Press Release August 31st Thursday

Death Threats to more who involve human rights and humanitarian work

NESOHR again and again expresses its concern over the justice and truth seeking people in the Sri Lankan military controlled area of North and East and bring to the light what is going on under emergency regulation and curfew in the North East.

The district judge of Jaffna Mrs Srinithi Nandasegeram has been silenced by strict orders by her superior that she should not take up the case of Rev.Fr.Jim Brown and his helper who are the victims of enforced disappearances by the EPDP and the interested parties

The eye-witnesses report to NESOHR that on the ill-fated day (20.08.2006) Rev Fr. Jim Brown and his pillion rider were followed from the Allaipiddy junction by six EPDP members on three motor bikes who were responsible for the May 13th massacre at Allaipiddy. The Eye-witnesses who have been within the clutches of these murderous terrorist group members since 1990 in the islands are in great fear. If an atmosphere be created in the islands of Jaffna people will come forward to bear witness what they see and undergo.

NESOHR alerts all the human Rights activists that the Naval person Nishantha who was responsible for the massacre of children and women who traveled in the "Kumuthini Boat" between Delft and the main land of Jaffna, is now in charge for the naval base at Allaipiddy

The priests who are working in the Islands of Jaffna are under threat and fear to bear witness to the event's that are taking place there. Even a senior priest told other priests in Jaffna not to mention the name of EPDP for all the atrocities, massacre and enforced disappearances pointing out the warning given to former parish priests Rev Fr. Amalraj and ill fate of Rev.Fr.Jim Broun. Rev.Fr.W.James had to flee to Jaffna from Kayts for the same reson. Rev Fr.Pathinathan who is the parish priest of Sakkoddai in Point Pedro was brought out of his parish to seek safety due to notorious white van.

It is note-worthy to point out Rev.Fr.Amalaraj, Rev.Fr.Jim Brown and Pathinatham are all born in Mullaitivu district.

Bishop of Jaffna and his Vicar General are very much shocked over the missing of Rev.Fr.Jim Brown and death threats to other priests and religious and have instructed all the clergy, religious and lay people to organize huger-strikes, prayer campaign and other silent prayers inside the church premises without provoking the Sri Lanka military and EPDP, for the fear that it can cost many more lives of church members and clergy.

The Bishop of Jaffna is very much afraid even to participate in the protest march, tell the truth publicly and to give due pressure to the President and his military heads. Due to death threats and enforced disappearances, NESOHR warns that the case of Rev.Fr.Jim Brown will he forcefully and comfortably closed in the Church and in the State.

NESOHR urgently appeals to the international communities and human rights activists to pressurize the Sri Lankan government to remove EPDP and other Para-military groups out of North-East, and to halt targeting Tamil civilians, human rights activists, humanitarian workers and journalists and to release of Rev.Fr.Jim Brown and his helper W.V.Vimalathas.

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