

LTTE KURANGUPANCHAN NEW MILITARY CAMP IN MUSLIM HEART LAND OF KINNIYA IS A VIOLATION OF CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT AND SERIOUS SECURITY THREAT TO MUSLIMS

The much talked about Kurangupanchan LTTE camp is not in Wan Ela area or Maniyarasankulam as reported in the Local and International Media. It is in the Government Controlled area Kinniya Divisional Secretary Divisions and about 14 km East of Wan Ela Tank and Police Station, 7 km South-East of Maniarasan Kulam and 12 km East of Katukuli Army Camp.

Kinniya Divisional Secretariat is about 146 sq. km in extent in the Trincomalee District and 16 km from Trincomalee Town Nearly 59,469 Muslims 95% of the total population of 62,819 live here. Tamils are only 3,350 about 5% and no Sinhalese. According to the information available in the Divisional Secretariat Office there are 31 Grama Niladhari Divisions. Further, all the three Muslim parliamentarians elected for the Trincomalee District are from Kinniya.

The Kurangupanchan GS Division is about 20 sq. km in extent and 15 km East of Kinniya town. After the floods in 1957 the Muslims started to settle here. Kunchiappa, Mohamed Casim, Cader and Razikeen were the first people came and started chena cultivation. Later Muslims came in large numbers and settled here. Since it was a jungle area, the new settlers had problems with monkeys - called Kurangu in Tamil, and therefore the area is called Kurangupanchan.

In 1970 the SLFP Muslim Parliament Mr. Abdul Majeed helped the renovation of the tank at Kurangupanchan and helped the local farmers to cultivate paddy in about 500 acres. Later the name of the place was also changed to Majeedpuram. However the place is continued to be known as Kurankupanchan.

Only after 1980 a permanent building was constructed for the Mosque and Jumma prayers were conducted regularly. The Muslims school started in 1979 in a ^hcadjan hut got a permanent building and the school was named as Barakath Government Muslim Mixed School and Grade 1 to 6 classes were conducted.

More than 255 Muslims families lived in Kurangupanchan up to 1990. As a result of the ethnic violence in 1990 the Muslims in Kurangupanchan village were forcibly displaced and moved to Kinniya. Kiran (56) Majeedpuram (46) Kalladi Vedduvan (33) Vellankulam (53) Kallaruppu (13) Sungankuli (19) are some Muslim GS Divisions in the Kurangupanchan area. The displaced Muslims who lost their houses and fertile paddy lands became refugees and presently undergoing such hardships in temporary camps and in the houses of their relations. Soon after the ceasefire agreement between the GOSL and LTTE in February 2002, the Muslims went back and started paddy cultivation in their fields in Kurangupanchan and started resettling in their own lands. They renovated the Mosque as decided at a meeting held on 11.06.2003, Soon after this meeting LTTE chased 35 Muslims families resettled here and put up a camp in the damaged Mosque building and objected any renovation. The media is maliciously suppressing the fact that the LTTE is forcibly occupying the areas of historical habitation of the Muslims in the Government controlled area.

The Kurangupanchan area is in the heartland of Kinniya. Muslims suspect a well planned agenda by the LTTE

1. To stop Muslims resettlement and use the Interim Administrative Structure to forcibly take over the areas of historical habitation of the Muslims to settle the Tamils in Kurangupanchan.
2. To continue abduction, extortion and taxation from Kurangupanchan Muslims

The Government Agent and the representatives of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission jointly had a meeting on Kurangupanchan Development Project on 06.06.2003. More than 200 Muslims participated in the meeting. In order to stop any development and the resettlement of the Muslims the LTTE has set up their unlawful Military Camp and abducted a Muslim, Mohamed Haniffa Abdul Latiff.

The Muslims demand the following:

1. LTTE should remove all camps in the Government controlled areas immediately
2. The forcibly displaced Muslims from Kiran, Majeed puram, Kallaveppu, Vellengulam, Singamkulam, Kalladivetuwan should be resettled immediately
3. The abandoned Mosques, Schools, Roads and Tanks should be renovated immediately
4. The abducted Mohamed Haniffa Abdul Lathiff should be released immediately

All Muslims in Kinniya area should unite to protect the areas of historical habitation of the Muslims forcibly occupied by the LTTE. If the Muslims parliamentarians and political leaders fail to take immediate action, the Muslims will loose many Kurangupanchan in the future.

The unlawful erection of a military camp in Kurangupanchan is the most controversial issue discussed in the National and International media. The real ground situation regarding the historical evidence and the exact location of Kurangupanchan has created much confusion which is obstructing the resettlement of the internally displaced Muslims and the reconstruction and development of the area. The parties to the ceasefire agreement – GOSL, LTTE, the Norway facilitator and the International Donor countries should realize the violation of the ceasefire agreement in Kurangupanchan is denying the Muslims the benefit of the peace process. It is very unfortunate that even after one and a half years of the ceasefire agreement; the living condition and the security of the Muslim people in the North-East continue to deteriorate.

M.I.M. Mohideen

05 September 2003

TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT POPULATION IN 2000

S.No.	DS Division	Area sq. km	No. of GS Division	No. Villages	No. of Families	Population	Male	Famale	Tamil	Sinhala	Muslim	Others
1	Town & Gravets	148.0	42	198	21,958	94,979	44,868	50,111	60,120	22,155	11,474	1,230
2	Kuchchavelli	313.3	24	85	4,807	18,598	9,192	9,406	4,660	45	13,893	-
3	Padavisiripura	217.1	10	10	3,033	12,229	6,287	5,942	-	12,229	-	-
4	Gomarangadawela	285.0	9	26	1,937	6,906	3,456	3,450	16	6,890	-	-
5	Morawewa	322.4	10	31	1,803	5,438	2,702	2,736	119	4,976	343	-
6	Thampalagamam	244.4	12	49	6,595	26,871	13,478	13,393	5,337	7,029	14,505	-
7	Kantalai	397.3	23	37	10,608	46,875	23,718	23,157	1,367	40,548	4,950	10
8	Kinniya	146.9	31	101	13,697	62,819	32,087	30,732	3,350	-	59,469	-
9	Seruvila	279.0	17	21	3,443	14,670	7,069	7,601	3,411	9,812	1,447	-
10	Eachcheilampathu	98.0	9	30	2,235	9,194	4,380	4,814	9,194	-	-	-
11	Muthur	179.4	42	77	13,713	55,974	27,632	28,342	24,433	169	31,372	-
	Total	2630.8	229	665	83,829	354,553	174,869	179,684	112,007	103,853	137,453	1,240

Source: Divisional Secretariats

PARLIAMENT REPRESENTATION - TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT

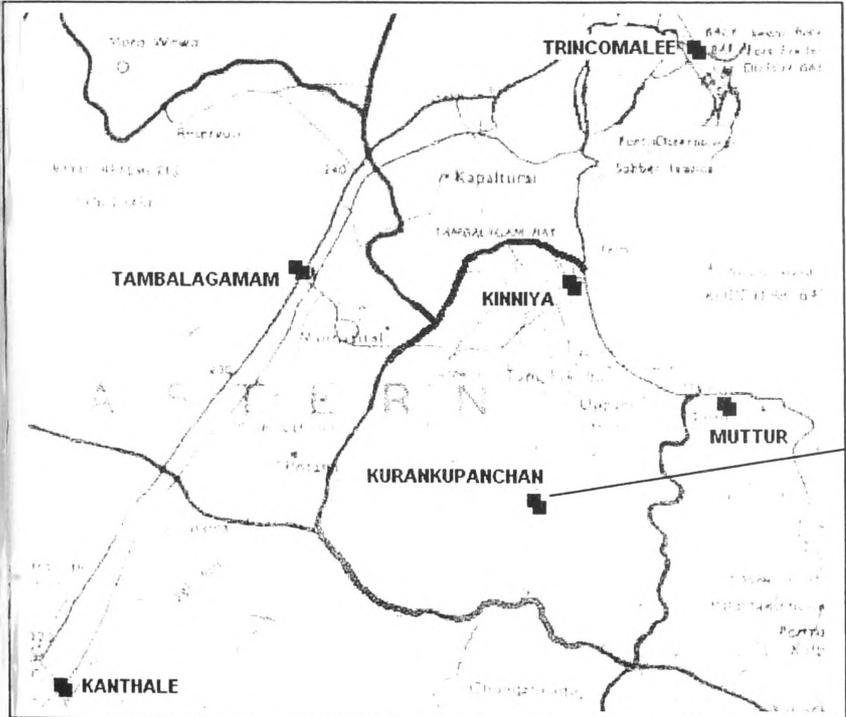
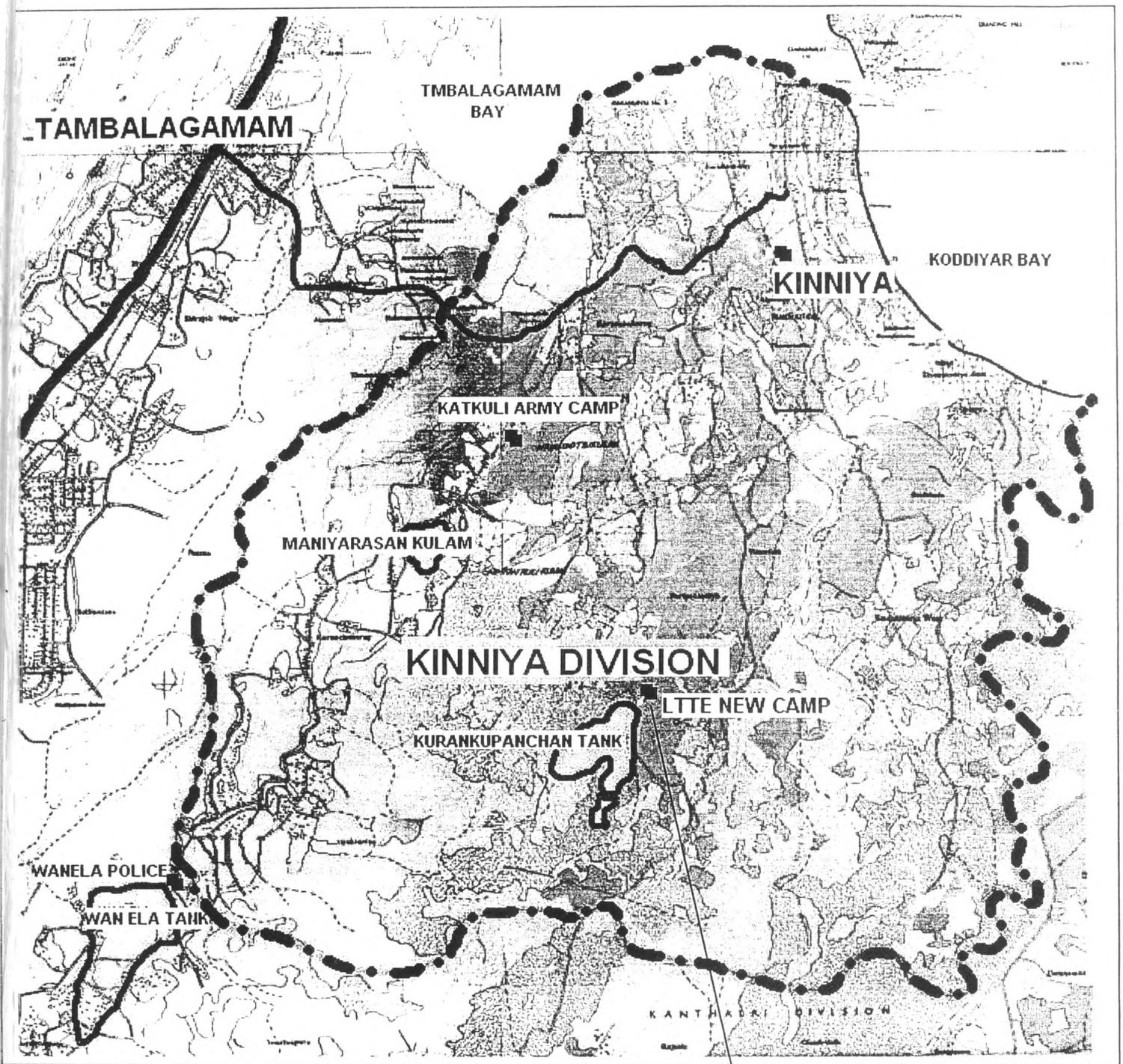
Trincomalee	1989				1994				2000				2001			
	Votes Received	%	Seats	Ethnic	Votes Received	%	Seats	Ethnic	Votes Received	%	Seats	Ethnic	Votes Received	%	Seats	Ethnic
UNP	22450	2.1	1	M	34986	29.16	2	1 M	46700	35.08	1	M	62930	39.05	2	2 M
TULF/TNA	-	-	-	-	28380	23.66	1	1 S	14090	10.58	-	-	56121	34.82	1	T
SLMC/NUA	17884	17.61	-	-	26903	22.43	1	T	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SLFP/PA	22996	22.61	1	S	23886	19.19	-	M	53860	40.46	3	2 M	32997	20.47	1	S
Independent	25239	24.86	2	1 M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 S	-	-	-	-
Reg. Votes	152289			1 T	184090				206884				212280			
Votes not cast	45833	30.1	-	-	57466	31.22	-	-	65112	31.47	-	-	42713	20.13	-	-
Votes cast	106456	69.9	-	-	126624	68.78	-	-	141772	68.53	-	-	169567	79.87	-	-
Rejected	4878	4.58	-	-	6682	5.27	-	-	8642	6.1	-	-	5429	4.97	-	-
Valid votes	101578	95.42	-	-	19942	94.73	-	-	133130	93.9	-	-	161138	96.03	-	-

Source: Divisional Secretariats

2002 POPULATION OF EASTERN PROVINCE

	Ampara	%	Batticaloa	%	Trincomalee	%	Total	%
Muslim	245089	41.58	113473	36.13	137453	38.76	496015	39.38
Tamil	110590	18.77	195689	62.30	112007	31.58	418286	33.25
Sinhala	231771	39.32	2439	0.78	103808	29.27	338018	26.95
Other	1894	0.33	2487	0.79	1285	0.36	5666	0.46
Total	589344	100.00	314088	100.00	354553	100.00	1257985	100.00

Source: Divisional Secretariats



LTTE NEW CAMP IN KURANGUPANCHAN

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