

**The Security Forces are the Perpetrators and the Police Department Remains  
Passive Perpetrators –  
A Report on Pesalai Massacre on Saturday June 17, 2006 at 7.45 AM**

**“Right to Self – Determination is not our concern right now. Right to life especially in the Government controlled area is our concern. Who will dare to fulfil this fundamental need? We don’t want to speak of our rights at this juncture. We would like to go back to our basic needs like: food, clothing and shelter.”**

*The massive Church at Pesalai – St. Mary’s Church - the biggest one in Sri Lanka*



The geographical set up of the district of Mannar comprises of the mainland and an Island. Pesalai is one of the biggest villages on Mannar Island. It is predominantly a Catholic village (92%). The village has a massive Church – the biggest one in Sri Lanka called St. Mary’s Church. Over 1550 families with a

population of 8500 people, 92 % of whom are Catholic fisher-folk and the rest, Muslim and Hindu fisher folk live in this village. The main industry of the village is Fishing. They have learnt to coexist in conflict situations. The adjacent villages are Vangalai Padhu, Siruthoppu and Kaataspathiri towards the East and St. Victory’s Place and Killiyankudiyiruppu on the West. Deep sea touches the North and South of Pesalai.

A Police Post and a Sri Lankan Navy (SLN) Camp are found at Puthukudiyiruppu towards the east of Pesalai at a distance of three and a half kilometres. SLN has another camp at Siruthoppu which is nearly one kilometre from Pesalai. A police post is found at the entrance to the village. At St. Victory’s Place half a kilometre from Peasalai a SLN post has been recently put up after the claymore attack on SLN personnel and Paramilitary, killing 13. In retaliation four innocent people including a child were believed to be burnt allegedly by SLN personnel within the 15 houses set on fire on December 23, 2005. The truth surfaces that a few girls were raped after the incident. Nadukuda is 3 Kms away from Pesalai towards the West. The entrance to the village has a SLN camp. But the people live towards the southern sea coast of the village. The Camp is on the main road that connects Pesalai and Thalai Mannar. The sea on both sides of the village is monitored by the SLN patrolling by Dvora ships. The SLN issued special Identity cards to the fishermen so that the SLN personnel on patrol could check them in the sea.

On June 15, 2006 at 8 PM a grenade was lobbed into the police post by the LTTE at the entrance to the village. Two police constables and the Officer-in-charge sustained injuries. They were taken to the Anuradhapura Hospital. Following by the grenade attack Pesalai underwent heavy artillery shelling by the Navy at Vangalai Padhu. 6 houses and a shop were razed to the ground. The people of the village totalling 6000 rushed to St Mary's Church and its compound to seek refuge. Many of the babies, children, pregnant mothers, women and men were forced to spend the nights under the sky and on the sand as the Church has no space to accommodate 6000 people. The massive Church and its compound managed to accommodate the vast crowd for the first time for security reasons. The people of St. Victory's place too displaced and took refuge in the church in December, 2005 when their houses were burnt and 4 of the village people- one child and a mother and a husband a wife alleged to be either burnt or missing. But they had enough space in the Church whereas the whole village of Pesalai including Muslims, Hindus, Christians, and Catholics could not have shelter the Church. But they hoped to manage to get a place in the Church compound which itself is a great source of strength for their security.

*Fr. J. J. Bernard OMI monitors the boat burnt by SLN personnel at Pesalai on June 17, 2006*



The people who realised their insecurity, indefinite tension and uncertainty of the next moment preferred to choose the Church to stay at night on June 16, 2006 as a safe place of refuge as they were accustomed to the since 1983. On the morning of June 17, 2006 the fishermen started leaving the church from 5 AM. They make their living by daily fishing. Most of them left the Church by 5:30 AM to go fishing. The

fishermen who went to the seashore around 6:00 AM observed an unusual movement of strange men with strange boats in the shallow water of the sea of Pesalai. They also observed two boats in the mid sea. They suspected that the LTTE were in the sea. They ran back home. But the fishermen from Kaataspathiri who did not know about the abnormal movement of the strange men with strange boats went out fishing.

Around 6:30 AM a heavy fighting broke out in the sea between Sri Lankan Navy and LTTE. According to the Government sources, LTTE faced heavy casualties whereas SLN personnel who were killed were less in number. LTTE owned of injury of two of its cadres and killing 13 SLN personnel. The fishermen who went to the sea shore last and managed to escape from the scene testified that the battle took place in the sea at least 2 Kms off the seashore. Hardly had the battle died out around 7:30 AM, when heavy firing from the East of Pesalai i.e. from Siruthoppu erupted. The people learnt that the SLN personnel were advancing towards the village and the Church firing at random. Most of the village people sought refuge in the Church while the fight was going on in the sea. Still many have been crowding and crushing towards the Church as the battle was dying out. I testify that the people who could not go to the church and stayed in well-locked homes had a narrow escape because the gunmen were firing along the ground thinking that the people would be in flat position so the bullets would hit them when fired along the ground.

*Nearly 72 boats were burnt by SLN personnel on June 17, 2006 at Pesalai and Vangalai Padu.*



So the people in the Church had already locked all the windows and the doors of the Church except one wing of the front door through which the people who came last were entering. When the people saw the gunmen firing towards them and one

who was close to the door sustained injuries. They all ran towards the Alter of the Church pushing each other. They managed to close the open door too. The people who stood outside the Church and who were in the hospital assured me saying that they could identify the gunmen as SLN personnel. They all with one voice said that four of the SLN personnel came on two motor bikes blindly firing at several houses on their way to the Church. They parked the bikes in front of the main entrance of the Church. They were furious; they ran towards the Church; came around the church and took positions outside its walls.

The few people who could not enter the church hid themselves behind the pillars and a well outside the Church. And while the Gunmen changed their positions they were able to run into the parish house where the Parish priest Fr. Vincent Patrick OMI was with the people. It is a small parish house. But more than 1000 people were with the priest in the parish house crowding and lying down on each other. "The people and I were praying," said the Parish priest. The Parish priest told me that he had not come outside. "Had I come I would have been counted as one among the dead." The people who entered the parish house last and the people who were close to the open wing of the front door are direct eye witnesses of the tragedy at Pesalai. A wall separates the church and the hospital. The nurses in the hospital and the patients in the male wards are close eye-witnesses of the attack on the Church. According to them the gunmen were SLN personnel whom they had met number of time at Vangalai Padu whenever they went for business purposes to Vangalai Padu They could make them out. Though I inquired them individually I saw the corroboration in their information. One was wearing shorts and T-shirt and the rest were in their usual camouflage uniform with a black scarf around their neck. The SLN personnel started firing at random in the Church premises where people had taken refuge. The SLN personnel ran round the Church to see whether any open windows or doors could be found. They could not see any opening. They made laborious efforts to break open the main door. They kicked the door with their boots and fired at the door. The thickness of the door was almost two inches. Even so the bullets travelled through the door and hit the sacred statue of Mother Mary. Statue of Jesus too was damaged. They could observe a one and half inches of opening between the main door of the Church and the floor. They fired



*The sacred statue of Mother Mary was also gun down.*

not explode. One of the SLN hurled a second grenade into the Church. Almost 3000 people were crowding in the Church towards the altar. It exploded killing the critically injured lady and wounding 44. For nearly 15 minutes the SLN personnel took control of the place and the injured could not be taken to the hospital due to the fear of being killed. Among the injured were children, women and men. The trauma that the people underwent was so terrific that they are afraid to enter the church and

*The Doctor of Pesalai Dr. Eaiton Peries*



entering the doctor's quarters informed the doctor of this movement. The doctor rushed to the quarters. He saw them squeezing and choking the neck of his relatives and children in the quarters. He went and introduced himself in Sinhala saying that he was a doctor, a medical officer of the Pesalai Hospital. Then the armed men asked whether he was a Tamil Doctor or a Sinhala Doctor. They asked him this because he looks like a Sinhalese and he spoke Sinhala and hardly anybody speaks Sinhala in this village. The doctor said that they spoke clear Sinhala as the down South Sinhalese speaks. There were four of them one was in shorts and T-shirt and the others were in their usual camouflage uniform. They scolded him at gun point when he said that he was a Tamil doctor saying, "It is you who help the LTTE. You are all

through the opening at the people who had taken refuge in the Church and who were in a flat position lying down. Many people were injured. The old Lady who was critically injured was badly bleeding. Due to the vibration of the firing one of the windows on the right side of the Church got open. They hurled a grenade into the Church. It did not fall inside the Church. It fell outside the Church after hitting the grill of the window and it did not explode. One of the SLN hurled a second grenade into the Church. Almost 3000 people were crowding in the Church towards the altar. It exploded killing the critically injured lady and wounding 44. For nearly 15 minutes the SLN personnel took control of the place and the injured could not be taken to the hospital due to the fear of being killed. Among the injured were children, women and men. The trauma that the people underwent was so terrific that they are afraid to enter the church and are in death fear to hear a noise of gun fire.

The doctor of the Pesalai hospital was in the hospital. He took all the medical staff and the patients in the male ward which faces the Church to the female ward. While he was dressing one who was injured at the seashore and managed to escape, four armed men entered his quarters in the hospital premises. One of the nurses in the hospital who saw the gunmen

our enemies because you are Tamils.” According to the doctor they saw him dressing the wounds of the injured. The doctor told me that they were fair and between 20 – 22 years of age. He said they are SLN personnel and they came after the grenade attack in the Church. They continued to threaten the Doctor at gun point. The children screamed for help to protect the life of their dear father. They said to one of the children patting his shoulder “We are leaving your father because of you.” The doctor himself testifies that the SLN personnel entered the quarters after attacking the Church. They were furious and their eyes were reddish. They came after the big explosion heard in the Church.

No sooner had the SLN personnel left the quarters than the people who



*The last respect to the deceased too was a sign of discrimination. Gun was thrust into his mouth and was fired. His open wound in the head was covered by polythene bag. A whole lot of flies eat the open wound.*

sustained injuries were rushed to the hospital of Pesalai. The Doctor immediately ordered ambulances to come from ICRC, DPDHS, MOH office and from Mannar Hospital. The hospital at Pesalai had only one ambulance. The doctor and the medical staff dressed their wounds and IVF was provided. He managed to send five of the critically injured in their ambulance to Mannar. Usually the ambulance can return in 45 minutes. But it never returned. The injured were transported by other ambulances that came after one hour from Mannar after the SOS call of the Doctor. The ambulances which carried the five critically injured reached Mannar on time. On the way back it was seized by the SLN personnel at Karisal. Even the first two ambulances that came from the Mannar hospital were used by the SLN personnel. The doctor said that he managed to send all the injured by 10:30 AM.



*Funeral procession begins after the final service conducted by the Bishop on June 18, 2006.*

I would like to quote a few lines from the Bishop of Mannar who wrote a report to Vatican, “Pesalai hospital lies in the adjoining compound of the Church and these four men in the words of the Doctor, entered the hospital and pointing the gun at the neck of the Doctor pushed him to the ground, scolding him in filth.” The Bishop of Mannar, Rt. Revd. Dr. Rayappu Joseph was

informed of the desecration of the Church and the brutal acts of the SLN Personnel. The Bishop immediately wanted to go to the crime scene. He was not allowed to go to the spot. He says, "I, the Bishop of Mannar when informed about the incident, contacted the area commander of the Sri Lanka Army in Mannar and he advised me not to proceed to Pesalai. After many effort, the Divisional Secretary and myself were able to send the Mannar Police with the Ambulances to bring the seriously wounded to the Mannar Hospital. Finally at 9.10 A.M., I was able to move towards Pesalai with the SLMM (Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission), SLRC (Sri Lanka Red Cross) and the Divisional Secretary of Mannar. We managed to send the remaining wounded people and also dispatched the six dead bodies to the Mannar Hospital in the SLRC vehicles."

*Rt. Rev.Dr. Rayappu Joseph presides over the funeral service on June 18, 2006*



Before the grenade attack took place in the Church the same SLN personnel on the way to the Church set fire to their boats totalling 56 on the sea shore, fishing nets worth US\$ 2 M, outboard engines numbering 61 and their Cadjan fishing huts / houses numbering 103 and other valuables at Vankalai Padu and Pesalai. Fuel filling stations too were burnt. The Navy personnel

proceeded further towards Pesalai. They (SLN) noticed three boats sailing towards the shore of Kaataspathiri. It is related by eye-witnesses that they signalled to six fishermen in three boats (two in each boats) who were returning to the shore at a coastal location called Kaataspathiri. The fishermen came down from their boats with their Identity Cards in hand. The Navy men asked them to go on their knees and shot them thrusting the guns into their mouths. Four of them fell dead still holding their Identity cards issued by the SLN in their hands. The other two had tried to run away and one of them was caught by the Navy and the gun was thrust into his mouth and fired and his body was found in one of the boats and the other sustained injuries on his stomach. Holding his stomach, he ran and fell down near one of the houses in the village and he was immediately taken to the nearby church of Kaataspathiri. He was removed by the SLRC to the Mannar hospital after an hour at 9.30 AM and was sent from Mannar to Anuradhapura hospital for special treatment.

In the meantime, the military sources had tried to spread false news stating that there had been an attack by the LTTE on land at Pesalai on the Police and that the Navy had to open fire etc. They also had stated that a grenade held by one of those inside the Church had exploded etc. and that the Security Forces are not responsible for the explosion in the Church. All the people of Pesalai say that there was absolutely no incident on land in their village that morning and the



*The special IC issued by SLN for fishing which they held in their hands while they were killed.*

grenade story as stated by the military sources is adding insult to injury.

The bishop had informed the Vice Admiral, the commander in chief of the SL Navy of the above facts as testified by the people of Pesalai and their Parish Priests. He invited the local commander of the Navy and organized a meeting with the people of Pesalai numbering 7000 at 4.30 in the evening of the same day. These people related to him in the above terms, of the inhuman act perpetrated by the SL Navy in their village of Pesalai. They cried for security against the Security Forces. They begged him not to prevent them from fleeing to India or going to the LTTE controlled Wannai for their safety. If not, they said he could bring all his men and shoot all of them once and for all.

*The innocent villagers mourn over the death of the dear ones*



The Bishop writes, “Even if a sacred place like a Church is unsafe for them, where else will the innocent civilians find safety was their question.” The people pointed out that the battle between the SLN and LTTE had taken place in the sea and the people had nothing to do with it and so why had they unleashed this

brutality on the innocent people, babies, women and elderly seeking refuge in a Church. The Commander accepted everything the people said and tried to placate them by assuring them their future security. The people pointed out that several incidents of this type had taken place in the past and such assurances had been given by the different commanding officers and they all had all come to nothing as words written on waters.

In the common meeting organized by the Bishop at Pesalai where the SLN commander was also present at Pesalai the people aired their grievances as follows:

*SLN personnel burnt the 62 houses of the fisherman at Vangalai Padu and Pesalai on June 17, 2006*



“On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December, 2005 after the claymore attack on the Navy, the consequent torture of the people of the area by the same SLNavy personnel, from noon 1.40 to night 9.00 PM and the death of four innocent civilians including a three year old child who disappeared in the hands of the SLN are

recurring and are repeated in some other form in an adverse manner.”

The bishop says, “Thereafter too assurances were given to no avail. The SLN is responsible for this crime and the crime is forgotten with inquiry worthy of its name.” The people told him of the threat meted out to all the people in Pesalai and in its sub-villages namely Kaataspathri and Siruthoppu by the Pesalai Navy saying that any LTTE attack on them will result in their wiping out the whole village sparing not even breast feeding infants. In this background, the people could not be convinced of their security. All at the meeting requested the presence of the ICRC in the village on a permanent basis to which the ICRC representative present said that he would keep his headquarters informed of the same and follow their instructions. The people are mortally afraid of the SLN personnel and any amount of assurance given to them is not going to change their fear ridden psychosis due to past assurances not being kept up and the threats meted out to them by the Navy. I myself witness that when the people sight the SLN personnel moving in groups, they run for their lives to the church.



*The director of CPR monitoring the houses burnt by SLN personnel at Vangalai Padu*

The SLN and the SLA, very unrealistically expect that the ordinary civilians should give them information about the presence and plans of the LTTE. They do not see that the civilians have nothing to do with the plans and activities of the LTTE and that their only concern is their daily civic life in search of the daily means of sustaining their large families. The fate of the so called informants is a fright to the innocent people. The security forces in this area do not understand this at all and from top to bottom, each of them has coloured his mind with this fanaticism that the people are there

to supply security information to them. “If the people do not do this”, the Bishop says, “the Security Forces here think that the people should be killed.” Unless and until the above unfounded prejudice is removed from the Forces against the Tamil civilians, they will never be in a position to offer any security to the people. The cry of our people that they be secured from the SL Security forces in their midst is very genuine in the given situation. Their immediate expectation is that a neutral Force should be brought in to take care of the security of the innocent people in a situation where nearly 95% of the Security Forces in Sri Lanka are Sinhalese and except a few very good officers, almost all of them are prejudiced heavily against the Tamil people. This truth should be squarely faced by all concerned to prevent violence and counter violence against civilians Tamil or Sinhala speaking.

At the moment all fishing in Mannar district is forbidden and the life of the poor fishermen is going to become miserable, many a time left only with plain water and little sugar to feed the infants. The people’s right to life and their right to earn a living are greatly endangered in the District of Mannar which has a population of 125,000



people. Today 7500 people of Pesalai are staying in the Churches and over 1000 have left the area in search of safer locations.

One of the injured is a direct eye witness to say that the grenade was hurled by the SLN personnel into the Church on June 17, 2006 at Pesalai.



The Bishop wrote to His Excellency Apostolic Nuncio, “The Church of Our Lady of Victory at Pesalai is one of the biggest churches in the country which was newly built and blessed by His Excellency Apostolic Nuncio on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December, 2004. This church has been desecrated by the shedding of innocent blood by unjust

aggressors, the SL Navy. I have called for a day of penance and prayer and this day falls on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> inst and by evening we will be having a purification ceremony for three hour and bless the Church anew for worship in the presence of the Presbyterium of Mannar and the people of Pesalai.”

Further he writes, “Today we buried the six civilians murdered by the Navy at Pesalai yesterday by shooting them through their mouths blowing off their heads and I spoke of Jesus Christ cruelly crucified and his Eternal words “Father forgive them for they do not know what thy do”. It is this power of forgiveness, I said, that made Him rise again and reminded the people of this hope that enlightens us even at this hour of darkness. We are not convinced that any inquiry worthy of its name will be held on these crimes and the culprits be prevented from further savage onslaught on the innocent civilians and those taking refuge in the sanctuary of their religion, the Church.”

When I met the people and investigated them they underlined the following fact, **“Right to Self – Determination is not our concern right now. Right to life especially in the Government controlled area is our concern. Who will dare to fulfil this fundamental need? We don’t want to speak of our rights at this juncture. We would like to go back to our basic needs like: food, clothing and shelter.”**

The people at Pesalai, Kaataspathiri, and Siruthoppu are of a fishing community. They are not allowed to go fishing even after 10 days. They face a tremendous economic draw back. They are unable to feed their children. Schools are not functioning. All the village people stay in the Church at night for security reasons. The babies, children, pregnant mothers, elderly people all sleep in an open space in the church compound on the sandy ground, in the dusty wind and dirty sand. The dogs and the people are sleeping side by side on the dirty sand. Sanitary facilities for 8000 people are lacking. People say, “The SLN personnel attacked us while we were in the locked Church. How blind faith we have to sleep in the open space of the Church compound exposing ourselves fully to the perpetrators, the cruel murderers. But we

cannot help and there is no alternative to make a better decision than to use the open space of the Church compound. The Government continues to be indifferent in distributing dry rations to the people. The compensation for the killed was not given. The innocent people are citizens of this country. I personally appreciate the Government's commitment to bear all the expenses of the people who were killed and wounded at Kepittigollawa claymore attack. Each family was compensated with 60 thousand Rupees whereas the following list of massacres have not been compensated.

1. Massacre of Five Students in Trincomalee on January 2, 2006
2. The Pogrom in Trincomalee killing 13 civilians on April 12, 2006
3. Massacre of 5 boys at Puttur on April 18, 2006
4. 18 civilians at Sampoor, Muttur East Trincomalee on April 25, 2006
5. Massacre of 7 civilians at Neliyadi on May 4, 2006
6. 8 Youth at Manthuvil, missing on May 7, 2006
7. 13 civilians in Alaipitty on May 13, 2006
8. 6 civilians at Pesalai on June 17, 2006-06-27
9. 154 civilians killed in different incidents in the North and East on different dates



*The courageous Parish priest listens to the BBC news at 9:15 PM with the parishioners in front of the Church. They all listen to the News hoping for some good news for their ordinary life.*

**The indifferent, unbalanced and irresponsible approach of the Government leads to violence. Discrimination and being a passive perpetrator are major elements for the escalation of violence. No perpetrators of the above said massacres were brought to justice. Since the perpetrators and the authorities who maintain the law and order are one and the same no body has been brought to justice so far though there have been very strong direct eye-witnesses of the massacres. The eye witnesses are afraid to go to the courts and record their statements because the law makers are the law breakers and the very same department which should ensure the security of the people and the department which should work hand in hand with judiciary are perpetrators or remain passive perpetrators.**

**Desecration of the Church with innocent people's blood and distorted reports given by the Military Spokesman shock all the Catholics of this country. The**

**utter cowardly act of attacking the asylum seekers has to be condemned as organized state terrorism. For the cheap labour of the security forces with no ethical training innocent people are paying the price and they are prey to the irresponsible Government and demoralized Military.**

**Details of those killed by the SLN personnel at Pesalai Church and at Kaataspathiri on 17 .06.2006:**

01. Mrs. Manaval Claramma Leela aged 75 yrs, Catholic, Ward 4, Pesalai killed in the Church.
02. Mr. Jesuthasan Jude Nixon 23 yrs old, Catholic, unmarried; Ward 8, Pesalai; killed at the Kaataspathiri seashore
03. Mr.Cyrilappar St. Jude 22 yrs old Vidathalthivu; Catholic, Unmarried. killed at the Kaataspathiri seashore
04. Mr. Turairaja Vijekumar 39 yrs old, Hindu, married with three children 16,13,and 10 years of age, Kaattaspathiri, Pesalai; killed at the Kaataspathiri seashore
05. Kodalingham Linganathan 20 yrs old, Hindu, unmarried, Kaattaspathri, Pesalai; killed at the Kaataspathiri seashore
06. Abdul Raheem Latheep, 28 yrs old, Muslim, married with wife and four children all under nine years of age, Puthukudiruppu, Erukilampiddy; killed at the Kaataspathiri seashore.



*The people including the babies, children, pregnant mothers, and elderly people sleep in the open space of the Church compound in the sandy and dusty ground. The dogs and people sleep together.*

**Details of those who were injured by the SLN by grenade attack in the Church on June 17, 2006. Details of six injured are missing in the list - four injured were taken to Gurunagala and two to Anuradhapura hospitals.**

Name	Address
Vimalan	Kadduasspathiri
Arulappu Dora Perris	5 <sup>th</sup> ward Pesalai
Annandakumar	50 housing Scheme, Pesalai
Jeyaseelan Alvinon Fernando	8 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai

Sornam Rogecian Coonge	8 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
Laurence Fernando	8 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
Bosco Ronald Fernando	8 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
Kaithan Sebastian Fernando	3 <sup>rd</sup> ward , Pesalai
Ippalit Noel Croos	8 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
Uwanis Keni Delma	1 <sup>st</sup> ward , Pesalai
Soosaiappu Solomon Croos	8 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
Francis Depo Croos	8 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
Soosaiappu Thasan Logu	8 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
James Jeyasinham Kullas	8 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
Jeyasingham Prema Thuram	8 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
Jacqueline Geetha Thuram	8 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
Jeyasingam Ginoson Kullas	8 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
Soosathasan Lineus Brian Perris	8 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
Mariyathasan Logu	8 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
J.Antonikkam Delma	1 <sup>st</sup> ward , Pesalai
Alaiksanthar deisly thuram	1 <sup>st</sup> ward , Pesalai
Mohamed haniba saku Hamid	Mannar Mira
Sheehas	Pallimunai Mira
Ponrasu Mendes	Pallimunai Mira
Soosai Nickson Daias	8 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
Ramon Janani Diros	
Semanpillai	1 <sup>st</sup> ward , Pesalai
Sukumaran Thushanthi	7 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
Alfred Delma	4 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
Premos Rohini Croos	4 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
Mariyathasan Thayan	2 <sup>nd</sup> ward , Pesalai
Caniyud Delma	1 <sup>st</sup> ward , Pesalai
Sornam Suwakeen Soosainayagam Coonge	8 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
Aasirvatham Suresh Fernando	8 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
Arookiyasamy Michel Derose	8 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
Sinnathamby Ravikumar	4 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
Mariyathas Antony Fernando	8 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai
Yacko Jeyam Fernando	8 <sup>th</sup> ward , Pesalai

### Details of the Property Rampaged by SLN

Items	At VankalaiPadhu	At Pesalai	Total	Estimated lost in US\$
Fibre Glass Boats	9	47	56	3.1M
Fishing Huts	75	28	103	1.7M
Out Board Engine	48	13	61	2.6M
Trawlers	-	3	3	0.2M
Fishing Nets	Worth of US \$ 1.1M	Worth of US \$ 0.9M		1.9M
Related Accessories	Worth of US \$ 0.4M	Worth of US \$ 0.3M		0.7M

*The children in the open space sleeping on the sandy ground in the dusty wind.*



Nearly 70 people went to the courts on June 22, 2006 to record their statements. They were all direct eye witnesses. The Magistrate, Mr. T.J.Pirabakaran recorded the statements of six direct eye witnesses. They all have said that they could identify the SLN personnel who came to the Church on June 17, 2006. The witnesses are afraid to be in the place because of security reasons. They say that again they will be targeted by the SLN for confessing the truth in the Court. I would request the humanitarian agencies and the human rights organization to defend the witnesses and to encourage the Government to protect them as far as possible. Witness protection is a must and first step to reach justice and to bring the perpetrators to justice. The Magistrate directed ordered the Mannar SLN commander to appear in the court on July 7, 2006. I am carefully observing and monitoring the court proceedings and the way the Police department and the Security Forces help the Judiciary and co-operate with the magistrate. The follow up of the incident is scrutinized carefully.

I, the Director of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation and the Centre for Peace and Reconciliation would strongly suggest that in every district certain place or area has to be declared as peace zones where no operation of the security forces, LTTE and the paramilitary groups is held and where people are secure enough when emergency arises. Security of the innocent people of Sri Lanka especially the Tamils has to be ensured by the donor countries and the co-chairs by pressurizing both parties. An independent, neutral, powerful network of delegation has to be sent to Sri Lanka on Fact Finding Mission who could submit their reports and recommendations to be implemented immediately by GoSL and LTTE. The delegation must visit India, Donor and Co-chairs countries, and the EU and strongly advice them to stop this carnage. As I wrote earlier CFA has no meaning right now. The People need the assurance of their security to enjoy at least the right to life.

I also endorse the recommendations of the Bishop of Mannar and request the authorities concerned to implement them with no loss of time.

01. "That the Government and the LTTE immediately with no loss of time bring to halt all types of killings and murders, through the intervention of

- the international community and of the Norwegian Facilitators of the Peace process.
02. That both these parties openly commit themselves to strictly & scrupulously observe all the terms of the Ceasefire Agreement (CFA) under the continued facilitation of the Government of Norway.
  03. That both the parties openly reject war in all its forms and appearances, with no loss of time.
  04. That thus, creating an atmosphere of good will, seriously seek out ways to fruitfully resume the Peace Process on the footing of equality of partnership of the parties of the CFA as far as matters related to the Peace Process and Conflict Resolution are concerned.”

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