



Tamils Rehabilitation Organisation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Families of the “disappeared” plea for their release

6 April 2006
Colombo

Fourteen relatives of the “disappeared” TRO staff members gathered at the TRO Colombo Office for a press conference to appeal to the abductors, the Government of Sri Lanka, the media and the public for the release of their loved ones. The press conference was extremely emotional for all in attendance and many of those who spoke had to stop because they broke down in tears (one mother fainted) when speaking of their missing family members.

The mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, sisters and brothers of the seven “disappeared” TRO employees described the impact that the abduction has had on their lives. In most cases the abducted TRO staff person was the main provider for the family and there has been a tremendous impact on the families’ lives emotionally, mentally and physically.

The families were all very critical of the lack of any real interest or investigation by the ICRC, the police or the media and pleaded with all too instead actively push for the release of the 7 TRO employees. The families also requested that the abduction of their loved ones not become politicized and that no organizations, governments, or political parties attempt to use the issue for political gain. The families pleaded to anyone connected to this abduction or anyone who has influence over the abductors to release their family members and bring some semblance of normalcy to their lives. They expressed deep sadness and regret that they had not heard from any of the GoSL investigators, the ICRC or the HRC regarding the results of their investigations.

They stressed that their lives were in turmoil and that the past 67 days had been the hardest of their lives. All their energies have been focused on finding their loved ones: some have traveled to the Welikanda area and made inquiries of the armed paramilitaries they encountered but have not had any positive results.

The family members in attendance:

Ms. Premini’s family:	Mrs. T. Parameshwary (Mother) T. Kamalathashan (Brother 29) T. Tharshini (Sister 22)
Mr. Thangarasa’s family:	Mrs. T. Kumuthini (Wife) T. Sanjeeva (Daughter 21) T. Sanjitha (Daughter 20) T. Malthanaruby (Daughter 19) T. Vanojan (Son 14) T. Nivetha (Daughter 12)
Mr. Ganseshalingam’s family:	Mrs. G. Makeswary (Wife) G. Bavitha (Daughter 8)
Mr. Satheskarana family:	Mr. M. Arulnesarasa (Father) Mrs. A. Selvamani (Mother)
Mr. Shanmuganathan Sujendran:	Mrs. S. Nesamma (Mother)

If anyone would like an **unedited copy** of the **entire press conference** please contact:

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