



வடகிழக்கு மனித உரிமைகள் செயலகம்
NORTH EAST SECRETARIAT ON HUMAN RIGHTS
NESOHR

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NESOHR Case Report issued on 18th January 2006

Abduction and torture of Selvaratnam Uthayaraj

Uthayaraj



Name: Selvaratnam Uthayaraj
Age: 26
Marital status: Married with 2 year old child
Address: Vanniyasingam Road,
Ananthapuram, Kilinochchi
Occupation: Mason (Builder)

Uthayaraj is married with a 2 year old child. His family lives in Kilinochchi. He had lost one of his legs. He was working as a mason in the tsunami reconstruction project for ASB, an International Non-Governmental Organization. At the time of his abduction, he lived in a room in Chavakachcheri and was working as a mason in the neighbourhood.

The arrest

On the 26th of December he was on his way to Kilinochchi with two others on a motorbike when he was taken by the Sri Lankan Army (SLA) at Arasady in Meesalai. The residents of the area saw the SLA beating the three men after tying them to a coconut tree around 11.00 am on that day.

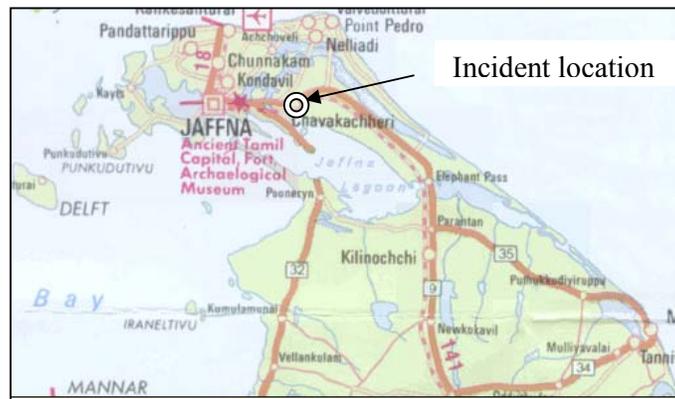
Efforts for his release

Hearing Uthayaraj's situation from the villagers, his relatives went to the Meesalai SLA camp to inquire. The SLA confirmed to the relatives that they have arrested Uthayaraj and he will be released at 6.00 pm that day. At 6.00 pm the relatives were told to come the next day at 11.00 pm. The other two men who were taken by the SLA at the same time were released on 28th January with the help of the local government official (GS). Uthayaraj's relatives were told that he will be released on the 1st January. When the relatives went on December 31st at 11.00 am to the Meesalai camp they were told that Uthayaraj can be released only by a higher official and they are waiting for him. Family

persisted on the following days to obtain his release. Eventually SLA at Meesalai camp told the family to go to another SLA camp in Vembirai to obtain his release.

Family has been shunted in this fashion from the Meesalai SLA camp to the Vembirai SLA camp to the Kanagampuliyadi police station and to the Chavakachcheri police station. At the Meesalai SLA camp the family was eventually told that Uthayaraj is not telling the truth and the other two men were released because they said the truth.

In the meantime SLMM in Jaffna also attempted to search for Utharaj at the Vembirai SLA camp without much success.



Note by NESOHR: NESOHR is with holding the identities of the people who have provided us with information about the case 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)