

**Status on list of 355 alleged disappearances submitted to  
H. E. the President by the U.S. Ambassador in Sri Lanka**



**Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka**

**02nd July 2007**

The US Ambassador in Sri Lanka handed over a list of 355 cases of alleged disappearances to President Mahinda Rajapaksa pursuant to the President's meeting with Amb. Stephen Mann, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State who visited Sri Lanka in March 2007.

Following deliberations of the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee on Sri Lanka's Image Abroad, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sought the assistance of all relevant government agencies in establishing the status of these cases.

It has been found that the list contained a number of repetitions.

Of the 350 alleged disappearances, Province-wise, 253 are from the Northern Province, 78 from the Western Province, 09 from the North Western Province, 06 from the North Central Province, 02 from the Eastern Province, 02 from the Central Province.

Of the names in the US Ambassador's list, an effort has been made to verify as to how many cases had been previously reported to the bodies in operation where public complaints are made with regard to disappearances:

- a). Inquiries from the **Mahanama Thilakaratne Commission** states that out of the list, only 79 had been reported to the Mahanama Thilakaratne Commission. Out of this, 14 cases did not come within the mandate of the Mahanama Thilakaratne Commission due to the time factor, reducing the number to 65. The Commission has already completed inquiries into 42 complaints and a further 23 cases are yet to be inquired into by the Commission.

b). Inquiries from the **Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka** states that out of the list, only 53 cases have been reported to the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka. However, this figure is confined to cases reported to the Commission's headquarters in Colombo, as details from Branch offices are not available.

Out of the list, a number of persons have been accounted for:

a) According to the **Department of Immigration & Emigration**, in a comparison of names and other factors, the following 05 persons, indicated in the List, have left Sri Lanka or have applied for passports after the dates of their alleged disappearance.

| No | No in the list | Name  | Comments   |
|----|----------------|---|--|
| 1  | 54             | Murugiah Surendran<br>(allegedly disappeared on 09 Jan 2007)    | Left Sri Lanka on 06 April 2007  |
| 2  | 134            | Subramaniam Sivanesan (allegedly disappeared on 28 May 2006)    | 3 persons with similar names have left Sri Lanka on 26 Feb 2007, 06 Oct 2005 and 12 June 2004. |
| 3  | 143            | Selvaratnam Sivanathan<br>(allegedly disappeared on 6 May 2006) | Left Sri Lanka on 24 May 2007  |
| 4  | 323            | Sivarajah Sabesan<br>(allegedly disappeared on 28 Jan 2007)     | Has obtained a Passport on 10 April 2007.  |
| 5  | 334            | Rajasingham Suresh<br>(allegedly disappeared on 11 Jan 2007)    | Left Sri Lanka on 27 February 2007   |

b) The **Police** have reported that the following persons have been traced alive:

| No | No in the list | Name                 | Comments                                      |
|----|----------------|----------------------|---|
| 1  | 36             | Shan George          | Abducted and released on 02 November 2006     |
| 2  | 44             | Marimuttu Sivamani   | Has returned home on 01 November 2006         |
| 3  | 78             | Yogarasa Mathanarasa | Has returned home                             |
| 4  | 79             | Kanagasabai Steepan  | Has returned home                             |
| 5  | 84             | Nadesan Velayuthan   | Person traced – had gone to India for medical |

|    |     |                          |  |
|----|-----|--------------------------|--|
|    |     |                          | treatment                                      |
| 6  | 197 | Singanayagam Mari Pamila | Has been traced by Jaffna Police on 1 Dec 2006 |
| 7  | 198 | Thillayampalam Sasiharan | Has been traced by Jaffna Police on 1 Dec 2006 |
| 8  | 207 | Kandiah Sivankovil       | Person traced                                  |
| 9  | 280 | Rajeswaram Elangeswaram  | Has returned home on 26 December 2006          |
| 10 | 326 | Sellaiyah Surenthiran    | Has returned home on 14 February 2007          |

c) The **Police** also report that persons, Navaratnam Karunai Thasan and Saravanabavanathan Hariharan, who were from Chullipuram and Chunnakam in Jaffna, had been abducted from their residencies and subsequently their bodies were found with gunshot injuries. Police have reported progress of the investigations so far to the Court as well as to the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission and investigations continue.

| No | No in the list | Name                         | Comments                                  |
|----|----------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1  | 184            | Navaratnam Karunai Thasan    | Dead body found in the Jaffna Police area |
| 2  | 230            | Saravanabavanathan Hariharan | Dead body found in the Jaffna Police area |

d) The **Army** has up to now investigated 200 names on the list and reported that they have arrested one (01) person on suspicion and handed him over to the Police for further investigations.

| No | No in the list | Name                   | Comments  |
|----|----------------|------------------------|---|
| 1  | 249            | Alaharatnam Arulkannah | Taken into custody by the Army on 28 Nov 2006 and handed over to the Police on the same day Has been remanded. Next case date 16 July 2007 before Pt. Pedro Magistrate. |

7. Investigations into the alleged disappearance of the remaining persons in the U.S. Ambassador's list are continuing. Given that most of the cases are from the Northern province, there is a possibility that many of the persons have entered the 'uncleared' areas with attendant constraints on the law enforcement authorities to investigate these cases.

8. Our inquiries from the ICRC indicate that of a list of 383 names of alleged disappearances about which complaints have been made to the ICRC, 180 have been accounted for. It is noteworthy that this includes cases in the 'uncleared' areas since the ICRC has access to these areas. The ICRC was expected to give these lists to H E the President in Geneva earlier this month but has now postponed doing so.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Colombo**