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FOR PUBLIC RELEASE
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First in a series of submissions to the Presidential Commission of Inquiry and public on human rights violations in Sri Lanka

The Law & Society Trust, in collaboration with four local partners including the Civil Monitoring Commission and the Free Media Movement, has compiled a working document listing 547 persons killed and 396 persons disappeared during the period January to June 2007. The complete confidential document, with names, locations of incidents and all available data, has been submitted to the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (“the Commission”) as well as relevant members of Government.

This public letter is the first in a series on the island-wide situation in relation to killings, missing persons and other human rights violations. It will be updated hereafter on a regular basis. **Please note that this is not, nor is it intended to be, an exhaustive list.**

Though the Commission has been asked to look specifically at 16 cases, plus the assassination of TNA MP N Raviraj, we note that the wording of the Commission’s mandate – “to obtain information, investigate and inquire into alleged serious human rights violations arising since 1st August 2005” – provides an omnibus clause which permits consideration of cases outside of those specified in the mandate.

We have submitted this information to the Commission so that it may examine the attached documents and investigate these incidents. This is of vital importance in the absence of an acknowledgement of these killings and disappearances by the government and other statutory bodies with a mandate for human rights protection in the country.

The attached analysis is based on the information obtained from local partners, some of whom did not wish to be named to ensure that they remain free to document violations. Wherever possible, this information has been cross-checked and verified to ensure that there is no multiple reporting of the same incident.

Killings

The largest proportion of people killed in the first six months of 2007 were Tamil – 70.7% across the island, as compared with 9.1% Sinhalese and 5.9% Muslims. The gravity of this situation becomes even more pronounced when considered against the fact that the Tamil people make up only 16% of the total population. Men were killed in much larger numbers than women – 89.9% vs. 9.7%.

By district, Jaffna was worst affected by killings (23.2%), followed by Batticaloa and Vavuniya (21.5% and 21.3 respectively).

The data on humanitarian workers and religious leaders killed reflects the overall trends in killings, with Tamils disproportionately affected as compared with Muslim and Sinhalese. Killings of this category of persons were highest in Trincomalee, during the period 1 January 2006 to 21 August 2007. However, it is notable that religious leaders of three of the four main faiths of the island have been killed since last year – Father Jim Brown (August 2006), Selliah Parameshwaran Kurukkal (February 2007) and Ven Handungamuwe Nandarathna Thero (March 2007).

Disappearances

As with killings, Tamils suffered disproportionately from abductions – 64.6%, compared with 3% Sinhalese and 3% Muslims. Men represented nearly 98% of all missing persons.

By district, Jaffna was again worst affected by disappearances (49.5%). However Colombo was next worst affected, at 17.7%, underlining the concern expressed by many local NGOs at the situation with respect to this particular violation.

Nearly 19% of persons abducted were taken from their homes. The vast majority of these were in Jaffna, however there were a few abductions from home in other parts of the country. Where times were specified, these were for persons who disappeared in Jaffna, which has been under curfew since before January 2007. Roughly 5% of all persons abducted were persons abducted from home during curfew in Jaffna – in an area allegedly under government control, this points to the possibility of government inability or unwillingness to keep all its citizens safe.

It is our hope that the investigations by the Commission, with assistance of the IIGEP, lead to identification of perpetrators and prosecution, thereby ensuring justice to victims and their family members, as well as directly addressing the prevailing culture of impunity.

Also attached to this letter is a compilation of published material, where detailed information is not available, from reliable and credible sources such as the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) and UNICEF for the period January to June 2007 on killings and missing persons as well as recruitment of child soldiers. Killings and abductions of aid workers, religious leaders and media personnel – the latter drawn from the Free Media Movement – are also covered.

As stated above, this is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Rather, we hope that by bringing together information from a range of reliable sources on killings, missing persons,

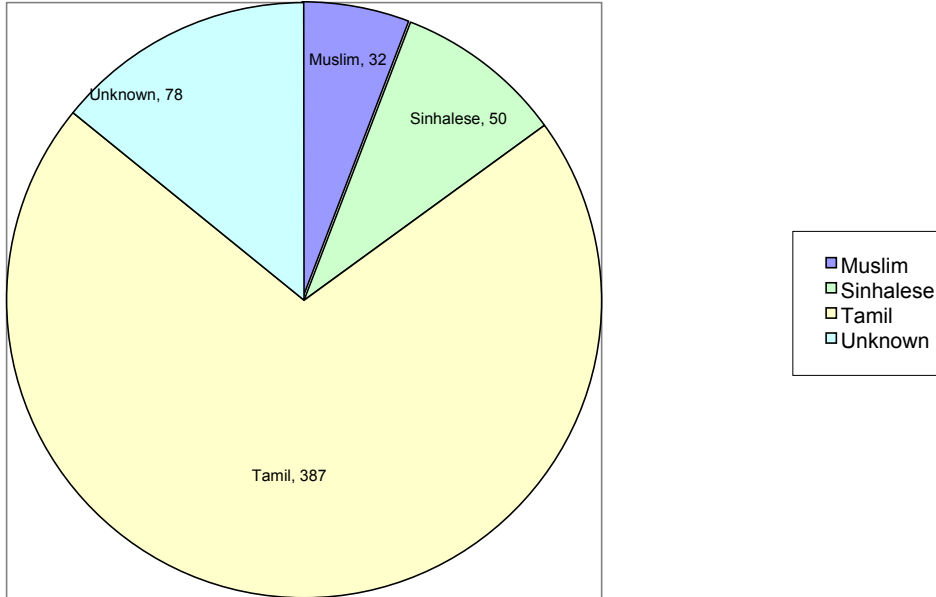
and other rights violations, this document may give readers some sense of the enormity and shape of the current human rights crisis in Sri Lanka.

Though we call on the Commission to use their mandate to investigate these violations, fully utilizing the available expertise and assistance of the IIGEP, in the long term we believe it is not ad hoc bodies such as the Commission that should address these violations, but statutory domestic human rights protection mechanisms, cooperating with and assisted by the international community, particularly the United Nations.

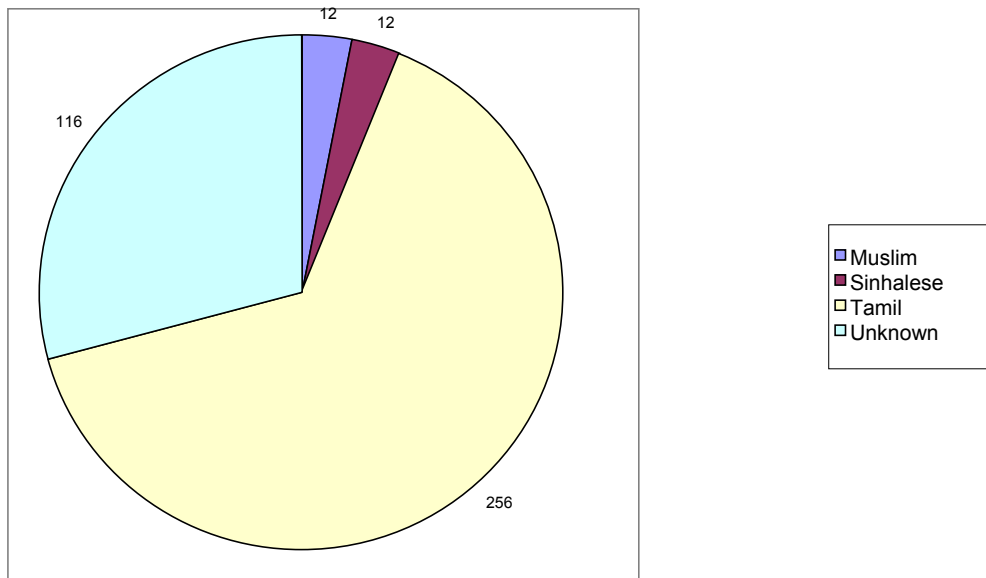
In the absence of adequate and visible steps taken so far by domestic bodies to address the violations, there are clear indications that this trend will continue in the coming months.

Please contact Mr Ruki Fernando (+94 773874160 or rukiii@gmail.com) or Ms Dulani Kulasinghe (+94 775796507 or dulani_kulasinghe@yahoo.com) with questions about the information contained in this letter or the attachments.

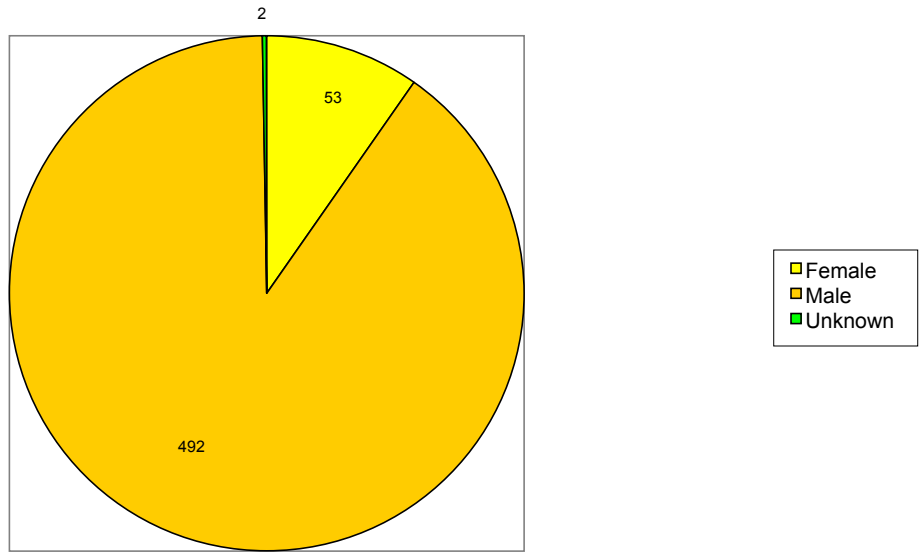
Distribution of Killings by Ethnicity



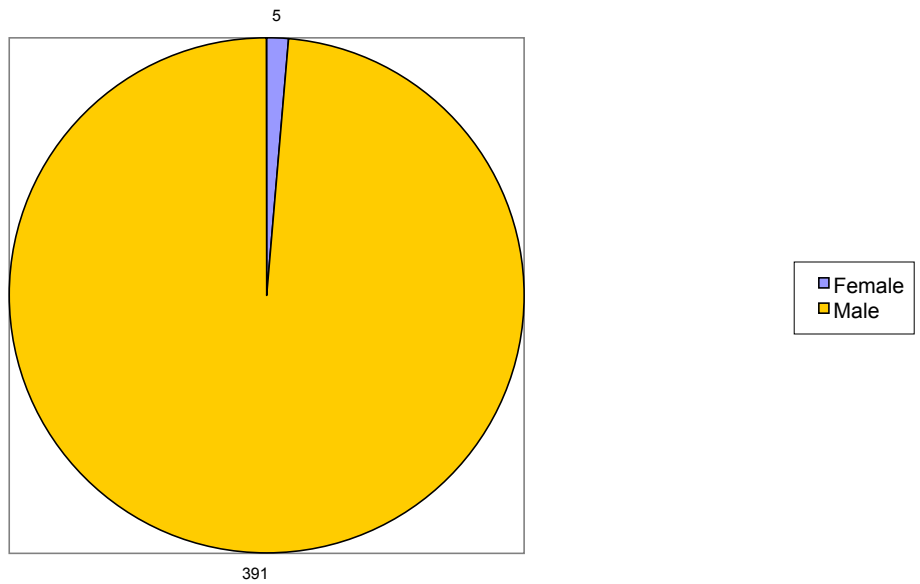
Distribution of Disappearances by Ethnicity



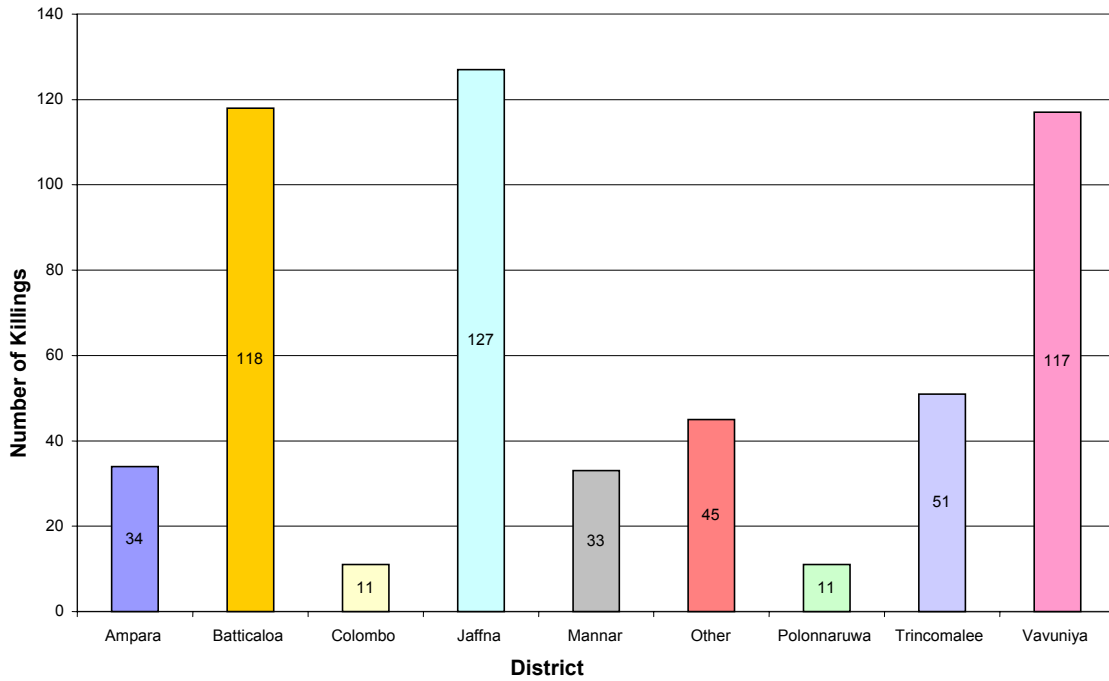
Distribution of Killings by Gender



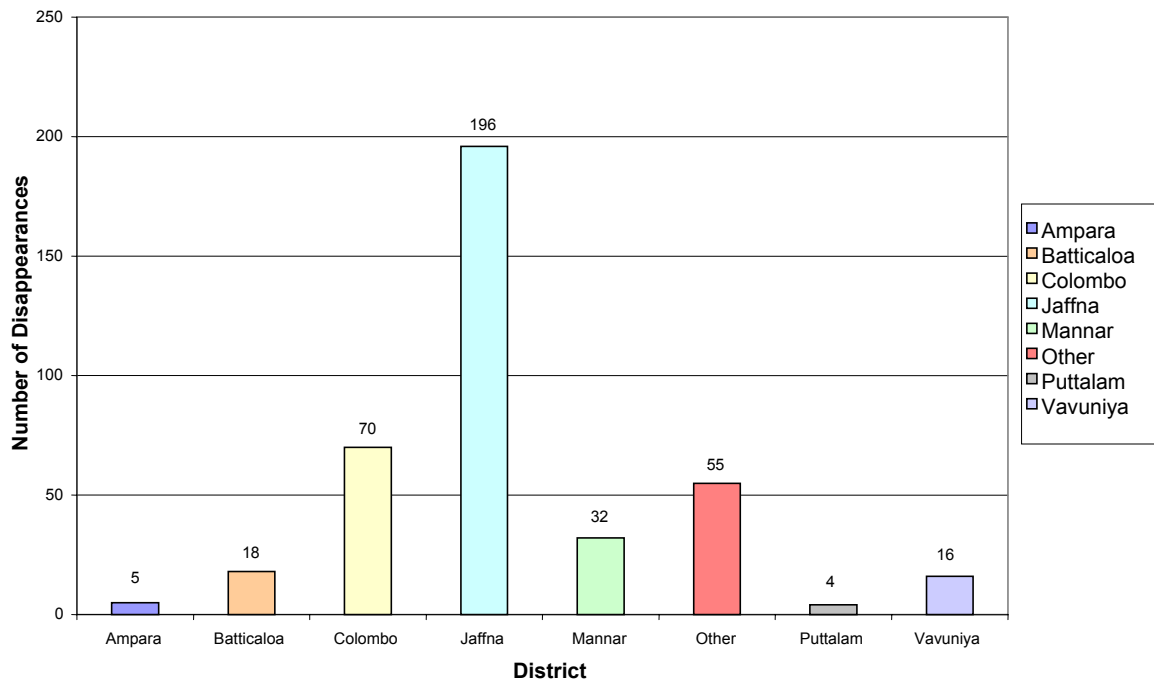
Disappearances by Gender



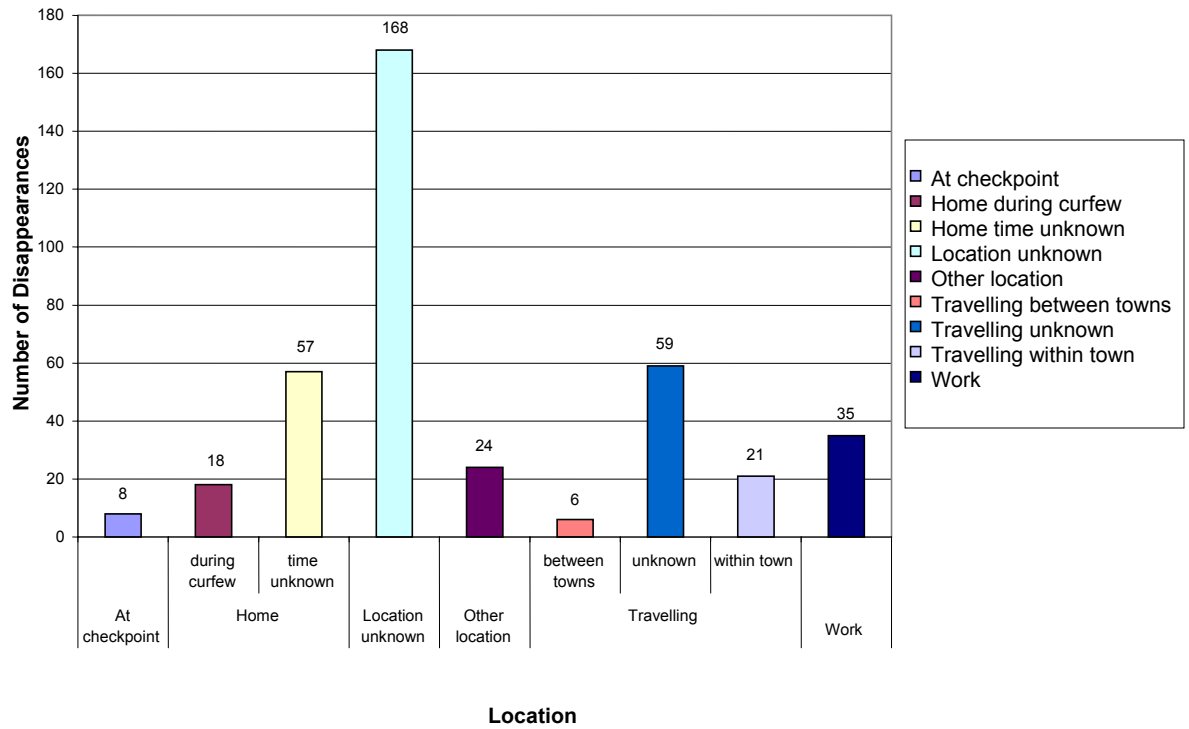
Distribution of Killings by District



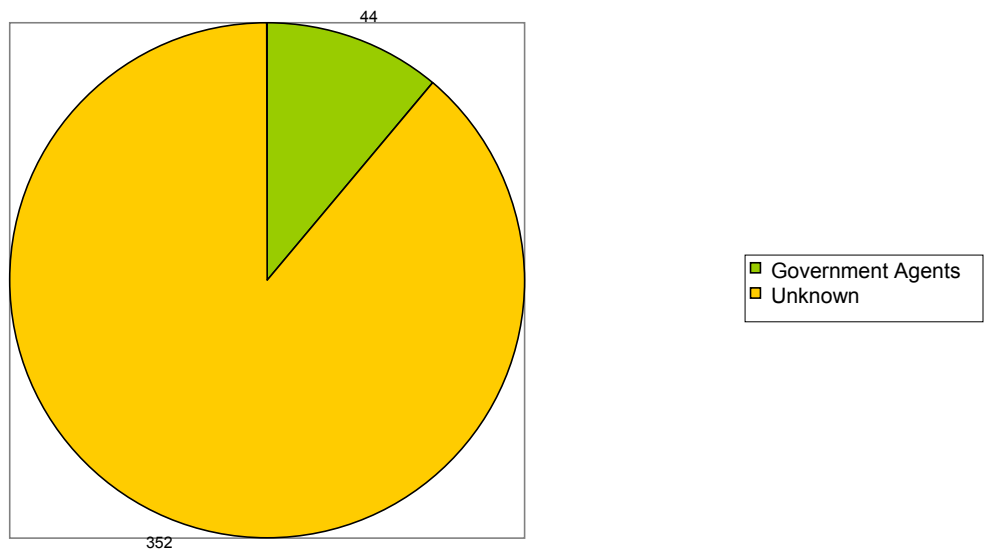
Distribution of Disappearances by District



Disappearances by Location



Distribution of Disappearances by Perpetrator



Working document on humanitarian workers and religious leaders killed, disappeared and abducted

1st Jan 2006 – 22nd Aug 2007

(Date: 23rd August 2007, based on available public information)

Compiled by Law & Society Trust

Summary of Humanitarian workers and religious leaders killed, disappeared and abducted

	Muslim	Sinhalese	Tamil	Unknown	Total
Abducted / Disappeared	-	-	20	-	20
Killed	1	7	32	-	40
Total	1	7	52	-	60

Breakdown of killings of humanitarian workers and religious leaders – by location of incident

	1 st Jan – 31 st Dec. 2006	1 st Jan. – 30 th June 2007	1 st July – 21 st Aug. 2007	Total
Jaffna	4	1	2	7
Vavuniya	2	-	-	2
Mannar	-	1	-	1
Trincomalee	17	-	-	17
Batticalo	1	7	-	8
Ampara	2	-	-	2
Others/ unknown	-	2	-	2
Total	26	11	2	39

Breakdown of disappearances and abductions of humanitarian workers and religious leaders – by location of incident

	1 st Jan – 31 st Dec. 2006	1 st Jan. – 30 th June 2007	1 st July – 21 st Aug. 2007	Total
Jaffna	5	4	1	10
Vavuniya	-	-	-	-
Mannar	-	-	-	-
Trincomalee	-	1	1	2
Batticalo	9	-	-	9
Ampara	-	-	-	-
Others / unknown	-	-	-	-
Total	14	5	2	21

Detailed table of humanitarian workers and religious leaders killed, abducted and disappeared

	Date	Place, District	Organization	Names	Age	Male / Female	Ethnicity	Type of attack	Details / progress		
1.	11 Jan	Point Pedro, Jaffna	Danish Demining Group (DDG)	T. Tharmasiri	28	Male	Tamil	Abducted			
2.	06			N. Kandeepan	30	Male	Tamil				
3.	29 Jan	Batticaloa	Tamil Rehabilitation Organization (TRO)	Kasinathar Ganeshalingam		Male	Tamil	Abducted			
4.	06			Kathirkamar Thangarasa		Male	Tamil				
5.	30 Jan	Batticaloa Batticaloa	Tamil Rehabilitation Organization (TRO)	Thanushkodi Premini		Female	Tamil	Abducted			
6.	06			Shanmuganathan Sujendran		Male	Tamil				
7.				Thambiraja Vasantharajan		Male	Tamil				
8.				Kailasapillai. Ravindran		Male	Tamil				
9.				Arulthavarasa .Satheesharan		Male	Tamil				
10.	04 Feb	Jaffna	HALO Trust	Gunaratnam Logithas	23	Male	Tamil	Abducted			
11.	17 Feb	Batticaloa	Mines Advisory Group (MAG)	Parameswaran		Male	Tamil	Abducted			
12.	09 Apr	Jaffna	HUDEC – Caritas Jaffna HUDEC – Caritas Jaffna	Shanmugaratnam Pathmanathan	55	Male	Tamil	Killed – Claymore, suspected to have targeted a SLA convoy	Two more staff injured 5 SLA soldiers also killed		
13.	06			Chelvendra Pradeepkumar	29	Male	Tamil				
14.	16 May	Vavuniya	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Jeyaruban Gnanapragasam		Male	Tamil	Killed – shot			

Working document on human rights violations targeting humanitarian workers, religious leaders & media / public information on other violations – as at 23 Aug 07

15.	26 May 2006	Kalviyankadu, Batticaloa	North East Irrigated Agriculture Project (NEIAP)	Ratnam Ratnaraja	48	Male	Tamil	Killed - shot			
16.	02 Jul 06	Valachenai, Batticaloa	Tamil Rehabilitation Organization (TRO)	Krishnapillai Kamalanathan	26	Male	Tamil	Abducted			
17.	8 July 2006	Polikandy, Vadamardhy, Jaffna	Mason in a Tsunami Housing Scheme funded by Forut	Rasiah Muraleeswaran	42	Male	Tamil	Killed			
18.	05 Aug 06	Muttur, Trincomalee	Action Contrai Faim	Kokilavathani	29	Female	Tamil	Killed			
19.				Romila	25	Female	Tamil				
20.				Kavitha	27	Female	Tamil				
21.				Kovarthani	28	Male	Tamil				
22.				A.L.Mohammed Jawffar	31	Male	Muslim				
23.				Sritharan	36	Male	Tamil				
24.				Kodeeswaran	31	Male	Tamil				
25.				Jascelan	27	Male	Tamil				
26.				Ganesh	54	Male	Tamil				
27.				Narmathan	24	Male	Tamil				
28.				Ketheswaran	36	Male	Tamil				
29.				Rishikesan	27	Male	Tamil				
30.				Muralitharan	34	Male	Tamil				
31.				Arulrajah	24	Male	Tamil				
32.				Pratheepan	24	Male	Tamil				
33.				Koneswaran	24	Male	Tamil				
34.				Anantharajah	32	Male	Tamil				
35.	20 Aug 06	Cheddikulam, Vavuniya	Sri Lanka Red Cross Society	Nagarasa Thavaranjitham	23	Male	Tamil	Killed – shot			
36.	24 Aug 06	Thirukkovil, Ampara	UNOPS	P. Jestly Julian		Male	Tamil	Killed			
37.	01 Sep 06	Karavedyy, Jaffna	Sewalanka	Sathiyamoorthy Selvaroopan	25	Male	Tamil	Killed - shot	Shot (Mother also shot dead)		

38.	12 Sep 06	Nilaveli Road, Trincomalee	World Concern	Ragunathan Ramalingam	31	Male	Tamil	Killed – shot			
39.	17 Nov 06	Jaffna	HALO Trust	Charles Huston Ravindran	30	Male	Tamil	Abducted			
40.	23 Nov 06	Kalmunai, Ampara	Terre des Hommes	Sabaratanam Rubesh	31	Male	Tamil	Killed – shot			
Abductions and killings of humanitarian workers in 2007											
41.	04 Jan 07	Jaffna	HALO Trust	Subramaniam Parameswaran		Male	Tamil	Abducted			
42.	09 Feb 07	Jaffna	HALO Trust	Nagarasa Narenthiran	27	Male	Tamil	Abducted			
43.	09 Feb 07	Jaffna	HALO Trust	C. Rajendran	35	Male	Tamil	Abducted			
44.	24 Mar 07	Mannar	Tamil Rehabilitation Orgaziation (TRO)	Muthuraja Aruleswaran		Male	Tamil	Killed	3 injured also		
45.	01 Apr 07	Mailampaa veli, Batticaloa	Village of Hope	W. Chandrasiri		Male	Sinhalese	Killed – shot Killed – shot			
46.	01 Apr 07			T. M. Dhanapala		Male					
47.	01 Apr 07			W. Dhanapala	18	Male					
48.	01 Apr 07			T. Wijekoon		Male					
49.	01 Apr 07			L.M. Dayananda Kapporal		Male					
50.	01 Apr 07			Maduranga Kapporal		Male					
51.	02 Jun 07	Colombo / Ratnapura	Sri Lanka Red Cross Society	S. Shanmuganathan		Male	Tamil	Abducted and killed – shot			
52.				K. Chandramohan		Male	Tamil				
53.	19 Jun 07	Jaffna		Sivarasa Vimalarasa	20	Male	Tamil	Abducted			
54.	18 Jul 07	Jaffna	Danish Demining Group (DDG)	Sivalingam Prabakaran	34	Male	Tamil	Abducted			

Working document on human rights violations targeting humanitarian workers, religious leaders & media / public information on other violations – as at 23 Aug 07

55.	23 Jul 07	Jaffna	Danish Refugee Council	Arumainayagam Alloysius	26	Male	Tamil	Killed – shot			
56.	06 August 2007	Trincomalee	Methodist Community Organization for Refugees (UMCOR)	Mohamed Zavahir Mohamed		Male		Abducted			
57.	20 August 2007	Kasthooria road, Jaffna	Danish Demining Group	Sivasamy Sritharan	31	Male	Tamil	Killed - Shot			

Religious leaders killed and disappeared

58.	20 Aug 06	Allaipiddy, Jaffna	Catholic Priest	Fr. Jim Brown		Male	Tamil	Disappeared			
59.	07 Feb 2007	Batticaloa	Hindu Priest	Selliah Parameshwaram Kurukkal		Male	Tamil	Killed			
60.	Mar 07	Morawewa, Trincomalee	Buddhist Monk	Ven. Handungamuwe Nandarathna Thero		Male	Sinhalese	Killed			

Working document on media personnel killed and abducted from January 2007 – June 2007

(Date: 23rd August 2007, based on available public information)

Compiled by Law & Society Trust

Source: Free Media Movement of Sri Lanka www.freemedia.srilanka.org

	Date	Place, District	Organization	Name	Age	Male/ Female	Ethnicity	Type of attack	Summary of incident/progress on case/comments
1	5 January 2007		Akuna News Paper	M.A.Sisira Priyankara	38	Male	Sinhalese	abducted	Sisira Priyankara is reported missing since 11.00 pm on 5 January 2007 after he went out of the workplace to answer a telephone call.
2	5 January 2007	Aturugiriya	layout designer and former journalist of Sinhala weekly HIRU	M.L Senavirathne	35	Male	Sinhalese	abducted	M.L Senaviratne, father of one (6 years) was abducted from his residence in Athurugiriya
3	5 January 2007		activist	Nihal Serasinghe	40	Male	Sinhalese	abducted	Nihal Serasinghe, father of two (1 and 6 years age) was abducted on the same day around 3.00pm.
4	15 February 2007	Vadamaratchi	Vadamaratchi correspondent for Yarl Thinakkural and Valampuri	Subramaniam Ramachandran	37	Male	Tamil	Disappeared	He has left for his private tutorial at Karavetti and didn't reach home then.
5	16 April 2007	Thirunavattulam, Vavuniya.	Editor of Tamil monthly magazine "Nilam"	Subash Chandrabogas	32	Male	Tamil	killed - shot	gunned down at his residence in Vavuniya
6	29 April 2007	Navalar Road, Rasaavin Thoaddam	Reporter: Uthayan newspaper	Selvaraja Rajivarman	24	Male	Tamil	Killed- shot	shot by unidentified man riding in a motorbike

		junction Jaffna							
7	18 May 2007	Baddulla	Journalist and part time actor	Pakkiyanathan Vijayashanthan		Male	Tamil	abducted	He had been abducted by a group of people in a van (released)

UNDERAGE RECRUITMENT / CHILD SOLDIERS

In a public document on its website, in reference to its monitoring and reporting, UNICEF states: “UNICEF continuously checks its database on under age recruitment to ensure its accuracy. UNICEF only withdraws recruits from its database when it is able to verify their release through an official letter of release, or by establishing that the child is reunited with his or her parents. UNICEF estimates that its database only reflects a third of the actual number of children recruited.”

Organisation	Region covered	Period	Child recruits
UNICEF	All island	January – June 2007	Held by LTTE 1591 Held by Karuna 198
			Total 1789

KILLINGS

Based on partial, confidential information already passed to the Presidential Commission of Inquiry, a number of reliable sources estimate the number of killings from January to June 2007 at about 547 persons. This number does not include unidentified civilian casualties or deaths of combatants, though the information we received did include this data. Our figure for these killings is 447 persons. This brings our total for killings in this period up to 994 persons.

Though there are numerous public sources on killings in Sri Lanka, it has not been possible, until now, to see the most credible sources' information in a single place. This is compiled below to give a general idea of the impact of the conflict.

Organisation	Region covered	Period	Number killed
Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM)	NE	January to June 2007	Jan - 120
			Feb - 84
			Mar - 157
			Apr - 205
			May - 44*
			Jun - 147**
			Total- 757

* Details of the month of May are for the first two weeks only, as accounts of casualty figures for the final two weeks vary greatly between the Government and the LTTE.

** Details of the month of June are also not certain as one group, in a clash in the third week of June, claims that 30 persons were killed, while the other states that 10 were killed.

MISSING

Based on detailed confidential information already passed to the Presidential Commission of Inquiry, reliable sources put the number of disappearances from January to June 2007 at about 396 persons. To the best of our knowledge, this information focused on missing civilians.

Organisation	Region covered	Period	Number missing
Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM)	NE	January – June 2007	Jan – 25*
			Feb – 63
			Mar – 45
			Apr – 67
			May – 25
			Jun – 45
			Total – 270

*Definite numbers are not always mentioned, yet the statements below suggest the status of abductions:

“The situation in Vavuniya remained tense; due to... increased numbers of direct assassinations and abductions.”

“There are still many abductions in the Batticaloa district...Although the figures are still elevated, they are smaller than last week’s. Abductions are reported in the other districts as well, but not as many.”

(January Report)

“Abductions are still taking place, mostly in Batticaloa and Vavuniya, but also in other districts.”

“The number of abductions was lower this week (4th Week- Feb) than the week before. In Batticaloa four abductions were reported, compared to 19 last week.”

(February Report)

“In Jaffna mass abductions, disappearances and killings continue. No proper investigations are made into these killings by GOSL, even though they are taking place close to heavily guarded sentry posts and areas.”

“Assassinations and abductions in Batticaloa continue. This week alone SLMM received fourteen abduction cases, seven of them against the Government, four against LTTE and three against TMVP (Karuna). Also two persons have been reported missing.”

(March Report)

“In Jaffna the number of abductions also dropped....One person was abducted this week, as compared with 4 last week, and 8 the week before that.”

(April Report)

“The number of abductions in the Eastern Region decreased this week, from 11 last week to 3 this week, all of which occurred in Trincomalee district.”

“Abductions are still taking place in Batticaloa and Ampara districts. Perpetrators are most often suspected to be members of TMVP or LTTE, although some times it is the Army or police who are accused of abductions.”

(May Report)

“There has been a significant increase of child abductions reported in the Batticaloa and Ampara districts.”

(June Report)

Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL)

Figures requested but not made available