



JOURNALISTS FOR DEMOCRACY IN SRI LANKA

State of Human Rights in Sri Lanka

E bulletin / Monthly Summary Report
September 2009

Curtailing Freedom of Expression

1. 01st Sept 2009 - Sri Lanka defends 20-year sentence for Tissainayagam

Sri Lanka's government defended a 20-year prison sentence given to J.S.Tissainayagam accused of violating the country's strict anti-terror law, saying he was given a fair trial and the decision did not impact media freedom on the island. The government rejected the criticism, saying in a statement late Tuesday (01) that the "verdict was arrived at after following a due process according to the domestic laws of Sri Lanka, and therefore does not amount in any way to a negation of media freedom in the country."

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=8470712>

2. 02nd Sept 2009 - Three journalists detained under PTA

Three journalists, namely Shalika Wimalasena, Daya Neththasinghe and Ravindra Pushpakumara, attached to the Sinhala weekly *Lanka* were arrested on 2nd Sep. by the Deniyaya Police for allegedly entering illegally a land belonging to a sister of President Mahinda Rajapaksa where a bungalow is being built. Irida Lanka editor told press that the journalists were investigating misuse of government resources in building a road to the bungalow. Later Police claimed that they were being questioned on a lot to assassinate the president. All three journalists were released on bail after 4 days of questioning.

http://www.lankatruth.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3212:rally-against-media-repression-jvp&catid=34:lead-news&Itemid=50

3. 02nd Sept 2009 - Dr. Saravanamuttu detained by TID at Airport

Dr. Packiasothy Saravanamuttu, Chairman of Center for Policy alternatives (CPA), who attended a United Nations foundation conference was taken in for questioning today (2Sep) when he returned to the Island this morning. He was detained and questioned by the TID for 1 ½ hours at the Bandaranayake International Airport.

<http://www.lankaenews.com/English/news.php?id=8254>

4. 02nd Sept 2009 - Minister orders state TV heads to take custody of video tapes

The Media Minister Anura Yapa had ordered the Chairmen of ITN and Rupavahini that all video tapes on the war scenes in the North during the final phase be immediately taken into the custody of the Chairmen. This has raised queries as to whether this action of the Minister has any connection with the airing of summary executions in SL by men in military uniform by Channel 4 in Britain.
<http://www.lankaenews.com/English/news.php?id=8255>

5. 05th Sept 2009 - Journalists' personal details requested

In a questionnaire sent to all media institutions presidential security division has asked to provide personal details regarding journalists who are covering presidents press briefings. These details include membership and offices held by the media person of any social, religious or political organization, the employment of the media person's parents, the names, employment of his or her siblings and addresses, the name of the spouse, employment and details of children if any have been asked. Also the names of the parents of the spouse, their employment, names of his/her siblings, their employment and addresses have been asked. www.lankatruth.com

6. 06th Sept 2009 - Media activists named a traitor

Political and media activist Ruwan Fernandez was named as a traitor by State controlled Sinhala Weekly Silumina on 6th September 2009. In August state advertisers asked www.colombotoday.com to drop Ruwan Fernandez from its board of directors as a precondition for proving a advertisement. Ruwan Ferdinandez is the private secretary of former foreign minister MP Mangala Samaraweera.

7. 06th Sept 2009 - Editor called for questioning by police

Chief Editor of 'Lanka Irida' Chandana Sirimalwatta was ordered to come to Colombo crimes division on 6th Sep 2009. Three journalists who had visited Deniyaya to get information regarding a building and a road being constructed on a land belonging to a relative of the President using 'Maga Neguma' resources were arrested recently and are being detained under emergency regulations. It was said that the Chief Editor of 'Lanka' too had been called to the crime investigation department to get more details.
http://www.lankatruth.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3226:chief-editor-of-lanka-irida-called-to-cid&catid=35:local&Itemid=50

8. 07th Sept 2009 - Ruling on law banning political parties

Sri Lanka's Supreme Court ruled that certain sections of the Amended Parliamentary Elections Bill are inconsistent with the Constitution, Speaker W.J.M Lakkubandara informed the Parliament Tuesday. A section in the Bill banning political parties

signifying a race or a religion is a violation of fundamental rights of the citizens. Hence the Bill is inconsistent with the Constitution and will require two-third majority to be approved by Parliament, he said.

<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30193>

9. 08th Sept 2009 - TID questions “Irida Lanka” editors

The officers of Terrorist Investigation Unit who visited the office of the ‘Lanka Irida’ newspaper questioned the members of its Editorial Board. ASP Oshan, Inspectors of Police Janakamthe and Saman and Sub Inspectors Hemachandra and Razeek have been in the team that questioned the Editorial Board of ‘Lanka Irida.’ Three journalists of ‘Lanka Irida’ who went to Deniyaya area to find information regarding the construction of a large building and a road on a private land using ‘Maga Neguma’ assets including its vehicles, were arrested by Deniyaya Police. The reason for the arrest was stated as taking photographs of the house where President Mahinda Rajapakse visits to carry out the election campaign of the Southern PC election.

10. 09th Sept 2009 - HRD Shantha Fernando detained further

Colombo Additional Magistrate Ayesha Abdeen overruled the bail application filed on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the NGO, National Christian Board who had allegedly attempted to smuggle out perfidy CDs carrying news to the international community of an alleged large scale massacre of innocent Tamil civilians by the government and the suspect was further remanded till September 23. It was alleged that the suspect had violated the rules and regulations of the Emergency Gazette notification and the Anti-Terrorism Act. The TID had arrested the suspect on March 29, 2009 and had been investigated under detention orders from the Defence Secretary.

http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM_BLOG/Sections/frmNewsDetailView.aspx?ARTID=61036

11. 11th Sept 2009 - UN official expelled for providing information

James Elder, a senior official with the United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF), held a visa until July next year to serve in Sri Lanka. He is the first UN official carrying a UN passport with diplomatic status was asked to leave Sri Lanka. Two week’s time has been given after he appealed from an order to leave immediately. A UN official said no formal reason had been given for the move by the Sri Lankan government. However, Foreign Office sources, who did not wish to be identified, said the Government was concerned over repeated remarks he had made to the media about Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in particular the conditions of children in camps. <http://www.wsws.org/articles/2009/sep2009/slun-s11.shtml>

12. 13th Sept 2009 - Journalist received death threats

“Lakbima” journalist Saman Samarakkody has received death threats, subsequent to a story exposing the career story of former Agulana OIC Newton Fernando who is now in custody for allegedly killing two youth. Samarakkody had received several phone calls on his office line, warning that he will be killed if he wrote any more articles about the SI implicating politicians. Samarakkody has lodged a complaint with the Mt.Lavinia police.

http://www.lankatruth.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3266:another-media-man-recieves-death-threats&catid=35:local&Itemid=50

13. 13th Sept 2009 - Ban on "provocative" female photographs

The government has unofficially informed several newspapers and magazines not to use photographs of women in a provocative manner on the front page of newspapers and magazines. Additional Secretary for Planning and Development at the Media Ministry, Priyantha Mayadunne said there were mortal grounds for it although there were no laws on it. “However, if a media institution publishes any unsuitable photograph we would take legal action against it. However, this could change according to the moment that is captured on camera. Yet, these pictures should not be provocative,” he added. - Ravaya 13th Sep 2009

14. 15th Sept 2009 - Tissainayagam appealed against court verdict

Senior journalist S. Tissainayagam, through his lawyer, filed an appeal in the Court of Appeal Tuesday seeking to set aside the conviction and the sentence imposed on him by the Colombo High Court on August 31, 2009. Tissainayagam was convicted for blaming the Government of Sri Lanka, inciting racial hatred and for having monetary dealings with the LTTE, a terrorist organization prohibited by the State, according to the prosecution led by the Attorney General. A sentence of five years rigorous imprisonment (RI) was imposed for the first count, a sentence of another five years RI for the second count and a sentence of 10 years RI for the third count.

<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30247>

15. 16th Sept 2009 - President probes newspaper notice

President Mahinda Rajapaksa, at yesterday’s Cabinet meeting telephoned Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa and asked him to inquire whether Centre for Policy Alternatives Chief Paikiasothi Saravanamuttu was under death threats as revealed in a newspaper notice. The President asked the Defence Secretary to contact Dr. Saravanamuttu and others who had signed this notice to ascertain whether there were such death threats as reported, and if so, from whom. The President said the newspaper notice carried the signatures of many people representing various

organizations and the paper cutting could be used in the international arena as propaganda against the country. He said if there were threats, they should have been taken up with the police.

http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM_BLOG/Sections/frmNewsDetailView.aspx?ARTID=61795

16. 16th Sept 2009 - 'Tissa' given minimum punishment says Attorney General

Attorney General (AG) Mohan Pieris told the UN Human Rights Council that journalist J.S Tissanayagam was given the minimum punishment that could have been imposed under the provision of law for the crimes he was found guilty of by the court recently. The Attorney General noted that Tissanayagam made use of the facilities available under the law, faced his trial, called evidence on his behalf and was given panoply of rights in rebuttal of the prosecution case.

<http://jdsrilanka.blogspot.com/2009/09/tissa-given-minimum-punishment-under.html>

17. 17th Sept 2009 - Hate speech by state controlled media

On 17th September state controlled TV station ITN telecasted a hate attack on HR activist Dr. Saravanamuttu. Last paragraph of the Sinhala language telecast narrative are fellows. " ..while the Paikiasothys have been traveling around the world, frolicking with Tamil ladies in the US and with 'royal' ladies in the country. Our leader carried out the struggle against Prabhakaran while the Pakiasothys were doing their very best to give Prabhakaran some oxygen. If the people of this country knew what Paikiasothy and those like him are doing to block the development of this country as they swim in dollar seas, the paid advertisements that would appear in the newspapers would be very different ones."

18. 20th Sept 2009 - HRDs questioned over signing a statement

Number of HR defenders was questioned by Criminal Investigation department of police over a paid advertisement published in Sri Lankan Newspapers condemning threats received by Dr. P. Saravanamuttu. HR lawyer J.C. Weliamuna, President SAFMA Lakshman Gunasekara, women rights activist Dr. Sepali Kottegoda were among the persons questioned. DR. Saravanamuttu himself too was questioned 2 and half hours by 12 pages statement was recorded.

<http://sunandadeshapriya.wordpress.com/2009/09/23/safma-sl-president-questioned-by-cid/>

19. 21st Sept 2009 - Family abducted to censor former IDP

Family relatives of British national Gannakumar Tamilvani who were living in Vavunia was abducted by unknown group after she gave an interview to Guardian Newspaper in London. She was detained by Sri Lanka security forces after the end

of war in Vavunia internment camp. She was released to British authorities in early September. After returning to London following her release has arrested members of the family that provided lodging to her while she was in Vavuniya. Damilvani has stopped talking to media following this incident.

20. 23rd Sept 2009 - Printer "Northeastern Herald" beaten by TID

Vetrivail Jashiharan facing charges of helping to print, publish and distribute the 'North Eastern Monthly' magazine in his evidence said he was beaten up by TID officers and was made to sign a document which was in Sinhala, a language he did not understand. He said this during the preliminary inquiry to ascertain whether the confession alleged to have been made by Jashiharan to the Terrorist Investigation Department (TID) was made voluntarily.

Mr. Jashiharan and his wife V. Madhimalar were indicted on four counts including the aiding and abetting to print, publish and distribute the magazine 'North Eastern Monthly' during the period June 1, 2006 to June 1, 2007.

http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM_BLOG/Sections/frmNewsDetailView.aspx?ARTID=62530

21. 23rd Sept 2009 - SL Defence Ministry asks German police help to probe JDS

The SL Defence Ministry has asked German Police for assistance to probe Journalists for Democracy (JDS) that had reportedly given to Britain's Channel 4 the video that alleges executions by the Sri Lankan Army. According to human rights minister Mahinda Samarasinghe, the defence ministry has found out that several Sri Lankan journalists who had fled to Germany are involved in JDS.

<http://colombotoday.com/english/articles/Lite/Defence-ministry-asks-German-police-help-probe-JDS/6326.htm>

22. 24th Sept 2009 - Major General Jagath Dias assigned to investigate into JDS

Diplomatic sources said the Defence Ministry has assigned Major General Jagath Dias to investigate into the organization called Journalists for Democracy in Sri Lanka (JDS) that is said to have given the controversial video footage showing Army soldiers killing several Tamil civilians to Channel 4. Major General Jagath Dias assumed duties as the deputy ambassador of the Sri Lankan embassy in Germany last week. The first duty assigned to him by Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapakse is to investigate into the people connected to the JDS organization and report back. Human Rights and Disaster Management Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe has said that the security units have already identified several journalists who have fled to Germany. - http://www.lankanewsweb.com/news/EN_2009_09_24_004.html

23. 30th Sept 2009 - Newspaper journalist threatened at her home

Several unidentified people who had arrived at Secretary of the National Forum for Journalists and “Irudina” newspaper journalist, Dileesha Abeysundera’s residence in Borella, Colombo on Monday 28th around 11.30 p.m. had tried to forcefully open the gate to enter into the compound. The person who had shouted out Dileesha’s name had slammed the gate to forcibly open it. She is also the Deputy Secretary of the Free Media Movement and Secretary of the National Forum for Journalists in Sri Lanka. http://www.lankanewsweb.com/news/EN_2009_09_30_001.html

24. Another journalist leaves into exile

Wilson Gnanadass, an award winning journalist of “The Nation” newspaper has left the country on June 26, due to threats. His whereabouts have not being disclosed due to security reasons.

General Curtailment of Democratic Rights

Political Rights

1. 05th Sept 2009 - JVP alleges attack in Tangalle

The JVP alleged yesterday (04) that a UPFA sponsored gang had attacked some of its supporters including Southern Provincial Council candidate Ruwan Senarat in Ranna at Tangalle while they were putting up decorations for a JVP rally to be held tomorrow. A party spokesman said Mr. Senarat and another supporter were admitted to the Hambantota hospital while a member identified as Thusara was allegedly abducted by this gang and had not been released even up to last evening.

http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM_BLOG/Sections/frmNewsDetailView.aspx?ARTID=60500

2. 07th Sept 2009 - JVP candidate attacked by ruling UPFA supporters

A candidate of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) Darshana Samantha was assaulted by supporters of the ruling United Peoples Freedom Alliance (UPFA) Monday night in Hiniduma in Galle district. He has been contesting from the Galle district to the upcoming Southern Provincial Council Election. The JVP candidate and two of his supporters who received injuries in the attack were admitted to the Hiniduma Hospital. <http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30190>

3. 10th Sept 2009 - Emergency extended for another month

Sri Lanka's parliament approved the motion to extend the State of Emergency for another year by a majority of eighty-seven votes. One hundred parliamentarians of the ruling United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) and its constituent parties voted for the motion. Thirteen parliamentarians of the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) voted against. The main opposition United National Party (UNP) parliamentarians were not present in the house during the debate, parliamentary sources said. Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), walked out of the parliament when the Speaker put the motion to vote.

<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30210>

4. 14th Sept 2009 - Organized violence against the JVP on the rise

The Campaign for free and fair elections (CaFFE) had stated in a report that since the nomination papers were handed over, organized election violence against the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) have been on the increase.

<http://www.lankaenews.com/English/news.php?id=8311>

5. 19th Sept 2009 - Two JVP offices burnt down

Two election offices of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) located in Seenipella and Kiriveldeniya in Galle and Matara districts were set on fire Thursday night by unidentified gang suspected to be ruling UPFA supporters. JVP member of the Mulatiyana Pradeshiya Sabha and Matara district provincial election candidate Ajantha Gammedda complained to the police that the furniture and several banners in the two offices were destroyed by the fire.

<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30270>

6. 23rd Sept 2009 - Ruling UPFA minister abducts two JVP supporters

Two supporters of the JVP engaged in propaganda campaign for the Southern PC election have been abducted by a gang of thugs of a powerful minister of the UPFA states the media unit of the JVP. Manjula and Devapriya, the two supporters of the JVP who had been pasting posters announcing an election meeting to be held tomorrow (23rd), were abducted by the minister's gang at the Katuwewa bridge near Hambantota town. <http://jdsrilanka.blogspot.com/2009/09/ruling-upfa-minister-abducts-two-jvp.html>

7. 24th Sept 2009 - JVP activist remanded for displaying a banner

Danister Gunasekera ,the owner of the premises, where the JVP displayed a Hoarding with the slogan 'Is this the Democracy of the maha jara Rajapakse Govt.?' was remanded for 14 days on charges of attempting to bring contempt on Govt.,according to JVP sources. – Campaign [for Free and Fair Elections](#)

8. 30th Sept 2009 - JVP members arrested for campaigning

Twenty seven members of the JVP who were involved in election campaign of the Southern PC election have been arrested by Morawaka Police. Among the JVP members who were arrested are Lal Premanath and Priyanthe Ratnayake two candidates contesting the PC election. They have been arrested alleging they were involved in an illegal election campaign. – www.lankatruth.com

Workers Rights

1. 05th Sept 2009 - Accidents at work places kill over 360 a year

Secretary to the Labour and Manpower Ministry has revealed that the accidents at work places claim more than 360 lives annually. The ministry also noted that around 4,000 accidents at work places took place annually. – www.newsfirst.lk

2. 15th Sept 2009 - Tear gas fired at protesting tea plantation workers

Police fired teargas to disperse a group of estate workers who walked to the Bogawantalawa town in a protest march. Over one thousand workers entered the Bogawantalawa town in a protest march around 1.30 this afternoon. No casualties were reported.

http://www.newsfirst.lk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4742%3Atear-gas-fired-to-disperse-protesting-estate-workers&Itemid=159

3. 16th Sept 2009 - More than 155,000 jobs lost – unemployment rises

Sri Lanka has lost 155,000 industrial jobs in the second quarter of 2009 from a year earlier, the services sector lost 99,000 but agriculture sector generated 118,000 jobs, while total unemployment rose slightly, a government survey showed. The quarterly labour force survey by Sri Lanka's statistics office does not include the Northern province, which was wracked by a civil war till May. Overall unemployment also rose to 6.3 percent from 5.5 percent from a year earlier and 5.2 percent from the first quarter. The data excludes both the Eastern and Northern provinces.

www.lankabusinessonline.com

4. 24th Sept 2009 - 589 garment factories closed down

United National Party parliamentarian Lakshman Kiriella told parliament yesterday (23rd) that out of the 789 garment factories that existed in the country, 589 of them have been closed down and only 200 of them are functioning at present.

http://www.lankatruth.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3360%3A589-garment-factories-closed-down--kiriella&Itemid=41

Arbitrary arrest & Detention

1. 06th Sept 2009 - 1034 unaccompanied children in Vavunia camps

Sri Lanka's National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) said Saturday that there are 1034 unaccompanied children in the camps where internally displaced people are held in Vavuniyaa. "Of the 1034 children 250 were handed over to close relatives while the guardianship of 300 children is yet to be determined. Another 300 were handed over to three orphanages - two in Vavuniyaa and the other in Mannaar," Mr. Jagath Wellawatte, NCPA Chairman, said.

<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30178>

2. 14th Sept 2009 - 5 Tamil, Muslim civilian arrested in Puttalam

Puththa'lam Police Sunday arrested six civilians including three Tamils and two Muslims who were staying in a house at Thampapanni in Puththa'lam police division. Police said they rushed to the site and arrested them on reports that a group of unidentified persons from Murungkan in Mannaar district were staying in Thampapanni. - <http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30229>

3. 14th Sept 2009 - Released IDPs still in camps

Displaced Tamil people released from the camps in Vavuniya are still in camps, local political leaders say. A member of the eastern provincial council told BBC Sandeshaya that 123 families released from Vavuniya camps are still kept in camps in Batticaloa. 360 people are currently kept in two schools, Sinhala Maha Vidyalaya and Kurukkalmadam Vidyalaya, in Batticaloa. – BBC Sinhala

9. 17th Sept 2009 - 12 Undergrads arrested for protesting

Police have arrested 12 undergraduates after a violent protest during an attempted entry into the Ministry of Indigenous Medicine in Maharagama yesterday (Sept. 17).

The students from Sri Jayawardenapura University and some unemployed graduates had marched from the campus to the ministry at Nawinna. They had been demanding the opening of the outpatients department at Ayurvedic Hospital in Borella. - <http://colombotoday.com/english/articles/Lite/Police-arrest-12-undergrads-violent-protest--Maharagama/6186.htm>

4. 17th Sept 2009 - Three Tamil youths arrested in Vavunia

Special Task Force (STF) commandos arrested Wednesday morning three Tamil youths in a search conducted in Cheddiku'lam in Vavuniyaa district, sources in Vavuniyaa said. Many persons in the area were subjected to interrogation and checking during the search. The arrested youths are detained in Vavuniyaa police station. - <http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30258>

5. 18th Sept 2009 - 'Sri Lanka re-detains released IDPs' says Tamil lawmaker

Hundreds of Tamil war refugees whom the Sri Lankan government said it had released from military-run camps last week were simply moved to other detention centers, a lawmaker said Thursday (17). Mavai Senathiraja, a parliamentarian from the Tamil National Alliance, an opposition party representing ethnic Tamils, also alleged that thousands of others who were promised freedom remain in the camps. Senathiraja said 6,000 of those promised release last week were from his constituency in northern Jaffna, but only 580 arrived in the area and all of them were immediately sent to another camp, where they continue to be detained. - AP

6. 18th Sept 2009 - Prison guards assaults hunger striking detainees

At least 36 Tamil political prisoners who were part of a fast unto death hunger strike at the central jail in Welikada Colombo are alleged to have been severely assaulted by guards and jailers on early Friday, informed sources told TamilNet. 32 of the political prisoners who were being held in Cell Block G were transferred to the Block M, and some of them had sustained injuries in the episode, according to the sources. The detainees have been forced to stop their hunger strike. <http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30265>

7. 21st Sept 2009 - Tamil engineer arrested at the airport

Sri Lanka's State Intelligence Service (SIS) Sunday morning arrested a Tamil engineer who arrived in Katunayake International Airport (KIA) from Singapore. He has been

identified as Ratnasekaram, a resident of Point Pedro in Jaffna district, sources in Colombo said. He told the police during preliminary investigation that he had come to visit one of his relatives in Colombo.

<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30280>

8. 26th Sept 2009 - Sri Lankan Army fires on Tamil detainees

Sri Lankan soldiers fired on unarmed Tamil civilians being held in a Manik Farm detention camp near the northern town of Vavuniya. The Defence Ministry claimed on its website that the shooting took place when security forces tried to stop a group of people from entering Zone 2 from Zone 1 (the Coomaraswamy camp). A six-year-old girl, Nitharshika, was seriously injured. A 10-year-old boy and a middle-aged man also received gunshot injuries.

<http://www.wsws.org/articles/2009/sep2009/slcm-s30.shtml>

Abductions, Torture & Extra-judicial killings

1. 01st Sept 2009 - A young woman's body recovered in Jaffna

Koappaay police recovered Monday night the remains of a 21-year-old woman in a highly decomposed state in an abandoned place in Koappaay East in Jaffna on information given by the residents of the area. The family members of the woman identified the skeletal remains placed in Jaffna Teaching Hospital mortuary by the remnants of the dress on the woman's body, hospital sources said. It is suspected that the woman was abducted, killed before being dumped. The victim was identified as Mahenthiran Jeayanthini, 21, a resident of Neevinai, Punnaalaikkadduvan. - <http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30134>

2. 02nd Sept 2009 - A Muslim youth abducted in a white van

A Muslim youth, Mohomed Mushafa (21) who was returning home from the mosque has been abducted on 20th August at Panchikawatte by an armed group who arrived in a white Dolphin Van bearing registration No. 57-5603. Mushafa is a resident from Panchikawatte. Relatives of the abductees has lodged a complaint with the Maradana Police under entry No. 60/118 GCIB.
<http://www.lankaenews.com/English/news.php?id=8257>

3. 02nd Sept 2009 - Tamil prisoner dies in custody

Devendran Sinniah , a Tamil prisoner in Welikade remand custody died on 25th August while in custody. The deceased's wife Saroji Thirunavukarasu had claimed that this death is surrounded by suspicions circumstances. Mrs. Thirunavakkarasu stated that her husband was a suspect in a bus bomb explosion and remanded on 28th of April 2008. Later he was transferred to the Welikade remand prison from the Kaluthara prison. As he was sick he was admitted to the Prison Hospital. On the 25th of August, the police informed her that he had died.
<http://www.lankaenews.com/English/news.php?id=8256>

4. 07th Sept 2009 - Charred body found in Avissawella

A body has been found in a shrubbery area in the vicinity of an Industrial Zone in Avissawella yesterday (06). The body, which is yet to be identified, was badly charred. Police suspect that the victim had been murdered and the crime had been committed on Friday night.

http://www.newsfirst.lk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4613%3Acharred-body-found-at-industrial-zone-in-avissawella&Itemid=159

5. 10th Sept 2009 - 91 suspects died in police custody

The government said yesterday (09) that 91 suspects had died in the past four years while in the custody of the police. Thirty-one of them had died this year, said chief government whip Dinesh Gunawardena. He said that 29 had died in 2008, 20 in 2007, 11 in 2006 and two in 2005, in answer to a question raised by a JVP's Parliamentarian. - <http://jdsrilanka.blogspot.com/2009/09/91-suspects-died-in-police-custody-in.html>

6. 14th Sept 2009 - A woman's body recovered in Vavunia

Vavuniya Police on information from public, Sunday afternoon recovered the blood stained body of a woman around fifty years of age inside the kitchen (madapa'lli) of Kaa'li Koayil located at Kzhlumaaddu Junction in Vavuniya. The body was handed over to Vavuniya general hospital for postmortem examination and identification. <http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30228>

7. 14th Sept 2009 - Two Up-Country Tamil girls reported missing in Colombo

Two Up-Country Tamil girls who were brought to Colombo from Maskeliya in Nuwara Eliya district as domestic aids are reported missing. The parents of the two girls, 19-year-old Muniyandi Meghana and Shakthivel Sangeetha, have lodged a complaint with P. Radakrishnan, deputy vocational and technical training minister, who represents the Upcountry People's Front (UPF).

<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30273>

8. 23rd Sept 2009 - 30 to 40 persons abducted daily from IDP

About 30 to 40 persons are abducted on a daily basis from IDP camps in the North, SLFP (M) Leader Mangala Samaraweera charged in Parliament yesterday (22). 'Certain reports indicate that 30 to 40 persons are abducted or disappear on a daily basis from IDP camps' Mr. Samaraweera charged. However, Chief Government

Whip Dinesh Gunawardane denied this allegation and asked where such statistics of abducted persons were found.

http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM_BLOG/Sections/frmNewsDetailView.aspx?ARTID=62350

9. 23rd Sept 2009 - Young Tamil mother reported missing

A 20-year-old Tamil female, who is a mother an 18 months old baby, is reported missing in Hatton in Up-Country since September 13 after she went out for shopping, Police said. Sathasivam Bahavi, who hails from Bin-Oya in Hatton, had gone to a grocery shop Sunday.

<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30303>

10. 24th Sept 2009 - Tamil technologist feared extra-judicially executed

Kathiravel Thayapararaja, a 28-year old Tamil Electrical Engineer, is feared to have been extra-judicially executed by Sri Lanka intelligent services, after being forcefully abducted sometime second week of September, informed sources in Colombo said. Thayapararaja's wife, Uthayakala, and the two children of her diseased sister who were under Uthayakala's care, have now been taken under the protection and care of a Church Organization in Colombo, after being left helpless with the disappearance of her husband, unconfirmed reports said.

<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30310>

11. 28th Sept 2009 - Minister's secretary abducted in Vavuniya

A Coordinating Secretary to a minister was abducted by an unidentified group in Vavuniya on Friday night, police said yesterday. Arumugam Sriranjana served as Coordinating Secretary in Trincomalee's pre-dominant Tamil areas for Nation Building Minister Susantha Punchinilame. According to police, the abductors had come in a white van and taken him at gun point while he was at his wife's residence in the Urban Council quarters. The abductors had posed off as CID officers, and sped off from the scene after threatening the other members of the household, police said. - http://sundaytimes.lk/090927/News/news_17.html

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