



வடகிழக்கு மனித உரிமைகள் செயலகம்
NORTH EAST SECRETARIAT ON HUMAN RIGHTS
NESOHR

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Abduction of TRO Employees

Eight employees of the Tamils Rehabilitation Organization (TRO) were abducted in very similar fashions under very similar circumstances from the same location in two separate incidents on two successive days.

First incident on Sunday 29 January

The first incident occurred on Sunday 29 January. The vehicle carrying five TRO employees including the vehicle driver was traveling north from Batticaloa. Among them were three female employees. The vehicle had cleared the checking at the Welikande Sri Lankan Army checkpoint. As their vehicle proceeded towards north, a white-van interrupted the vehicle and abducted it. Abductors kept all five TRO employees overnight. Late on the following day, on Monday, two of the female employees who were abducted were brought back to the main road by the abductors and released there. The two women scared by the experience just went home and kept quiet. TRO office was alerted about the missing five only when they did not turn up as expected at their destination for the meeting on Tuesday 31 January. The news of the abduction that broke out on Wednesday 1 February reported that five employees were abducted. Those who released the news were not aware that two female employees out of the five in this vehicle were already back in their home and were too scared to report the incident.

Second incident on Monday 30 January

Another TRO vehicle left Batticaloa with several TRO employees on Monday 30 January and traveled towards north. Like the first vehicle this vehicle also cleared the Sri Lankan Army checkpoint at Welikande. Soon after, a white-van interrupted the vehicle and abducted five TRO employees from the vehicle. The remaining employees and their vehicle were turned back to Batticaloa. Those who were turned back alerted TRO of the abduction and this news broke out on Tuesday 31 January before the news of the first abduction broke out. Among the abducted five TRO employees in the second abduction was one female employee.

Who are the abductors?

Those who escaped from the abduction in both of the above incidents have cited some very similar features about the two incidents. These are:

1. All those who were abducted were employees of TRO.
2. They were traveling from Batticaloa towards north.
3. They have just cleared the Sri Lankan military checkpoint in Welikande.
4. They were abducted just after this clearance.
5. Abductors were carrying pistols.
6. Abductors spoke good Tamil.

A NESOHR case

It will be useful to describe a similar abduction case that NESOHR handled four months ago. This will throw further light into the present cases of abductions. In the case that NESOHR handled,

1. Members of one family were abducted
2. They were traveling from Batticaloa towards north.
3. They have just cleared the Sri Lankan military checkpoint in Welikande.
4. They were abducted just after this clearance.
5. Abductors were carrying pistols.
6. Abductors spoke good Tamil.

The similarity with this NESOHR case and the two cases of abduction of the TRO employees are striking. The NESOHR case was resolved with assistance from ICRC who, according to the family, was able to visit the “camp” where the family was being held and obtain the release. According to information provided by this family whose members were tortured by those at this “camp”, the camp belonged to the “Karuna” faction.

Complaints lodged

Complaints of the abductions were made at the Batticaloa Police Station. Complaints were also lodged with SLMM and ICRC.

Details of the 8 TRO employees abducted

1.



Name: Kasinathar Ganeshalingam (Male)
Occupation: PSEDC North-East Province Secretary

2.

Name: S. Dosini (Female)
Occupation: PSEDC Divisional Coordinator Mamunai Division

3.

Name: Thangarasa (Male)
Occupation: Driver (Missing Vehicle Number: WP PA 3074)

4.



Name: Thanuskody Premini (26) (Female)
Occupation: TRO Batticaloa Chief Accountant

5.

Name: Shanmuganathan Sujendram (Male)
Occupation: TRO Accountant, Children's Home, Santhivelli

6.

Name: Thambiraja Vasantharajan (Male)
Occupation: Accountant, TRO Batticaloa

7.

Name: Kailayapillai Ravindran (Male)
Occupation: Accountant, Vipulananda Children's Home

8.

Name: Arunesarasa Satheesharan (Male)
Occupation: Accounts Trainee, Vellavali

Note by NESOHR: NESOHR is with holding the identities of the people who have provided us with information about cases for their own safety. NESOHR is ready to share more detailed information with any reputable international human rights organizations wishing to inquire into this case.

Dr N Malathy
(NESOHR Secretary)