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NESOHR case report issued on 21st April 2006

Arbitrary killing of three men who went hunting on 13 April



Name: Sivasambu Nagulenthirarasa
Age: 43
Address: Periyamadu Puliyanukulam Vavuniya
Occupation: Farmer

Nagulenthirarasa is married with six children. He works as a Farmer, and also goes hunting to provide additional protein to his family.



Name: Thiyagarajah Kuhaneswaran
Age: 36
Address: Periyamadu Puliyanukulam Vavuniya

Kuhaneswaran is married with two children all under age of five. He is the only breadwinner for the family.



Name: Sivaguru Rasalingam (Thiraviyan)
Age: 33
Address: Periyamadu Puliyanukulam Vavuniya
Occupation: Labourer

Thiraviyan is married with one son under the age of two. He works as a Labourer. He too is the only breadwinner for his family.

Incident

On 13 April 2006 at 11:00 am Nagulenthirarasa, Kuhaneswaran and Thiraviyan went to hunt in the Periyamadu jungle in Puliyankulam, an LTTE controlled area, with four dogs. Villagers began searching for them when they did not return from hunting.



Family and villagers with Tamileelam Police searched extensively on 13, 14, 15 and 16 of April. On 17 April around 3:00 pm, searchers discovered the bodies of Nagulenthirarasa, Kuhaneswaran and Thiraviyan in a small clearing in the Periyamadu jungle in the LTTE controlled area (see picture). The three men have been killed by gunshots. One man's throat has been cut deeply.

The killers

The watches and gold rings that the murdered men were wearing have not been removed from their bodies.

On 14 April villagers reported the sighting of men dressed in all black walking from the jungle towards the SLA checkpoint on the border. The Periyamadu jungle where the three men went hunting is in the LTTE area near the border of LTTE-GoSL areas.

On 17 April when the bodies were discovered, near the location, there were boot marks. Local people do not wear this kind of footwear. In spite of heavy rain some of the boot marks where the wearers had slipped were left on gravel mounds.

On 18 April, during the removal of the bodies from the jungle, a tractor was driven up to a certain point near the site to transport the bodies out of the jungle. Only one of the Tamileelam policeman was carrying a rifle. At this time, as police and villagers were carrying the bodies from the site toward the tractor, police noticed fresh boot marks over the tractor marks. This caused a lot of fear among those carrying the body causing them to disperse and hide before they resumed their task.