

# **REGISTER OF MUSLIM LANDS FORCIBLY OCCUPIED BY THE TAMILS IN THE EASTERN PROVINCE OF SRI LANKA**

## **PROJECT REPORT**

A peculiar phenomenon in the North East is that a Muslim village is interspersed with a Tamil village and vice versa. Substantial share of lands owned by the Muslims are adjacent to the Tamil villages. Due to the increase of population, Muslims and Tamils are facing shortage of lands. As scarcity of lands become acute, tension between the two communities increase, mainly because of the fears of expansion. As a result of this particular socio-economic factor new rules and regulations evolved among both communities, which forbade members of one ethnic group to sell the land to the other ethnic community. This is indicative of a desire by both ethnic communities to ensure their separate identities in a situation where they had co-existed for centuries.

There have been intermittent clashes over the years on comparatively trivial issues such as Muslim farmers being harassed by Tamils when they pass through Tamil areas, waylaying of vehicles, robbing of paddy and cattle belonging to the Muslims. After 1983 ethnic violence, it was found that the Tamils in the Northern and Eastern provinces have started to forcibly occupy the lands belonging to the Muslims in areas close to the Tamil villages.

A delegation of Sri Lanka Muslim Congress led by its leader Minister Rauf Hakeem met the LTTE delegation led by Mr. V. Pirapakaran in the Wanni on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April and discussed the Muslim land question. The leader of the LTTE gave an assurance that all lands belonging to the Muslims that are now being forcibly occupied by the Tamils would be returned to the Muslims as soon as possible.

The land rights question is one of the most critical issues which is obstructing peace and reconciliation between the Tamil and Muslim people in the North East of Sri Lanka. At the second meeting of the peace talks in Thailand between the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) from 31<sup>st</sup> October to 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2002, the LTTE has announced that they would be interested in returning the lands and the properties to the owners at the end of the harvest. There are about 490 locations in the North East where the Tamils are forcibly occupying about 100,000 acres of agricultural lands belonging to 30,000 Muslim Families.

Mr. M.I.M. Mohideen, the Chairman of the Muslim Rights Organization, who represented the peace talks as an advisor to SLMC National Leader Minister Rauf Hakeem, had substantive discussions with the members of the LTTE team and came to a good understanding of the problems. The LTTE was prepared to seriously address the issue and requested that a register of claims be prepared which would then be subject to verification. Subsequently Hon. Rauf Hakeem the leader of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress had requested the Muslim Rights Organization to prepare a register of Muslim Lands forcibly occupied by the Tamils. Dr. Kumar Rupesinghe the Chairman of the Foundation for Co-Existence provided support and guidance and facilitated the programme. The Muslim Rights Organisation had undertaken the study with the following objectives.

- Systematically enumerate the land claims of the Muslims in the East by visiting each location in the 3 districts.
- Prepare a register based on field investigations on a professional basis.

The registration exercise involved the distribution of 15,000 forms and folders by 36 Village Enumerators, 3 District Coordinators and 3 Assistant District Coordinators, who are the residents in the areas concerned. They have filled the comprehensive questionnaire with regard to individual claims, the actual date of the acquisition, the manner in which the land was taken over, the extent of the land, their deeds, permit or any other documents to the land. Details of buildings, machineries and livestock kept in the properties are some of the other informations which have been recorded. The Muslim Rights Organization had obtained the assistance of the North East Muslim Peace Assembly, the Ullemas – Muslim Theologians and the Trustees of the Mosques in predominant Muslim areas in Ampara, Batticaloa and Trincomalee Districts of the Eastern Province. All forms and folders were collected, checked case by case and certified by Justice of Peace. The information collected were fed in to the computer and documented.

Volume I: Project Report

Volume II: AM / R - Ampara District Register

Volume II: AM / DS - Ampara District, Divisional Secretariat Register

Volume II: AM / T - Ampara District, Title Claims

Volume II: AM / P - Ampara District, Permit Claims

Volume II: AM / PLR - Ampara District, Paddy Land Register Claims

Volume III: BT / R - Batticaloa District Register

Volume III: BT / DS - Batticaloa District, Divisional Secretariat Register

Volume III: BT / T - Batticaloa District, Title Claims

Volume III: BT / P - Batticaloa District, Permit Claims

Volume III: BT / PLR - Batticaloa District, Paddy Land Register Claims

Volume IV: TR / R - Trincomalee District Register

Volume IV: TR / DS - Trincomalee District, Divisional Secretariat Register

Volume IV: TR / T - Trincomalee District, Title Claims

Volume IV: TR / P - Trincomalee District, Permit Claims

Volume IV: TR / PLR - Trincomalee District, Paddy Land Register Claims

The project was funded by USAID – OTI and covered a period of seven months from 24<sup>th</sup> April 2003.

There is no doubt that in many instances these land claims will be the subject of mediation. However, as a first step the register of land claims lays the basis for verification.

The resolution of the land question in the North-East would benefit more than 22,000 families – 103,000 men, women and children and will establish the basis for conflict resolution and help peaceful co-existence between the Tamils and Muslims. It would certainly go a long way to heal one of the worst wounds at the heart of the relations between the two communities.

**M.I.M. Mohideen**  
Project Director

24<sup>th</sup> November 2003

**REGISTER OF MUSLIM LANDS FORCIBLY OCCUPIED BY THE  
TAMILS IN THE EASTERN PROVINCE OF  
SRI LANKA**

**AMPARA DISTRICT**

	Predominant Muslim Areas	No. Cases	Extent		
			A	R	P
1	Pottuvil	730	2592	3	-
2	Akkaraipattu	660	1785	3	23
3	Addalachenai	329	1072	3	34
4	Oluvil/ Palamunai	176	559	1	30
5	Ninthavur	583	2349	-	10
6	Sammanthurai	529	2513	-	22
7	Irakkamam	428	2092	-	32
8	Kalmunai	280	1433	1	33
9	Maruthamunai	496	2365	1	30
		<b>4211</b>	<b>16764</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>

**BATTICALOA DISTRICT**

	Predominant Muslim Areas	No. Cases	Extent		
			A	R	P
1	Kattankudy	449	4231	1	12
2	Eravur	2263	12784	3	34
3	Oddamavady	1856	8710	1	37
4	Valaichenai	907	3086	1	30
		<b>5475</b>	<b>28813</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33</b>

**TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT**

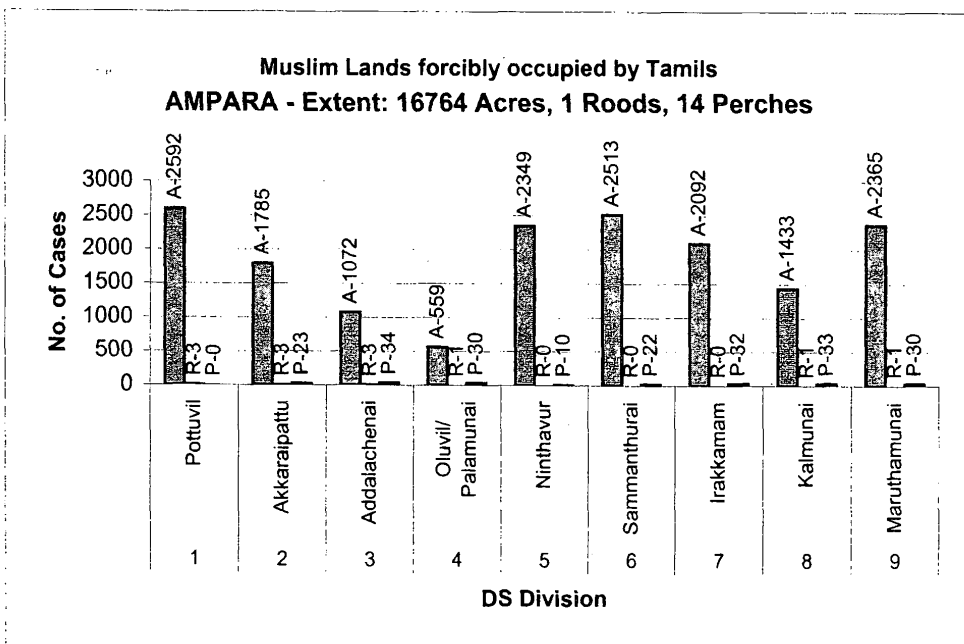
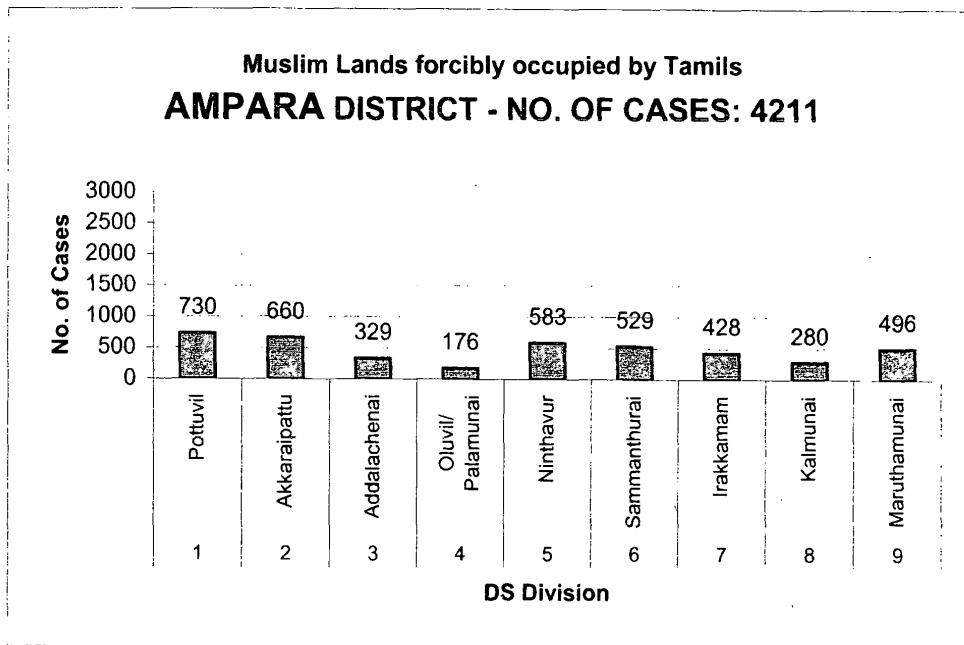
	Predominant Muslim Areas	No. Cases	Extent		
			A	R	P
1	Kinniya	2252	7209	2	6
2	Mutur	992	2577	-	36
3	Thopur	912	4617	2	17
4	Pulmoddai	566	1344	3	25
5	Morawewa	464	1343	1	22
		<b>5186</b>	<b>17092</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>26</b>

	No. of Cases	Acres	Extent Roods	Perches
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14872</b>	<b>62670</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33</b>

# AMPARA DISTRICT

## Muslim Lands forcibly occupied by Tamils

	Predominant Muslim Areas	No. Cases	Extent		
			A	R	P
1	Pottuvil	730	2592	3	-
2	Akkaraipattu	660	1785	3	23
3	Addalachenai	329	1072	3	34
4	Oluvil/ Palamunai	176	559	1	30
5	Ninthavur	583	2349	-	10
6	Sammanthurai	529	2513	-	22
7	Irakkamam	428	2092	-	32
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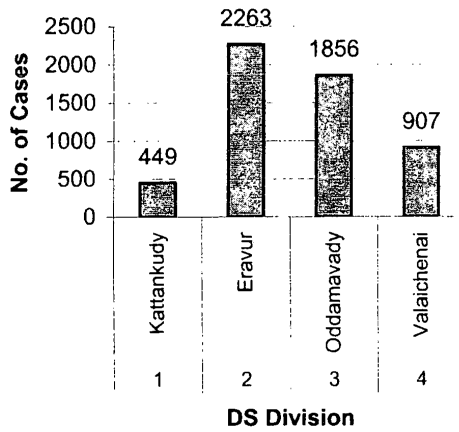


# BATTICALOA DISTRICT

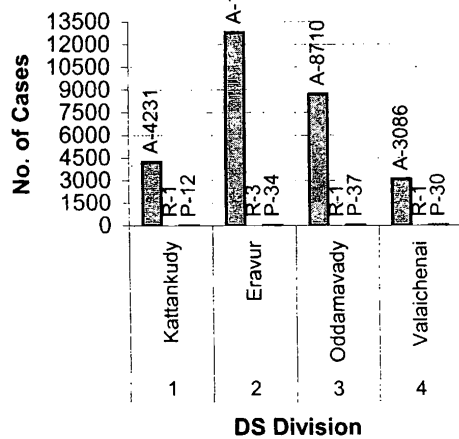
## Muslim Lands forcibly occupied by Tamils

	Predominant Muslim Areas	No. Cases	Extent		
			A	R	P
1	Kattankudy	449	4231	1	12
2	Eravur	2263	12784	3	34
3	Oddamavady	1856	8710	1	37
4	Valaichenai	907	3086	1	30
		<b>5475</b>	<b>28813</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33</b>

Muslim Lands forcibly occupied by Tamils  
BATTICALOA DISTRICT - NO. OF CASES: 5475



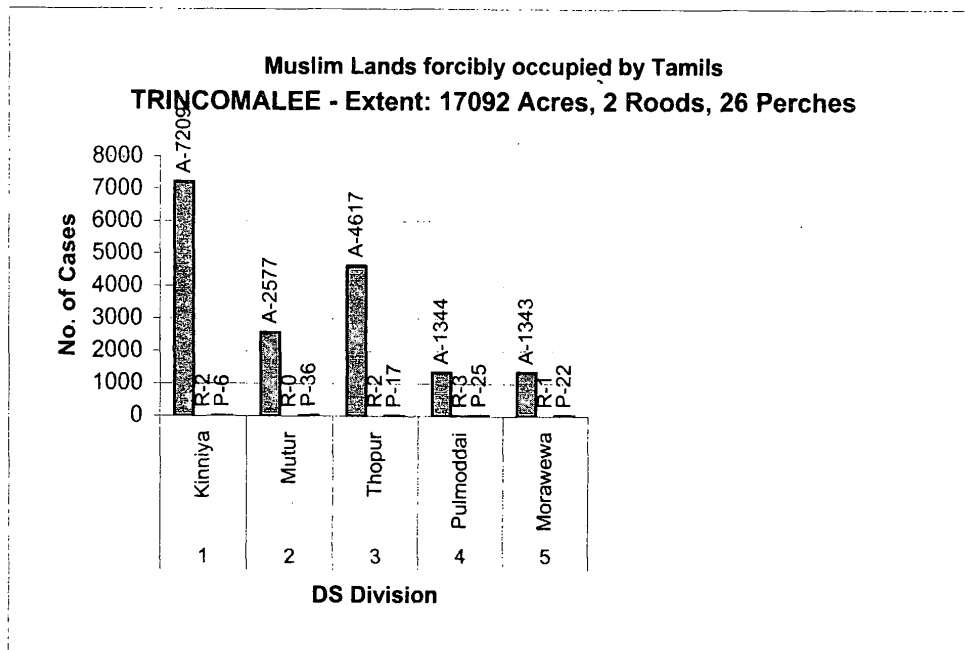
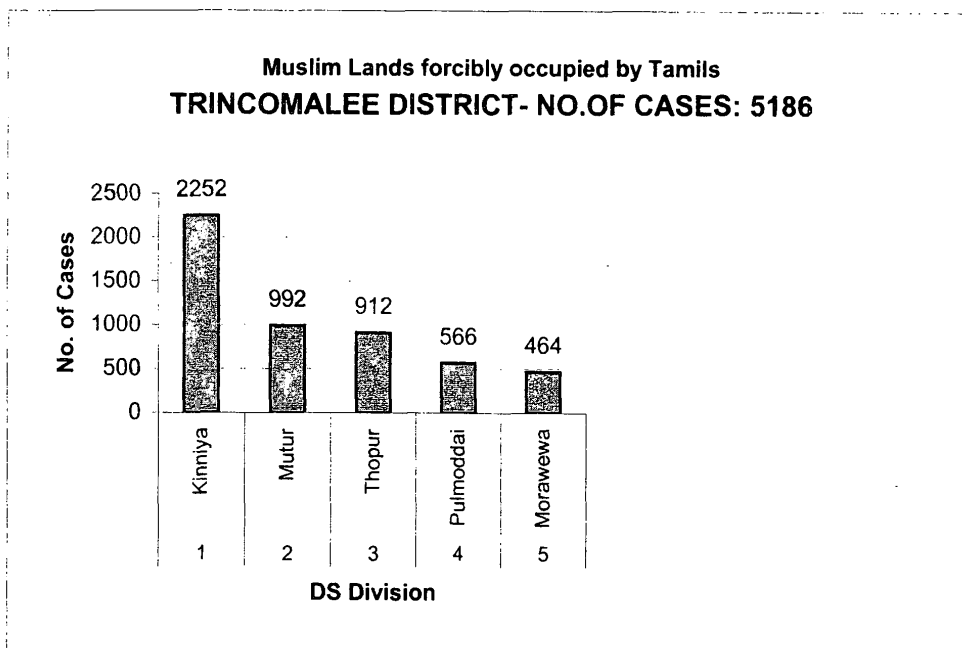
Muslim Lands forcibly occupied by Tamils  
BATTICALOA - Extent: 28813 Acres, 0 Roods, 33 Perches



# TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT

## Muslim Lands forcibly occupied by Tamils

	Predominant Muslim Areas	No. Cases	Extent		
			A	R	P
1	Kinniya	2252	7209	2	6
2	Mutur	992	2577	-	36
3	Thopur	612 912	4617	2	17
4	Pulmoddai	546 566	1344	3	25
5	Morawewa	464	1343	1	22
		<b>5186</b>	<b>17092</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>26</b>



# PROJECT TEAM

## PROJECT HEAD OFFICE, COLOMBO

Project Director:

Mr. M.I.M. Mohideen – Chairman/ Managing Director, Muslim Rights Organisation

Consultant:

Dr. Kumar Rupesinghe – Chairman, Foundation for Co-existence

Office Assistant/ Accountant:

Mrs. W.B.P. Devika Fernando

Computer Assistant:

Mr. H.H. Suhail Mohamed

Computer Operators:

Mr. M.R.M. Farzan

Mr. M.L. Ajwad

## AMPARA DISTRICT

District Coordinator

Mr. I.M. Ibrahim

District Assistant Coordinator

Dr. S.M.A. Jabbar

Enumerator:

1. Mr. M.H. Abdul Rahman
2. Mr. A.L.A.M. Jalaldeen
3. Mr. A. Ishaque
4. Mr. M.H. Yauqoob
5. Mr. A.G. Mohamed Rizzath
6. Mr. M.I. Mohamed Mansoor
7. Mr. M.K. Mohamed Ashar
8. Mr. A. Mohamed Rafeek
9. Mr. S.L. Mansoor

Enumerator Assistant:

1. Mr. S.M. Mohamed Shafideen
2. Mr. A. Mohamed Nisthar
3. Mr. U.K. Mohamed Jahan
4. Mr. M.I. Mohamed Ihsan
5. Mr. A.H. Mohamed Hismy
6. Mr. A. Mohamed Nawas
7. Mr. U. Pakkir Mohaideen
8. Mr. U.L. Mohamed Tastakeer
9. Mr. A.H.M. Mohamed Fuath

## BATTICALOA DISTRICT

District Coordinator:  
Mr. U.L.M.N. Mubeen

District Assistant Coordinator:  
Mr. U.L.M. Mohideen Bawa

Enumerator:

1. Mr. R. Mafas
2. Mr. C. Asanar
3. Mr. A.C. Dilshan Cader
4. Mr. C.L. Issadeen

Enumerator Assistant:

1. Mr. M.I. Mohamed Rafeek
2. Mr. Y.M. Rakeeb
3. Mr. H.M.M. Aroos
4. Mr. A.L. Jawath

## TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT

District Coordinator:  
Mr. M.A.C.M. Jazeem

District Assistant Coordinator:  
Mr. M.A.M. Anvar

Enumerator:

1. Mr. P.K. Muneer
2. Mr. M.K.M. Vissardeen
3. Mr. A.C. Junaideen
4. Mr. A.L. Kaizer
5. Mr. N.M.A. Majeed

Enumerator Assistant:

1. Mr. M.M. Jawath
2. Mr. M.K. Noorulla
3. Mr. M.H. Ifthikar
4. Mr. S.T. Nowfer



**VILLAGE LEVEL ADVISORY COUNCIL – AMPARA DISTRICT**  
(North East Muslim Peace Assembly, Ulamas [Theologies] and Trustees of Mosques)

**Pottuvil**

1. Mr. S.M.A. Kareem Moulavi
2. Mr. I.L. Mohaideenbawa
3. Mr. M.M. Hazan
4. Mr. K.M. Hazan JP
5. Mr. M.A. Moosalebba G.S.
6. Mr. A. Alifkhan G.S.

**Akkaraipattu**

1. Dr. S.M.A. Jabbar
2. Mr. U.L. Uwais
3. Mr. S.H.A. Gafoor
4. Mr. Pallithambi Master
5. Mr. M.I.M. Ziyavudeen

**Addalaichenai**

1. Mr. A.M.M. Jamaldeen
2. Mr. J.M Samsudeen Movlana
3. Mr. A.L. Ibralebba (Re AGA)
4. Mr. M.S.M. Raseed
5. Mr. S.M. Jifri (ACC)

**Oluvil**

1. Mr. A.M. Ismail
2. Mr. A. Aboobucker
3. Mr. Mohaideen Pichai

**Palamunai**

1. Mr. K.M. Haneefa
2. Mr. Mahroof (P.M.)

### **Ninthavur**

1. Mr. Jabbar ALI
2. Mr. Nazeer Ahamed
3. Mr. Manzoor (G.M.)
4. Mr. S.L. Majeed
5. Mr. A.M. Yakoob

### **Irakkamam**

1. Mr. M.L.A. Majeed (Pr)
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3. Mr. A. Ishaque
4. Mr. A.L. Kaleel (C/O)

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1. Dr. Farook
2. Mr. Rizad Sareef
3. Mr. M.H. Yaqoob

### **Maruthamunai**

1. Mr. A. Abooubatha Moulavi
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3. Mr. A.M. Rakeeb LLB
4. Mr. M.A. Ameer

### **Varapathenchenai**

1. Mr. A. Niyas (Tr)

### **Sainthamaruthu**

1. Mr. I.M. Muhaideen
2. Mr. U.K.M. Musajith (Eng)

### **Natpattimunai**

1. Mr. A. Abdul Gafoor

### **Sammanthurai**

1. Mr. A.C.A.M. Buhari Moulavi
2. Mr. S.A. Razik (Pr)
3. Mr. Y.B. Saleem
4. Mr. I.L.M. Musthafa Moulavi

### **Central Camp**

1. Mr. A.C.A. Nazar    Central Camp

**VILLAGE LEVEL ADVISORY COUNCIL – BATTICALOA DISTRICT**  
(North East Muslim Peace Assembly, Ulama's [Theologies] and Trustees of Mosques)

**Kattankudi**

1. Mr. A.L. Jawath LLB.
2. Mr. M. Majeed JP
3. Mr. M.B.M. Meera Shahib JP
4. Mr. M.I.M. Mohideen JP
5. Mr. Mohideen JP

**Eravur**

1. Mr. Y.M.M.A. Cader
2. Mr. S.H. Abu Hanifa
3. Mr. A.R.Z. Moulana
4. M.Y. Abdul Latheef LLB.
5. Mr. T.M.M. Mohideen Bawa Moulavi

**Oddamavadi**

1. Mr. S.I. Ahamed Mohideen
2. Mr. A.C. Iyobkhan
3. Mr. A. Athem Bawa
4. Mr. T.L.B Buhari
5. Mr. M.A. Rasheed

**Valaichenai**

1. Mr. U.L. Ahamed
2. Moulavi A.L.M. Ismail
3. Mr. M.S. Abdul Cader
4. Moulavi M.A.C.M. Buhari
5. Mr. I.L.A. Gaffoor

**VILLAGE LEVEL ADVISORY COUNCIL – TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT**  
(North East Muslim Peace Assembly, Ulama's [Theologies] and Trustees of Mosques)

**Kinniya**

1. Mr. A.C.A. Samad
2. Mr. M.S. Mahroof
3. Mr. S.M. Sali
4. Mr. M.I. Ansar
5. Mr. M.Y. Hathiyathulla
6. Mr. M.S.M. Niyas
7. Mr. A.M. Anif Lebbai
8. Mr. M.I. Raizudeen
9. Mr. A.C. Nizardeen
10. Mr. S.M. Husain
11. Mr. A.C.M. Museel
12. Mr. M.I.M. Nizar

**Mutur**

1. Moulavi Kareem
2. Mr. A.W. Jihath
3. Mr. K.A. Rahman
4. Mr. K.M. Siraj
5. Mr. Jawabdeen
6. Mr. A. Abdeen
7. Mr. Jawahir
8. Mr. Unais
9. Mr. Ashaik Jawad
10. Moulavi Harees
11. Mr. A. Fareed
12. Mr. I.M.S. Vahardeen
13. Mr. S. Raseek Fareed

**Thoppur**

1. Mr. M.A.G.M. Sabeer
2. Mr. M.M. Rafeek
3. Al Haj Buhari
4. Mr. Mappillai

**Mullipothana/ Thambalakamam**

1. Mr. K.M. Farook
2. Mr. A.L. Abdul Wahid
3. Mr. S. Muhaideen Bawa
4. Mr. K.T. Thalip Ali
5. Mr. A.M. Hakeem

**Pulmoddai/ Kuchchaveli**

1. Mr. Rasak
2. Mr. N.M. Majeed
3. Mr. Saburdeen
4. Mr. Cader

**Trincomalee**

1. Al Haj Mansoor
2. Al Haj Razakiya
3. Mr. Buhary
4. Al-Haj Abubakkar

## **LTTE – SLMC MEETING AND JOINT STATEMENT OF 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2002**

At the LTTE leader's international media conference on 10th April, 2002, Mr. Anton Balasingham repeated his previous apology made at a public meeting on behalf of the LTTE for the forcible expulsion in 1990 of thousands of Muslims by the LTTE as a "political blunder" that could not be justified. Mr. Balasingham said : "Let us forget and forgive the mistakes made in the past. Tamil Eelam is also the homeland of the Muslims and we have to live in harmony and amity to promote peace and prosperity in the region." LTTE leader Pirapaharan also acknowledged that the problems of the Muslims have to be resolved along with the problems of the Tamils.

On an invitation from the LTTE Leader V. Pirapaharan, the National Leader of the SLMC and Cabinet Minister Rauff Hakeem flew to the North with five of his party colleagues for a meeting on the 13th April, 2002.

LTTE National Leader Velupillai Pirapaharan, Political Advisor Anton Balasingham, Political Chief S. P. Thamilchevam, Batti./Ampara District Col. Karuna, Trinco. District Col. Pathuman. And Mrs. Adele Balasingham participated on behalf of the LTTE.

Agreement was reached on important practical problems faced by Muslims in the North-East. LTTE Leader Pirapaharan invited displaced Muslims from Jaffna and Wannai to come and resettle in their own places. It was decided to establish a joint committee of representatives from LTTE and SLMC to facilitate the resettlement. Similarly it was decided to create favourable conditions for the resettlement of Muslims who were displaced in the Eastern Province.

It was decided to help Muslims to recultivate the uncultivated agricultural lands belonging to the Muslims in the North- East.

The LTTE agreed to cease immediately extortions of Muslims in the Eastern Province.

It was decided to appoint an SLMC representative from each district in the North East to discuss the problems faced by Muslims with LTTE Senior Commanders and strengthen Tamil Muslim relationship.

It was decided to continue similar top level meetings.

It was decided for the SLMC representatives to participate as a separate group on behalf of the Muslims at the negotiations to be commenced between the Government and the LTTE.

It was decided to approach the political issues of the Muslims in the North East on a policy basis and continue discussions to foster their unique political, cultural and ethnic rights.

Since SLMC had obtained majority support from Muslims, it was decided to talk to SLMC on matters pertaining to Muslims in the North East.

Sgd.  
V. Pirapaharan  
National Leader – LTTE

Sgd.  
Rauff Hakeem  
National Leader -SLMC

(Copy of original joint statement in Tamil annexed)

**தமிழீழ விடுதலைப் புலிகள் - தீர்மானங்கா முஸ்லீம் காங்கிரஸ் கூட்டு அறிக்கை**

தமிழீழ விடுதலைப் புலிகள் அமைப்பிற்கும் தீர்மானங்கா முஸ்லீம் காங்கிரஸ் கூடும் இடையே இடையே நிகழ்ந்த கலந்துரையின் சிந்தனையடைத்கலும் ஆக்கமுள்ளதற்கும் உடையதே.

இசைநம்பிய கிளிநொச்சிவிலுள்ள தமிழீழ விடுதலைப் புலிகளின் அரசியலறிமும் தமையின் செயல்கத்தல முன்று மண் தேரடி கலாட்டி புது தமிழீழ விடுதலைப் புலிகளின் சார்மின் தேசிய தமையல் தீடு வேறுபயிள்ளை பிரயாகரா கறமியல் ஆரவேசகர ஆளின் பாலச்சகம ஆரமிருமும் பொறுப்பள்ள சப. தமிழ்ச்செல்லண். மட்டுமும்பாறு மாவட்ட தளபதி தேனை கமுரா திபுறு உடைய தளபதி தேனை பதுமன் திருமதி அடேல் பாலசிங்கம் ஆகியோர் கலந்தும்தான் இ முஸ்லீம் காங்கிரஸ் சார்பில் அதன் தேசியத் தமையல் இனும் நண்ப மறக்கி தமீசை ஆத் உல்லமும் சிதேசும பிரதித் தமையல் மாக்டி உதும செயமை பிரத்த தமையல் முனகரி மாக்டில் காதி கொள்ளை மாயம் செயலான டதி சேகரமும் பிரதித் தமீசை மது முஸ்லீம் தேனாக கொள்ளை மாயம் செயலான மது செயலான ஆகியோரும் கலந்துகொண்டார்

மகிழ்ககில் வாழும் முஸ்லீம் மக்கள் எதிரேகதும் முகமிய தமைய முன்று பிரச்சினைகதும் இச்சந்தப்பின் மைய தமீசை காணப்படன் உதுமயானதகிலும் மண்ணியும் சீ நகுது இ மையம் த வாழும் முஸ்லீம் மக்களை மீண்டும் சமகலது சேந்த இடம்களில் குடியமருமாறு எந்தயின் சேந்த தமையல் பிரயாகரா மலர்கள் வேண்டுமேள் விடுதலை இச்ச மீன்குடியமலிற்றது எதுமயல் மூர்மையை ஏறும்தும் மகமியல் தமையமானம் உடையவற்றித் தமிழீ விடுதலைப் புலிகள் அமீலித்துமும் முஸ்லீம் காங்கிரசிலிருமும் ஒரு கூட்டு குறும்ல உணமயத்தமயல் முயலசெய்யப்பட்டது இலவமீடு கழகத் மாகாணத்திலுள்ள பல குகமீராமங்களில்முது இடமயிமயந்து முஸ்லீம்களை மீண்டும் ஆக்கிராமங்களில் சேன்று குடியமருவதற்கு உகந்த குழற்மையல் ஏற்படுக்கும்தென்றும் தீர்மானிக்கப்பட்டது

மகிழ்ககத மாகாணத்தில் சேவகமண்ணியமயல் திருகரும் முஸ்லீம்களின் மீண்ட தமீசைகல மீண்டும் முஸ்லீம்கள் மயர்ச்செய்ககக்கும் மாக்டிமுத்த வசதிசெய்து கொடுமாறு சேன்று முயலெடுக்கப்பட்டது

சீழகத் மாகாணத்தில் முஸ்லீம்களிடமிருத்த மோட்டத்திற்குப் பணம் மீறும தமையமுள்ளம் உடையதாக சீறுத்துவதென்றும் தமிழீழ விடுதலைப் புலிகளின் தமயில் தீர்மானிக்கப்பட்டது

மகிழ்ககில் மாவட்டம் தேரும் முஸ்லீம் மக்கள் எதிரேகள்ளும் பிரச்சினைகளை மருது தளபதிகளுடன் சேசித் திசைத் தே ககிலும் தமிழீழமயல் மீர்கணர்வை மதுமருத்துமகமீரம் முஸ்லீம் காங்கிரஸ் சார்பாக ஏவலேடு பிரதித்தகளை மயமிடுதமமும் முயலசெய்யப்பட்டது

தமையமான மேம்பட்டர் எந்தப்பகளை கொடும்தும் உகதம்தென்றும் தீர்மானிக்கப்பட்டது

அக்தமும் தமிழீழ விடுதலைப் புலிகளுககுமீண்டமில் ஆமீக்கப்பட்டவுள்ள தேசலாதககளின் மோது முஸ்லீம் மக்கள் சார்பாக முஸ்லீம் காங்கிரஸ் பிரதித்தகதும் ஒரு கமீரம் மாக்டிமுத்துவதென்றும் தீர்மானிக்கப்பட்டது

மகிழ்ககில் வாழும் முஸ்லீம் மக்களின் அமயனை ஆர்மியல் பிரச்சினைகளை கொடபாட்டு தீர்மானம் மதுமீ அமீர்களின் அரசியல் கலாசை தனித்துவ உரிமைகளைப் பேறுமத்த முஸ்லீமயல் மோது இ மீதுமர்ச்சிமாகப் பேசுவதென்றும் தீர்மானிக்கப்பட்டது

முஸ்லீம்களின் ஆதகமர் ஆதாரவை முஸ்லீம் காங்கிரஸ் பெற்றுள்ளதால் மகிழ்ககத் முஸ்லீம்கள் கொடுமீல் முஸ்லீம் காங்கிரசுடன் பேசுவதென்றும் தீர்மானிக்கப்பட்டது

**லெ.சி.முண்டி**  
மே பிரயாகரா  
தேசியத் தமையல்  
தமிழீழ விடுதலைப் புலிகள்

**செ.சி.முகம்மது**  
மே பிரயாகரா  
தேசியத் தமையல்  
தீர்மானங்கா முஸ்லீம் காங்கிரஸ்





Minister of Port Development & Shipping  
Minister of Eastern Development & Muslim Religious Affairs

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20<sup>th</sup> November 2002

Mr. M.J.M. Mohideen,  
Chairman,  
Muslim Rights Organization,  
57, Norris Canal Road,  
Colombo 10.

Dear Mr. Mohideen

**MUSLIM LAND QUESTION IN THE NORTH EAST**

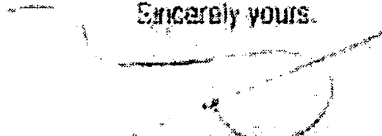
A delegation from the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress led by me met the LTTE delegation led by Mr. V Pirapaharan in Vanni on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2002 and discussed various matters pertaining to the problems faced by the Tamil and Muslim Communities due to the war in the North Eastern province.

Mr. Pirabakaran gave us an assurance that all lands belonging to the Muslims that are now being forcibly occupied by the Tamils will be returned to the Muslim Land owners as soon as possible. This matter was again taken up with Mr. Thamilselvan and Mr. Karuna during the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Peace Talks in Thailand during 31<sup>st</sup> October to 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2002. They agreed that this matter could be effectively implemented only if we could provide them with details of such lands that are now being occupied by the Tamils.

Since you are a Licensed Surveyor from the area and a person who has a thorough knowledge of the Muslim Land question in the North East, I wish to entrust this task of identifying and preparing an up to date list of lands in question to you.

I shall therefore be grateful if you could please take up this challenging task immediately and submit a comprehensive report at the very earliest.

Thank you,  
Sincerely yours.

  
RAUFF HAKEEM MP  
LEADER, SRI LANKA MUSLIM CONGRESS and  
Minister of Port Development, Shipping,  
Eastern Development and Muslim Religious Affairs



## **Muslim Rights Organization - MRO**

Muslims have not resorted to arms to protect and advance their interests. Their only protection and security is in advancing their cause through international solidarity and respect for human rights. Sri Lanka is now entering a decisive moment in its history where its Government and the LTTE will engage in negotiations to end the protracted war in Sri Lanka. The question of power sharing, protection and security for the Muslims will be paramount in the minds of the Muslim community. The MRO intends to be fully involved in the debate as it sees the ongoing negotiations as a crucial component in terms of human rights protection. MRO is dedicated to promote the rights of Muslims by ensuring a systematic monitoring of the ongoing situation, establishing a documentation center and ensuring the people of Sri Lanka and the International community are well informed about the situation.

### **Mission:**

- **To protect and promote the rights of Muslims in Sri Lanka.**

### **Objectives:**

- **To ensure peace and security for Muslims in Sri Lanka.**
- **To ensure suitable power sharing arrangements for Muslims in Sri Lanka.**
- **To internationalize the Muslim question by an effective lobby campaign**
- **To document the human rights violations committed against the Muslims.**
- **To ensure that positive co-existence prevails between all communities in Sri Lanka.**

The ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka had a terrible effect on the Muslims in the North East. In the South, Muslims have been victims of riots and pogroms. In the North East the forcible eviction of more than one hundred thousand Muslims, attacks on mosques and other places of worship, confiscation of land and attacks on innocent civilians has caused fear and insecurity in the hearts of Muslims. Muslims need to be vigilant in future.

Muslims have always sought to resolve issues through non-violent means. Diplomacy has been the instrument of Muslim relationships based on the principle of coexistence between all communities living in Sri Lanka during the past thousand years. Unfortunately, violence perpetrated against Muslims over the last two decades show that they have not succeeded in drawing attention to their problems internationally. When more than one hundred thousand Muslims were forcibly evicted from the Northeast by Tamil militants there was very little protest from International bodies. Further, the refugees did not flee to other countries instead they found refuge in their own country. It has been observed over the years that the natural mechanisms including the Government, have failed to afford adequate protection to Muslims as also the leadership of the Tamil people, who were keen to win back their rights by suppressing the Muslims. To ensure adequate protection the only option is to make use of protocols and instruments available internationally under the Charter of the United Nations. The Charter provides for protection of minorities and several other United Nations instruments can be utilized to internationalize the Muslim question. Therefore representation of the case in all United

Nations bodies and other International fora must be ensured. In addition a lobby must function to inform other international institutions regularly.

While intending to reach out to the world in this manner, the MRO is quite aware that internationalization alone will not bring practical solutions to the problems faced by the Muslims in Sri Lanka. It is imperative to workout special programmes and proposals aimed at providing durable settlement of such problems and for initiating and sustaining a dialogue process with other communities and government based on the principals of equality, mutual accommodation and pluralism.

**The Muslim community is unfortunately fractured within a competitive party politics. The unity of purpose and the cohesion of its goals are currently not manifested. Young Muslims are getting disillusioned with their political leaders and are very much concerned about their future security and ethnic rights.**

**Muslims should consider more seriously the present trend and unite irrespective of party politics to safeguard their legitimate rights in an appropriate manner. If proper safeguards are not secured it would amount to be the biggest betrayal of not only the present generation but also those yet to be born in this country as Muslims in future.**

**Hold fast, all together, by the (unity) rope of Allah and be not divided among yourself –**  
(Al-Quran, Chapter 3, Al-Imran, Verse 103)

The task before the MRO is enormous. Its everyone's hope that the MRO will be a torch in a confused and perplexing future. It is their belief that the best guarantee for their future lies with themselves, through the conscious commitment to follow a path of non violence in pursuit of human rights for all.

We firmly believe that all the communities can live together with healthy traditions of cooperation and coexistence. It is only through positive coexistence that we can all live in peace and harmony. We hope that the international community will provide us with an umbrella of support and share our aspirations and grievances.

## **ACTIVITIES**

The Muslim Rights Organization will engage in the following activities:

- It will establish a documentation centre, which will systematically collect information and data on the Muslim question. This data will be obtained through an established network of information monitors.
- MRO will conform to international standards in documentation established by the Human Rights Information Documentation, International, and HURIDOCS. We will also seek the assistance of other human rights organisations to guide us in our future work.
- It will establish a database of all relevant information with regard to the Muslim question. The database will develop a chronology of events with regard to the evolution of the Muslim

question, maintain a record of media reports, and develop standard formats for recording of human rights violations.

- A situation report will be published monthly to be sent to all relevant organisations, such as international bodies, foreign diplomatic missions, media and international and local human rights organisations.
- The Organization will also create a lobby for representing the Muslim question internationally particularly in the Human Rights Commission and also donor community and other relevant International organisations. The Organization will hold periodic seminars educating the Muslims with regard to the Muslim question.
- MRO will work with other likeminded organisations in promoting coexistence and reconciliation in the region.
- MRO will evolve feasible programmes and proposals intended to find lasting solutions to the problems affecting the Muslim Community and will set in motion a dialogue process with organizations and leaders representing other communities and the government.
- The Organization will have an Advisory Council, which would consist of eminent human rights and peace activists as well as International dignitaries in order to achieve all its objectives, MRO will develop and expand a civil society base, which could take forward initiatives on Muslim questions.

**Mr. M. I. M. Mohideen,**  
Chairman / Managing Director

**Mr. M.D.M. Vazeer,**  
Director

**Mr. M. Ansar Jabir,**  
Chairman, Advisory Council

**Subscribers:**

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**Mr. M.M. Abdul Rahman,** Kattankudi

**Dr. S.A. Jabbar,** Akkaraipattu

**Mr. U.A. Wahab,** Kattankudi

**Dr. K.M. Zahir,** Muthur

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