



JOURNALISTS FOR DEMOCRACY IN SRI LANKA

State of Human Rights in Sri Lanka

E bulletin / Monthly Summary Report

August 2009

Curtailing Freedom of Expression

1. 03rd Aug 2009 - Case against lankaenews.com editors taken up

The case filed by the Mirihana police against the chief editor Sandaruwan Senadeera and news editor Benet Rupasinghe of www.lankaenews.com over the abduction and assault of journalist Poddala Jayantha was taken up at the Gangodawila court on 2nd Aug 2009. They were arrested following the abduction. The reason for the arrest is Rupasinghe who got the information about the abduction taking action to inform about it to the authorities and the family of the victim. Later, Poddala Jayantha appealed from the hospital bed not to put the fellow journalist under pressure for an incident they are not linked to in anyway.

2. 03rd Aug 2009 - Media ban on covering local elections

Sri Lanka government's decided 3rd August not to allow journalists into the northern cities of Vavuniya and Jaffna to cover the first local elections to be held since the defeat of the Tamil Tiger rebels earlier this year. Vavuniya and Jaffna, the cities where local elections were held on 8 August. No one is now allowed into the cities without permission from the defence ministry. Lakshman Hulugalle, the head of the government's security information centre, said journalists would not be able to visit the two cities and would have to rely on the information provided by the government.- http://www.ifex.org/sri_lanka/2009/08/07/media_banned/

3. 3rd Aug 2009 - Lake House suspended 9 media workers

State controlled print media institution Lake House (ANCL) suspended 9 media workers on the ground that they participated in a strike against privatisation of news paper distribution.
http://www.lankanewsweb.com/Sinhala/news/2009_08_03_006.html

4. 05th Aug 2009 - State Media misused

JVP General Secretary Tilvin Silva wrote to Elections Commissioner Dayananda Dissanayake calling for his immediate intervention to stop the state-run media from manipulating media reports to the government's advantage. In a letter to Dissanayake, Silva has said that a recent statement he made at Mahiyangana had been presented in a way to give undue advantage to the government.
- <http://www.island.lk/2009/08/05/news35.html>

5. 06th Aug 2009 - Details of journalists killed in Vanni battle fields

TamilNet recently compiled details on Tamil journalists and media workers confirmed killed during the height of war in Vanni, between March and May.

Maheswaran from Jaffna:

Maheswaran, who was Mullaiththeevu district in-charge for Eezhanaatham daily, the only newspaper that was coming from the LTTE controlled Vanni, was killed on 06 March while travelling on Maaththa'lan – Valaignarmadam Road.

Antonykumar of Paranthan, Ki'linochchi:

Antonykumar was killed on 14 May 2009 at Mu'lli-vaaykkaal in an RPG attack by the SLA. He was storekeeper for Eezhanaatham. He also worked as an assistant to reporters and occasionally as a reporter by himself.

Rooban, 27:

Mr. Rooban also died on 14 May 2009 in SLA attack on civilians. Rooban was working as a computer operator in Eezhanaatham.

Sasimathan from Mu'lliya-va'lai

Sasimathan, Eezhanaatham's distributor for Mullaiththeevu district, was killed in SLA artillery attack on civilians at Ira'naip-paalai.

Densey, 25, from Kanakapuram, Ki'linochchi

Densey and her husband were killed in SLA artillery attack at Pokka'nai while they were at home.. She worked with full commitment at Eezhanaatham.

Anton, 36

Anton, father of two children, was killed in SLA artillery attack while on media work and riding a motorbike at Ira'naip-paalai area.

<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=29942>

6. 07th Aug 2009 - Political activist threatened

Political activist and leader of Nawa Hela Urumaya group Sarath Manamendra was threatened with death for speaking against the policies of the present government. An unidentified gang who arrived in a white van had warned him if he continued with his criticisms he will have to face the same fate befall on Lasantha Wikrematunge. - <http://www.lankaenews.com/Sinhala/news.php?id=9913>

7. 9th Aug 2009 -Two journalist not allowed to enter Canada

Two journalists attached to the Divaina newspaper, Hemantha Randunu and Nilantha Madurawala, who travelled to Canada to cover a media assignment, was turned back from the Toronto Airport.

http://www.lankanewsweb.com/news/EN_2009_08_09_004.html

8. 9th Aug 2009 - Shantha Fernando further remanded

Shantha Fernando, the Executive Secretary of Justice and Peace Commission of the National Christian Council who was further remanded till 19th Aug 2009 over submissions made by TID. The TID officer moved to remand the suspect as the investigations were still not concluded. The State Counsel who appeared for the Attorney General informed the Magistrate that the suspect had made a voluntary confession to the TID over his involvements in the alleged crimes and that the TID would indict the suspect on conclusion of the investigations.

9. 12th Aug 2009 - Poddala Jayantha rejected State media allegations

Journalist Poddala Jayantha who was assaulted and still being treated denied state media reports that investigations into the assault are being halted as he has failed to appear before a special commission. In a report published on 12th Tuesday, 'Dinamina' newspaper says that Poddala Jayantha has failed to appear before the presidential commission despite repeated requests to do so. In a letter sent to the Commission on the same day, Poddala Jayantha said that he was yet to receive any notice to appear before the Commission.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/sinhala/news/story/2009/08/090811_dinamina_poddala.shtml

10. 14th Aug 2009 - Irida Lanka staff arrested & released

Two staff members of 'Lanka Irida Sangrahalaya,' the Sinhalese weekly newspaper were arrested by Grandpass Police on the 13th night while putting up posters advertising the newspaper. The two staff members of the newspaper were arrested when posters containing headlines of two articles containing in the issue of this weekend were being put up. When the lawyers of 'Lanka Irida Sangrahalaya' visited Grandpass Police this morning and proved that the posters contained headlines of the newspaper to be issued today the two staff members were released.

http://www.lankatruth.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3039:the-police-on-the-move-lanka-staff-arrested&catid=34:lead-news&Itemid=50

11. 17th Aug 2009 - Media silent on floods in IDP camps

www.groundviews.org reported that mainstream media has been silent on under reported the floods that created havoc in IDP camps in Vavunia, where nearly 300,000 Northern Tamils are being held against their will. Commenting on SMS alerts services it said "*SMS news services update cricket scores minutes after a vital catch, decisive over or match-winning stroke. 48 hours after the devastating floods, Groundviews has not received even a cursory report of the flooding in Menik Camp via any of the SMS news services it is subscribed to, including JNW and Daily Mirror.*"

<http://www.groundviews.org/2009/08/16/update-on-menik-camp-flooding-more-images-and-reports-from-the-ground/#more-1484>

12. 19th Aug 2009 - SLA & Police ban public rally

Sri Lanka Army and Police Wednesday banned the demonstration and rally organized by the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA) in Mannaar demanding the immediate resettlement of internally displaced families detained in camps in Vavuniyaa, lifting all restrictions on travelling and entering hospitals in Vavuniyaa and Mannaar and to find a political solution for the conflict and the removal of restriction on fishing and farming. Security establishment said state intelligence unit had informed that the rally was an anti-government move, according

to pamphlets issued by the organizers.
<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30039>

13. 19th Aug 2009 - 132 M. collected as tax form TV

The government had earned more than 132 million rupees between January and September 2008 from taxes imposed on television companies importing foreign films and tele dramas, Parliament was told. Minister Gunawardena told parliament that from July 2006 to December 2008, the government had collected taxes amounting to over Rs. 380 M from television stations for imported TV films. (<http://www.island.lk/2009/08/19/news23.html>) When taxes were imposed all privately owned TV stations protested on the ground it was too high. Because of the tax TV stations which do not get government advertisements are facing difficult situation.

14. 20th Aug 2009 - HR activist /academic P. Saravanamuttu threatened

The Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA), Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu this morning received an anonymous death threat written in English, posted to his residence. According to the contents of the letter, Dr. Saravanamuttu WILL (emphasis in original) be killed because Sri Lanka stands to be deprived of the European Union's GSP Plus benefits in October, with resultant job losses, due to information supplied by Dr. Saravanamuttu to Ms. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, the EU's Commissioner for External Relations. A scanned copy of both the letter and the post-marked envelope have been uploaded to CPA website – <http://www.cpalanka.org>

15. 27th Aug 2009 - Journalist abducted (later released)

Cartoonist and writer Prageeth Eknaligoda was abducted by unidentified group on mid night 27th Aug 2009. He was handcuffed, blindfolded and taken to a unknown destination. He was kept there over night and released around 10.30 next mornings. Journalist Prageeth has been a strong critic of Sinhala chauvinism and dictatorial tendencies of present regime.

- <http://jdsrilanka.blogspot.com/2009/08/another-media-personality-abducted-and.html>

16. 31st Aug 2009 - New Tax for performance arts

The Public Performance Board has decided to charge a fee when issuing licenses to exhibit films and teledramas:

The fees to be charged are as follows: Foreign film – Rs.15,000; Local film – Rs.5000; Dramas (more than 30 minutes) – Rs.1000; Short dramas – Rs.500; Outdoor shows – Rs.1000; Indoor performances – Rs.2000 Musical shows – Rs.25,000; Advertisements – Rs.500

- http://www.lankatruth.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article...

17. 31st Aug 2009 - Journalist Tissainayagam sentenced to 20 years of hard labour

Sri Lanka High court no. 01 sentenced journalists J. Tissainayagam for 20 years of hard labour under draconian anti terrorist law, Prevention of Terrorism Act. (PTA) Tissainayagam's sentence is based on a 'confession' that he has refuted and two articles written and published by him in 2006. The judgment also states that the two articles written by Tissainayagam that are the subject of this investigation contain material that causes 'communal disharmony', and this too is considered a basis for his sentence.

- <http://jdsrilanka.blogspot.com/2009/08/tissainayagam-sentenced-to-20-years.html>

18. August 2009 - Three journalists left for political asylum

Two Sinhala and one Tamil journalist left Sri Lanka for Europe for security reasons in July and early August. One of the Sinhala journalists was a senior news editor of a news paper group under continuous attack by the government. Other Sinhala journalist was a feature writer, who has articulated critical Tamil opinion in his features. Tamil Journalist left he country worked for a foreign Radio services form Colombo.

General Curtailment of Democratic Rights

Political Rights

1. 03 Aug 2009 - TNA members attacked

A group of supporters led by the leader of a ruling party contesting the election in the Vavuniyaa Urban Council, attacked two candidates of the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) and their supporters while they were engaged in electioneering at Kuruma'nve'li area in Vavuniyaa in two separate incidents, according to complaints lodged with Vavuniyaa Police and the Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV). - <http://www.tamilnet.com/>

2. 06 Aug 2009 – State of Emergency extended

Parliament extended the state of emergency by a further month. The motion for the extension was passed with a majority of 64 votes, with 71 votes in favour and seven against. The JVP (Peoples Liberation Front), together with the government, supported the extension. The Tamil National Alliance opposed, while the main opposition party United National Party was absent at the vote. - www.colombotoday.com

3. 08 Aug 2009 – Opposition candidates attacked

Sri Lanka Muslim Congress candidates Mukkankoolu Ravichandran and Abdul Latheef Mohamed Munawfar who were contesting the elections for Vavunia urban council, were assaulted by supporters of ruling party Minister of Resettlement Rishad Bathiudeen at the V/Muslim Maha Vidyalaya, Pattanichchipuliyankulam while they were on their way to the polling station on a motor bike. - <http://cmev.wordpress.com>

4. 18 Aug 2009 - JVP CMC member arrested for putting up 'anti-government posters'

JVP Member for Colombo Municipal Council Sumith Hewapassaperumage and another were arrested by Borella Police for putting up posters. The posters put up by the JVP members carried a slogan calling to abolish executive presidency. The police have arrested them claiming they were putting up anti-government posters. However, they were taken to the police station and later released. <http://www.lankatruth.com/>

5. 19 Aug 2009 - SL government plans to keep up record defence spending

Defence secretary Gotabhaya Rajapakse has said that the Sri Lankan government plans to keep up record defence spending despite its recent victory over Tamil rebels that ended nearly four decades of fighting. The military needed to be modernised

and payments made on hardware bought on credit, he said. Sri Lanka raised its defence budget to a record 1.6 billion dollars in 2009. – AFP

6. 28 Aug 2009 – Ruling party gang attacks JVP members

A group of supporters of ruling United Peoples Freedom Alliance (UPFA) ran amok and assaulted some members of Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) who were parading after the closure of nominations for the Southern Provincial Council Friday. Seven JVP members were injured in the attack. The JVP office in Tissamaharagama was also attacked by the ruling party mob the same night, police sources said. - <http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30115>

Workers Rights

1. 10 Aug 2009 - State Television targets union leaders

Trade unions allege serious acts of employee suppression had begun at the state owned Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation. The Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of a leading trade union (Rupavahini Corporation Media Managers Union) had been transferred to other departments. Some of the minor staff were also transferred to different divisions as a result this victimization.

http://www.unions.lk/ENGLISH/Full_Story/2009/august/10/1.htm

2. 10 Aug 2009 – 79 workers sacked

The Unilever Ceylon Ltd has sacked 79 employees with effect from 10th of August. According to the Inter Company Employees Union, the decision was taken as a retaliatory action against the workers who are joining trade unions.

http://www.unions.lk/ENGLISH/Full_Story/2009/august/14/1.htm

3. 19 Aug 2009 – A worker targeted for exposing a major scandal

The worker who exposed a major scandal in the government health sector has been subjected to severe harassment by authorities. B.M.D. Premajyanthe was employed at the blood bank of the Colombo National Hospital when he exposed that the hospital's blood bank was using outdated blood transfusion kits. He had been transferred to 12 different places within three months period since April 2009. -

www.unions.lk/ENGLISH/Full_Story/2009/august/19/2.htm

4. 27 Aug 2009 - CEB cancels leave, trade unions go ahead with strike

Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) announced that all leave to employees has been cancelled with immediate effect. This decision has been taken in view of the proposed strike by CEB trade unions on Friday (28) demanding a salary increase, CEB spokesman said. - <http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30099>

5. 28 Aug 2009 – Army threatens strikers

The government deployed armed troops to curtail the strike action called by the CEB trade unions. Soldiers were stationed at all power stations, grid depots and primary depots in order to disrupt the strike. It was reported that in some areas Army prevented workers from leaving their workplaces and were forced to continue their work shifts. -

http://www.unions.lk/ENGLISH/Full_Story/2009/august/28/4.htm

Arbitrary arrest & Detention

1. 01 Aug 2009 - Kilinochchi Government Agent arrested by the TID

Kilinochchi Government Agent N. Vedhanayagam has been taken in for questioning by the Terrorism Investigation Division (TID). TID sleuths visited his quarters in Vavuniya on the 30th night and questioned him for several hours before he was brought to Colombo for further questioning with regard to administrative irregularities during the war. - http://sundaytimes.lk/090802/News/news_03.html

2. 01 Aug 2009 – A Tamil family arrested at Katunayaka Airport

A Tamil family believed to be that of a top LTTE leader was arrested by intelligence officials at the Katunayaka airport while they were about to leave for Hungary. Reports said that the wife of the Tiger leader and his teenage daughter had managed to escape from Killinochchi during the war and attempted to flee to Budapest to seek refuge. - http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM_BLOG

3. 03 Aug 2009 - 5 Tamil youths arrested in Colombo

The police took into custody five Tamil youths in a search conducted in Hettiyawatte junction in Mattakuliya, a suburb in Colombo. The youths were travelling in the bus that was on its way from Mattakuliya to Mt. Lavinia when the police stopped it and searched. - <http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=29926>

4. 05 Aug 2009 - Student leaders arrested for putting up posters

The police arrested the Convener of the Inter Universities Students Federation (IUSF) Udul Premaratne along with the President of Students Union of Arts Faculty of the University of the Visual & Performing Arts Gihan Seneviratne while they were putting up posters against the state education policies. On the 6th of August both students were produced before the court and were remanded till 12th of August. <http://www.lankatruth.com/>

5. 06 Aug 2009 - LTTE women political leader further detained

Colombo Court has allowed the police to further detain and question the leader of the LTTE women's political wing. Colombo Chief Magistrate Nishantha Hapuaarachchi who visited the headquarters of police Criminal Investigations Division (CID) has granted permission for police request to further detain Subramaniam Sivagami, widely known as Thamilini. The magistrate has visited the detainee on his powers under emergency regulations. - http://www.bbc.co.uk/sinhala/news/story/2009/08/090805_tamilini_court.shtml

6. 14 Aug 2009 - 12 Tamil youths arrested in Colombo

Sri Lanka police took into custody 12 Tamil youths in a search conducted in the suburbs of Colombo on information received from the Intelligence Department that a suicide bomber has infiltrated into Colombo, sources in Colombo said. The arrested youths are said to be from North, East and the Upcountry. - <http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30003>

7. 19 Aug 2009 - 8 Tamil youths arrested in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa

Special Task Force (STF) took into custody eight Tamil youths in a search conducted in Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa areas. The arrested youths are from upcountry who had come to these areas in search of employment, the youths' relatives said. Police authorities in Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, however, said that no arrestees are being detained in their police stations. - <http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30033>

8. 26 Aug 2009 - 4 Tamil youths arrested in Colombo city

Special Task Force (STF) commandos arrested four Tamil youths from Upcountry employed in shops in Colombo Fort and Pettah in a search conducted Wednesday night, sources in Colombo said. The youths were arrested on the streets in Fort and Pettah. - <http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30100>

9. 29 Aug 2009 - 4 Tamil civilians arrested in Katunayake HSZ

Four Tamil civilians arrested by the police while staying with their relatives and friends in Katunayake, a High Security Zone (HSZ) in Colombo district Saturday night were being detained in the Katunayake police station and interrogated by the Terrorism Investigation Department (TID). All the four are natives of north and east, sources said. - www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=25771

Abductions, Torture & Extra-judicial killings

1. 01 Aug 2009 – A youth shot dead in Police custody

A youth, who was arrested by police on 24th of July, was shot dead while in custody. Sandun Vithanage, was arrested by the officers attached to Colombo Crime Division alleging that he had links with ‘underworld gangs’. He was shot in the abdomen at point blank range, according to the medical reports. -
<http://www.lankaenews.com/Sinhala/news.php?id=10174>

2. 01 Aug 2009 – Arrested Tiger political leaders killed?

Information filtering through highly restricted government sources has confirmed that number of LTTE leaders arrested in the IDP camps immediately after the defeat of the LTTE have been killed after severe torturing in the prisons in the southern Sri Lanka. ‘Over one hundred odd LTTE men have been silently and systematically wiped out by the government death squads’ said one source. The sources said LTTE’s Balakumar (former EROS head), Yogaratnam Yogi, Karikalan and Pulavar Puthuvai were some of those being killed. They were arrested in the IDP camps and taken to Colombo for interrogation. -
<http://www.srilankaguardian.org/search?q=Did+the+Govt.+death+squad+kill+the+arrested+Tamil+Tiger+leaders&cx=4&y=10>

3. 03 Aug 2009 - Officer attached to Disaster Management Centre “abducted”

A Coordinating officer attached to the Disaster Management Centre was forcefully taken away by unidentified men from his residence. An official at the Disaster Management Ministry who said the official identified as one Jayasingha was “abducted” added that his Ministry was trying to verify if he was taken away by the police. When contacted Human Rights Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe said while the arrest and detention of those suspected to have violated the law was the duty and right of the police the arrest of the official attached to the Disaster Management Centre had been conducted in a manner contrary to the law.
http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM_BLOG/Sections/frmNewsDetailView.aspx?ARTID=56937

4. 04 Aug 2009 – Student abducted, assaulted and later released

Nipuna Ramanayaka, a student of Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology, was abducted at gunpoint on Tuesday and assaulted for several hours, over a personal feud, a group of police officers led by the son of Director of Colombo Crime Division SSP Vas Gunewardena. Ravindu Vaas Gunawardane, the son of SSP Gunawardane, is a student at the same institution. According to Ramanayake, he was abducted at gunpoint by three armed personnel in plain clothes, a few metres away

from the SLIIT campus about 30 minutes after earlier verbal threats by the son of SSP. He says that he was taken to SSP Vas Gunawardana's residence and assaulted by armed police, SSP's son and the wife. The victim was later hospitalized for treatments.-

http://www.bbc.co.uk/sinhala/news/story/2009/08/090807_vassgunawardana.shtml

5. .05 Aug 2009 – Two prisoners shot dead in police custody

Orugodawatte Rilwan alias 'Pappa' and 'Army Roshan' have been shot dead by police. According to police the two were 'underworld leaders'. They were under police custody and were shot when they tried to throw grenades at the police, the police said. The shootings have taken place at Ratmalana and Madiwela. – www.lankatruth.com

6. 10 Aug 2009 – Unidentified male body found with gunshot wounds

A dead body of an unidentified man was recovered near Wanawasla in the Colombo district. The body had gunshot wounds, it was reported. – www.lankapuwath.com

7. 13 Aug 2009 - Arrested youths shot dead and dumped on railway track

Residents of Angulana police area at Moratuwa found two dead bodies of youths with gunshot injuries today morning. 26-year-old Dinesh Fernando and 22-year-old Danushka Aposo, both residents of Angulana were taken into custody by Officer in Charge of the Angulana police for a personel dispute on Wednesday night. The same night they were shot and killed allegedly by police and thrown into Colombo-South railway track in Angulana. For more than two months, the Sri Lankan Police has shot and killed more than 90 suspects, who were taken into custody over various allegations and the relatives of many of the victims have alleged fabricating false charges. - <http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=29997>

8. 15 Aug 2009 - Saiva priest, wife, child abducted in Colombo

Unknown persons took away a Saiva priest from Jaffna, his wife and their five-year-old child on 15 August as they were coming out of Colombo Fort Railway Station, according to complaints lodged by the priest's parents with Human Rights Commission (HRC) in Jaffna Sunday. HRC officials have referred the complaint to their head office in Colombo for action. The priest is 45 years old and his wife 38. - <http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30065>

9. 16 Aug 2009 – Two unidentified bodies found in Biyagama

Two male dead bodies were found in a marshy land near Siyambalape junction in Biyagama. The highly decomposed bodies were first spotted by a villager who later informed the police. www.lankadeepa.lk

10. 18 Aug 2009 - Suspect taken to show hidden arms dies after drowning

An LTTE suspect who had been taken by the police to Vavunathivu lagoon to show places where arms had been hidden has drowned. Gunaratnam Wimalaraj, who was arrested three months ago, had been handcuffed at the time of the incident.- http://www.lankatruth.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3071%3Atiger-suspect-taken-to-show-hidden-arms-drown&Itemid=41

11. 18 Aug 2009 – 4 civilians abducted and released

Four civilians from two families from Periyapullumalai and Mavadioday in Eravur Pattu D.S. division in Batticaloa were abducted by White van elements while they were at their homes. They were released on the following day. – [Daily Human Security Situation report / www.fce.lk](http://www.fce.lk)

12. 19 Aug 2009 - Wife identifies remains as of her husband in Batticaloa

Batticaloa Police unearthed human remains of male person with bullet in its head from a pit which is located in a land that belongs to the National Water Supply and Drainage Board at Kalladi in Batticaloa in the presence of Batticaloa Magistrate Mr. V. Ramakamalan today morning. About twenty five women were present at the site to identify the human remains as of their children or husbands. Amirthalingm Pratheeba, a young woman identified it as of her husband Periyathamby Amirthalingm who was reported missing since 17.11.2004 on his way home in Kalladi from his shop at Thaa'ndavanveli in his motorbike. - <http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30040>

13. 21 Aug 2009 – A soldier dies in TID custody

An Army Corporal reportedly died under questionable circumstances while being detained at Terrorism Investigations Division. He was detained on suspicion of aiding in the murder attempt of former Army Commander and present Chief of Staff Gen. Sarath Fonseka. The corporal named Hanifa was previously employed as a cook in Army Headquarters. – [‘Lanka Irida’ News paper 23.08.2009](http://www.lankairida.lk)

14. 25 Aug 2009 - Tamil youth abducted in Puththa'lam

A gang of unidentified persons arriving in a three-wheeler abducted a Tamil youth from his house in Maampuri in Puththa'lam district, according to a complaint lodged by his wife with Puththa'lam police Tuesday evening. -
<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30091>

28 Aug 2009 - Tamil political prisoner killed in Welikada

Two Tamil political prisoners have died under 'questionable circumstances' inside the Sri Lankan Central Prison at Welikada in Borallea this week, civil sources in Colombo revealed today. One of the prisoner's wife, a native of Vaddukkoaddai, was informed by Jaffna police that her husband, 30-year-old Sinnaiah Devendran, had died three days ago while he was under going treatment at prison hospital. Mr. Devendran, a native of Maskeliya in Up-country, was arrested after a bus bomb blast in Piliyandala. He was a garment factory worker. -
<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=30101>

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