



# Tamils Rehabilitation Organisation

410/112 Bullers Road, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka

Ph: +94 (0) 11 269 3254, 471 6575

Fax: 011 471 6576

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10 February 2006

### Re: Biographies of the abducted

**Name:** Mr. Kasinathar Ganeshalingam

**Age:** 53

**Occupation:** Director: TRO Board of Directors

Coordinator of Pre School Education Development Centre (PSEDC) NorthEast Province

**Abducted Sunday 29/1/06**

#### Family Back Ground:

Mr. Ganeshalingam is the youngest child of Mr. Nanthipillai a retired principal. He has 5 siblings. After his father's death, he took the responsibility for the care of his elderly mother. Mr. Ganeshalingam spent most of his time taking care of his mother and put off getting married.

After the death of his mother he decided to marry Maheswary a music teacher at Karanthan GTMS. They had two small daughters: Sevitha (12) and Pavitha (8). Sevitha is a Year 7 student at Chundukuli Girls College while her younger sister Pavitha attends Jaffna Hindu Primary school where she is a Year 3 student.

#### Professional Qualifications

Having completed his studies at Jaffna, Mahajana College in 1976 he received a diploma in electric technology from the National Technical College.



**Sevitha & Mrs. Ganeshalingam at the TRO Kilinochchi Office after hearing of the abduction of Mr. Ganeshalingam**



**Mr. Ganeshalingam**

He is a very efficient and able administrator. From 1979–1981 he worked as an electrician in Dematagoda, Colombo. From 1982–

1984 he was employed as a technical assistant at a firm in Ja-Ela. From 1985–1990 he worked as an assistant manager in a factory in Irupalai, Jaffna.

Mr. Ganeshalingam was moved by the suffering he observed in the NorthEast and decided to become involved in humanitarian work. He began his NGO career as a planning officer in a voluntary organization providing services to people affected by war. In 1995 he joined TRO and was entrusted with the task of developing pre school education. He was appointed the pre school project coordinator and since 2003 has been working as PSEDC NorthEast Province Coordinator and has served on the TRO Board of Directors.

He is fully committed and dedicated to the development of pre schools through the provision of training to pre school teachers from the Sinhala, Muslim and Tamil communities without regard to ethnic, religious or language bias. It was his, and TRO's hope, that the first generation of post-ceasefire agreement (CFA)



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pre school children were important because they had the chance to be the first generation who had no knowledge of war and it was important to ensure that a strong foundation was laid for them, and for future generations, by developing their physical and mental abilities during the critical ages of 3-5.



**Pavitha & Mrs. Ganeshalingam at the TRO Kilinochchi Office after hearing of the abduction of Mr. Ganeshalingam**

## **Dedication and Commitment in his Work**

Mr. Ganeshalingam has always worked with total commitment when discharging his duties. He travels throughout the NE at night in order to save time and reserve the day for work rather than travel. He is also known for his strict time management. He has been committed to developing his own skills and has shown great interest in developing the skills of others.

His selfless, tireless devotion to his work has helped to promote the development of Tamil, Sinhala and Muslim pre school teachers, coordinators, pre school children and the staff and committee members of the PSEDC structure.

He always strives to meet the enormous and continuing needs of the pre schools and pre school teachers by engaging with and petitioning UN Agencies, the international NGOs and other donors. In addition to his work with pre schools he also enthusiastically takes part in other social work.

He always works late into the night in order to finish his office and field work. He is always looking for ways to move the project activities forward in a timely manner and to guide and encourage the staff so that they could accomplish the efficient implementation of the programmes.

## **Why he was in Batticaloa District:**

He left our office in Kilinochchi for Batticaloa on 26th January, 2006 at 3 PM. He went to the Batticaloa District to assess and accelerate the progress of the pre school construction projects funded by NRC and SCiSL and to get the receipts for materials for the purpose of preparing expenditure statements for those projects. He also wanted to safely bring the Batticaloa pre school teachers, Ms. Punniyamoorthy Nadeswari and Ms. Sithiravel Sivamathi, to a workshop conducted by FORUT Officials at TRO Head Office in Kilinochchi on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2006.

## **When TRO got news of his abduction:**

On the evening of 29<sup>th</sup> January 2006 after completing his assessment tour he left Batticaloa and began his journey towards Kilinochchi. At approximately 20:00 after passing Welikanda Army checkpoint he, and those travelling with him, were abducted by armed gunmen.

Due the TRO staff's focus on the group that had gone missing on Monday 30 January Mr. Ganeshalingam's group was not missed until it was realized that he had failed to turn up for the FORUT workshop.

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**Name: Thampirasa Vasatharajah:**

**Occupation: Accountant, TRO Batticaloa**

**Abducted Monday 30/1/06**

**(Awaiting details)**

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**Thampirasa Vasatharajah**



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**Name:** Kailayappillai Ravinthiran  
**Age:** 26  
**Occupation:** TRO Accountant, Vipulananda Children's Home, Palugamam  
**Abducted Monday 30/1/06**

Mr. K. Ravinthiran works has worked for TRO for over 2 years as a staff accountant. He is primarily responsible for the accounts of the Vipulananda Children's Home's finances. This home is home to 70 boys who are either orphans or their families can no longer care for them.

Ravinthiran's family details:

Name	Age	Relationship	Occupation
Kailayappillai	-	Father	Passed away
Parameshwary	53	Mother	
Uruthiramoorthy	35	Brother	Married
Pathmavathi	32	Sister	Married
Atputham	30	Sister	Married
Aravinthan	27	Brother	Abroad
Nishanthini	22	Sister	Student (O/L)



**Kailayappillai Ravinthiran**

**Name:** Thanuskody Premini  
**Age:** 25  
**Occupation:** Chief Accountant (Batticaloa)  
**Abducted Monday 30/1/06**

**Family Background:**

Premini is the 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter of father Thanuskody and mother Parameswary. She has 3 brothers and sisters. She comes from a very disadvantaged background. Her father is a chronically sick person and this has made life difficult for the family. Her brother received his degree at the Eastern University and was employed at the Divisional Secretary's Office in Kandawalai, Kilinochchi District.

**The family Details:**

Name	Age	Occupation
Sinnathamby Thanuskody	61	Father - Labourer
Thanuskody Parameswary	50	Housewife
Thanuskody Kamalaathan	29	DS Office, Kandawalai
Thanuskody Perinpathasan	24	-
Thanuskody Vasanthiny	22	Student



**Thanuskody Premini**

**Professional Qualifications**

Premini is highly skilled in Computer Science and Financial Accounting and Management. She is a dedicated worker and, through hard work and commitment was promoted to the post of TRO Chief Accountant for the Batticaloa District. In the aftermath of Tsunami disaster she was fully involved in relief work and did not go home for days on end.

**Why she was in the Batticaloa District:**

She had been based in the Kilinochchi Office and when she was accepted to the Eastern University she transferred to the Batticaloa Office so that she could work while pursuing her degree.



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## When TRO got the news of her abduction:

Premini and the four other missing accountants were coming to Vavuniya for an Accounting Workshop scheduled to be held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006 at 11.30 AM. The group was abducted at approximately 16:00 on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2006 about 100 metres from Welikanda Army checkpoint. TRO received the news of her abduction at 21:00 on the same day when 10 of the 15 travelling with Premini were released and returned to Batticaloa where they called the TRO office. As it was too dangerous to venture out at night the TRO Batticaloa personnel reported the incident the next morning.



**Premini's Mother & Brother at the TRO Kilinochchi Office after hearing of her abduction**

## The dedication and Commitment in her Work

Ms. Premini worked for TRO Batticaloa full time while pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree at Eastern University. She is in her final year of the program and has performed exemplarily as Chief Accountant and as a student at the same time. Although she has been subjected to continuous death threats, she continued to work with dedication in order to provide the necessary services to the war affected, tsunami affected and other vulnerable persons in the area. She was in charge of managing all accounts staff in the Batticaloa district and showed her commitment to the people by working well beyond normal office hours.

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**Name:** Shanmuganathan Sujendran  
**Occupation:** TRO Accountant Manikavasakar Illam  
(Children's Home), Santively  
**Abducted Monday 30/1/06**

Mr. S. Sujendran works has worked for TRO for over 2 and a half years as a staff accountant. He is primarily responsible for the accounts of the Manikavasakar Illam Children's Home's finances. This home is home to 42 boys who are either orphans or whose families can no longer care for them.



**Shanmuganathan Sujendran**

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**Name:** Kathirkamar Thangarasa  
**Age:** 43  
**Occupation:** Driver  
**Abducted Sunday 29/1/06**

## Family Background

He was the 4<sup>th</sup> son of father Kathirkamar and mother Annappillai. He has 4 siblings and is married to Kumuthini from Vattakachchi.

Thangarasa and Kumuthini have 4 girls and 1 boy. Thangarasa was a farmer engaged in paddy cultivation but due to the nature of farming and the need to earn money to support his family he, at times, was forced to engage in day labour in order to feed his family. On 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2006 became an employee of TRO and began working as a driver of the PSEDC vehicle.



**Mr. Thangarasa**



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## The family Details:

Name	Age	Occupation
Kathirkamar Thangarasa	43	Driver
Thangarasa Kumuthin	43	Housewife
Thangarasa Sanjeeva	21	Unemployed
Thangarasa Sanchitha	20	Unemployed
Thangarasa Mathanarubi	19	Student
Thangarasa Vanojan	14	Student
Thangarasa Nivetha	12	Student



**Mr. Thangarasa's Family at the TRO Kilinochchi Office after hearing the news of his abduction**

## The dedication and Commitment in his Work

Though he joined TRO only recently it became readily apparent that he was a hard working individual who performed his job with seriousness and a high degree of commitment to service to others.

## Why he was in Batticaloa:

He left the TRO office in Kilinochchi for the Batticaloa District on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2006 at 15:00 with Mr.K.Ganeshalingam driving vehicle No: WP PA 3074.

On 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2006 evening he left Batticaloa and began his return journey towards Kilinochchi. At about 20:00, after passing Welikanda Army check point, he and 4 others in his vehicle were abducted by paramilitaries.

## When TRO received news of his abduction:

When Mr. Ganeshalingam's group did not attend the workshop they had been scheduled for on the morning of the 31st January at the TRO office TRO began calling the TRO District and Sub-Offices in order to locate the vehicle to no avail.

**Name: Arulthevarasa Satheskarana:**

**Occupation: TRO Accounts Trainee, Vellavali**

**Abducted Monday 30/1/06**

Mr. A. Satheskarana is a TRO accounts trainee having only been hired by TRO 8 months ago. He is a hard working dedicated person who has show an ability to learn quickly and work easily with others.

Satheskarana's family details:

Name	Age	Relationship	Occupation
Arulthevarasa	49	Father	MPCS – Manager
Selvamani	49	Mother	
Vimalathasan	19	Brother	Student (A/L)
Thasarathan	16	Brother	Student(O/L)
Sinthujan	14	Brother	Student (Gr 10)
Surenthini	11	Sister	Student (Gr 5)



**Arulthevarasa Satheskarana**