Mr. Amarasinghe, in an interview he gave to the B.B.C.

The insistence of the Tigers on the government to fulfill the agreement reached with regard to the release of the prisoners is justified. Because the prisoners were captured in war operations. They are not innocent men. They are persons who fought for the government against the Tamils. Therefore, the government for which they fought, is duty bound to take actions to get them released. Therefore it would be justified for the parents to request that government to get their sons released.

The relatives of the POW say, that all their appeals to the government had not been heeded. They say that they are poor villagers and they have no political backing. What they say is something that is acceptable. But, it is a fact, that the Sinhalese hegemonist rulers are fighting against the Tamils, engaging such poor Sinhalese youth, who don't have any political backing to help them. This is a truth that had been known from a long time ago.

The parents of the POW are not realising their own power as humans, though they are poor.

Even though they are only the parents of 33 prisoners, they can also muster the support of hundreds of their relatives. In that way, they can also carry on an agitation against the government.

For example, while the POW are fasting unto death here in Jaffna demanding the government to get them released; if the parents also stage a fast unto

death or fasts in turn in the South; even if the political parties and the government turn a blind eye to it in the beginning; that agitation would subsequently become a political issue.

The political parties that strive to make gain out of such events will not fail to make use of such situations. Even the militarymen and the policemen

who fight in the north and east for the government would have to think of this matter. They all cannot simply ignore and forget this. Then the government too could not be without taking any heed. Therefore if to get their sons released the parents of the POW should stage a fast unto death in the south.

Eelanatham 4-8-9

What's Obstructing Peace

Sri Lankan Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Harold Herath has said recently that it was the adamantness of the Liberation Tigers which is causing much problems to the government in its efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement to the ethnic problem.

The aggressors and the grabbers are the ones who should give in. If the ones who had lost their right and ownership are to give in, then it would mean that they are accepting the suzerainty of the plunderers and becoming subservient to them.

Liberation Tigers are struggling to free the motherland of the Tamils and win back the rights that were lost. The independence and security of the Tamils depend on it. So which of it are to be given in? Is it the motherland of the Tamils or their security or their independence? Giving in whatever of them would mean that they are

accepting their subserviality to the hegemonistic rulers.

The Tamils are not asking for themselves any of the rights of the Sinhalese nor any part of the Sinhala motherland. There is nothing to negotiate or partition in this matter.

What have the Sinhalese political leaders given so far to the Tamil political leaderships that were prepared to give in to them? What had the Sinhalese rulers given to those who at first wanted a separate state and then stepped down from it and asked for federalism and there after further descended and asked for District Development Councils? Have the Sinhalese leaders found out any solution from any of those giving ins?

Likewise, what had the Sinhalese rulers given so far to the Tamil Groups that are presently allied with it, and are prepared to betray the motherland of the

Tamils, and be satisfied of a few concessions? The government is only striving to divide the motherland of the Tamils with their assistance. Because of that those Tamil Groups that had accepted subservience are now wondering as to what they are to do.

If the government is really willing to solve the ethnic problem, then when it convened all those All Party Conferences and Parliamentary Select Committees it should have presented before them its own constructive proposals. The government should have come forward and taken progressive actions when the Liberation Tigers said that they are prepared to settle for a federal system.

The real obstacle for the solution of the ethnic problem is Sinhala hegemonism and the competition among the Sinhalese political parties to get hold of power.

Eelanatham 7-8-93

Fishermen Attacked

On 2nd Aug. in the early hours, when 2 men on a catamaran were fishing in the Vadamaradchchi east sea, a S. L. Navy speed boat rushed up and knocked at them. The fishermen Sivalingam and Gopalasingam,

jumped into the sea just in time before the collision and had a narrow escape.

On 4th Aug. night, men fishing in the Vadamaradchchi sea in boats, were attacked with

gun and 50 calibre fire shots, by navymen in patrol boats, at close ranges. The fishermen, in order to safeguard their lives, had deserted their boats, and jumped into the sea and swam to safety.



LTTE Released 7 Sinhalese Villagers Captured During ITHAYA POOMY I

Liberation Tigers released the 7 Sinhalese villagers caught by them during their successful military offensive code named 'Ithaya Poomi I' carried out on the strong camp of the Sri Lankan Army at Mankindimalai in Manaluru Division on 25th July.

Unlike the Sri Lankan military men who when ever they happen to catch Tamils in such circumstances torture and kill them, LTTE men escorted those captured Sinhalese villagers safely and looked after them well.

They were handed over to the representatives of the I. C. R. C at Mullaithivu District to be conveyed safely to the governmental authorities concerned. Thiru. Pandiyan the District commander of the LTTE who handed over those Sinhalese villagers said on that occasion that it was out of the concern that the Tigers have that no civilians should get injured or killed when the Tigers fight against the armed forces that they escorted those Sinhalese villagers to safety.

Soldier Killed in Sniper Attack

On 12th Aug. at 9.10 a.m. when some soldiers of the Sri Lankan Army Camp at Elephant Pass were seen doing some work at the shores of Kattaitivu, Liberation Tigers opened sniper fire on them and killed one of them.

Armymen Bobbed Hindu Temple

On 28th July Army men from several camps in the western side of Batticaloa District went out and rounded up 4 adjoining villages and carried out checking operations. At Thanthamalai where there is a famous Hindu Temple to which much pilgrims come, the army men found bags of rice and other food items that had been brought there for ritual alms giving of the Temple. They took all those bags of food items and carried them loaded in helicopters.

Supersonics of S.L. Airforce Bombed Sitthankerny And Vaddukoddai

On 31st July evening 2 Supersonic and 2 Puccara fighter planes of the Sri Lankan Airforce came over and bombed residential areas in Sitthankerny and Vaddukoddai repeatedly twice and dropped 4 bombs on each trip. Because of that wanton attack a student was killed and 9 persons were seriously injured. All of them were innocent civilians. Several houses were badly damaged and 2 herds of cattle also got killed. A total of eight bombs were dropped there. The injured were admitted to Gen. Hospital, Jaffna.

At 4.45 pm two Supersonics hovered over Jaffna area. Each of them went and dropped 2 bombs on each of the two villages targeted on residential areas. In Sitthankerny the two bombs fell in a field next to residences and blasted and injured 5 villagers who were working in their paddy fields. By the bombing of the other jet on residences at Vaddukoddai 4 persons were seriously injured and houses were damaged.

Again at 5.25 pm 2 Puccara planes flew over the same villages and dropped 2 bombs each on them. As a result of that 5 houses in Sitthankerny and 7 in Vaddukoddai were heavily damaged.

The student who got killed at Vaddukoddai Mr. Muhunthan (23) who had gone to give first aid to those who got injured in the first bombing got caught fatally when that place was bombed on the second time. He was a prospective candidate for the G. C. E. A/L exam in August '93.

Another Brutal Massacre Of Tamils By Navymen On Kilaly Lagoon

On 29th July night, Sri Lankan Navymen coming in 5 gun boats way laid and carried out a brutal massacre of innocent Tamil civilian passengers going over the Kilaly lagoon in boats.

Two boats full of people had got subjected to that brutality; one at 2.30 am and the other at 4.00 am. Altogether 35 passengers including the 4 boatmen have been in those boats at that time. The boats were on their way from Alankerny

the pathetic cries. Then they stopped firing after a few seconds and neared one of their patrol boats to the passenger boat and a navy man in black dress armed with a sword jumped into it and dealt reckless cut blows on the agonized people. Then he got a can of kerosine oil from his boat and sprinkled it on the groaning and struggling people and climbed back to his boat, and their boat moved away. As it moved away a

and the bodies of those killed and injured have fallen on them and given cover to safeguard them.

Of the 8 bodies recovered, 7 were identified and taken charge by their relatives and one body that was not identified was buried by the hospital authorities after retaining for 6 days in the mortuary. The bodies identified were; Mr. A. S. Asokan (35) of Konavil; Mr. J. Tharumathas of Mandaithivu; Miss. Jeyanthi Kathiravelu (23) of Achchuvely; Mr. K. Sellamuthu of Kanagara yankulam; Mr. S. Sabanathan (63)

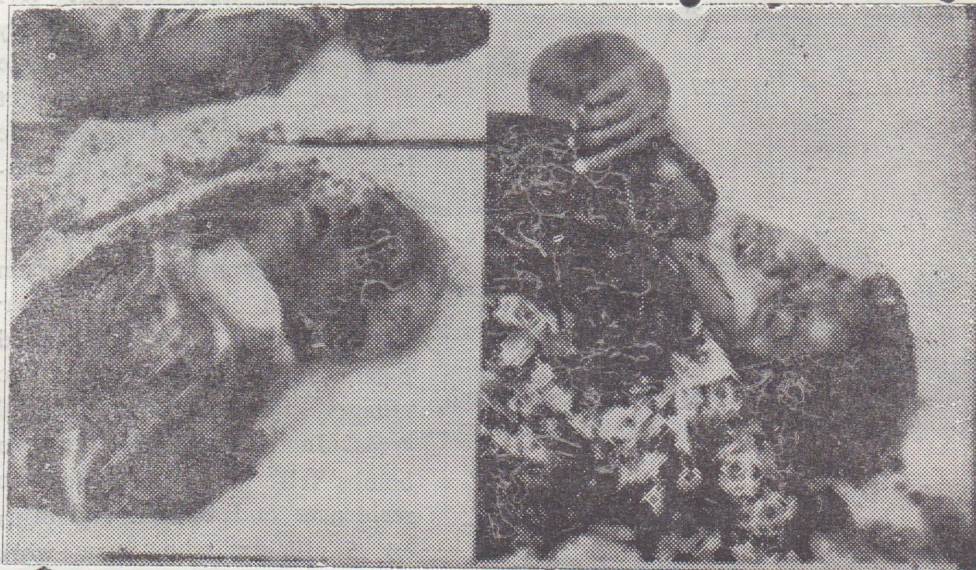
of Nallur; Miss. Rakini Thambialayah (18) of Erlalai Mrs. Amirthanayaki Mathuranyakam (39) of Nelliadi.

The injured who were hospitalized are; Mr. Kanenthiranathan (51) of Mallakam; Mr. M. Manikasingam (43) of Anapanthi; Mr. P. Kathiramu (80) of Kopay; Mr. Mahaluxmy Sabanathan (53) of Nallur who's husband is among one of the dead; Mrs. Jeyanthi Kathirgamanathan (32) of Urumpirai and Mrs. Poomany Kathirvelu (56)

of Achchuvely who's daughter is one of the dead.

Earlier it was also told by some of the rescued passengers from the 2 illfated boats that the 4 boatmen and about 6 passengers from those boats jumped into the lagoon in panic when they sighted the naval boats approaching near to them.

Twelve days after that on 10 August the ICRC announced in Jaffna that 9 persons taken into custody by navy from those boats are in the Palaly army camp. Of them the 4 Boatmen will not be released as they are to be charged for violating the law by driving boats in forbidden area. Of the other 5 persons 3 will be released next week and 2 others who are at present in the general hospital will be brought to Palaly and released in due course the I.C.R.C. said.



to Allipallai transporting passengers. While going through the middle of the lagoon the engines of both the boats had gone out of order, and they were there after sailing on their sails and had gone drifted from each other, and the other convoy of boats that have been going there at that time, and were lagging behind.

Sri Lankan Navy men had ambushed and come and way laid the two boats and carried out their brutalities on the passengers. In both the incidents, when the passengers had sighted the navy boats, had in panic raised beseeching cries, identifying themselves as innocent civilians and there by pleaded for mercy. But the Navymen opened shots and granade fire on the boats heedless of all

flaming piece of rag was thrown in to one of battered boats from the navy boat. But one of the injured passengers there had put it off with difficulty and prevented the spread of fire.

On the next morning the two drifting boats were traced and rescued and brought to Kilaly shore by the Sea Tigers of the LTTE.

Bodies of 8 persons killed there were brought and handed over to the mortuary of the Jaffna Hospital. Six persons were found in the boats with serious injuries and were rushed and admitted to the same hospital. Miraculously 8 passengers in the boats have escaped uninjured and were there to testify what has happened on the boats. They had been laying on the keel of the boat