

RESETTLEMENT OF INTERNALLY (FORCIBLY) DISPLACED MUSLIMS IN THE NORTH-EAST SRI LANKA

The ethnic conflict in Sri-Lanka has had a terrible effect on the Muslims, particularly in the North-East. The forcible eviction of more than one hundred thousand Muslims, attack on un-armed Muslim civilians, the attack on the mosques and murdering of hundreds of Muslims while in prayer, the confiscation of lands, houses business and cultural premises have caused insecurity among the Muslims in the North-East.

The Tamil militants forcibly took nearly 100,000 acres of agricultural lands and 22,000 Residential Houses, Business and cultural premises belonging to the North-East Muslims. The losses suffered by the Muslims were estimated to be more than US\$ 110 millions.

The violence perpetrated by the Tamil militants against the North-East Muslims during the last two decades has cautioned the Muslims to be vigilant in the future. The primary concern of the Muslims in the North-East is the safety and security of our people, claim for our lands and properties and the inalienable right for internal self-determination.

At the LTTE leaders' International media conference on 10th April 2002 Mr. Balasingam repeated his previous apology on behalf of the LTTE for the forcible expulsion of the Muslims from the North in 1990 and said that it was a "political blunder that could not be justified" and wanted the Muslims to forget and forgive the mistakes made in the past.

The parties to the ceasefire agreement dated 22nd February 2002 the Government of Sri Lanka (GSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE) have accepted that the groups that are not directly party to the conflict have also suffered the consequences. This is particularly the case as regards the Muslim population in the North East.

The main focus of the Government of Sri Lanka (GSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) at the peace talks was on the urgent humanitarian needs to improve the day to day lives of the North East people. To this effect the parties have agreed on an accelerated Resettlement program of the Internally Displaced people.

However, the proposal submitted by the Sri Lanka Government to the Oslo Donors Conference on 25th November 2002, for immediate Humanitarian and Rehabilitation support did not mention the losses suffered by the Muslims and the funds required for the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction works in Muslim areas. The proposal submitted by the Government of Sri Lanka gave the impression that it was only the Tamils have suffered in the North East conflict. The International Donors Conference held in Tokyo – Japan had pledged US\$ 4.5 Billion for rehabilitation work in the war affected North-East and other infrastructure and Development work in Sri Lanka.

Unless the Muslims have the detail plans, estimates and a comprehensive work programme, we will not be able to obtain our share of the aid to reconstruct the Muslim areas destroyed in the conflict and resettle the 102,867 Muslims forcibly displaced, regain our agricultural lands, residential properties and business and cultural premises. This is an opportunity for the Muslims to prove that we can look after our own affairs in the predominant Muslim areas in the North-East without the interference of the Tamils or Sinhalese. This would also give an opportunity for the Muslims to prove the Government of Sri Lanka as well as the International Community the feasibility of administering of the non-contiguous predominant Muslim areas in the North East independently by the Muslims, and establish our rights for internal self-rule

Details of the internally (forcibly) Displaced Muslims from the North East who are now languishing in the following districts – Year 2002

Districts	Families	Peoples
Puttalam	15,500	74,140
Anuradhapura	865	4,070
Kurunagala	487	2,311
Gampaha	1,050	4,725
Colombo	425	1,912
Kalutara	395	1,856
Matale	85	517
Kandy	110	517
Galle	5	23
Kegalle	32	150
Ampara	110	523
Trincomalee	2,207	10,492
Batticaloa	343	1,631
Total:	21,614	102,867

The detail and value of assets lost by the Muslims as a result of forcibly expulsion by the LTTE during 1990 ethnic cleansing

Description	Quantity	Value in Million Rupees
Residential properties	22,000	5,500
Commercial and Industrial establishments	2,402	2,100
Religious and Cultural Institutions	340	1700
Agricultural Lands	39,400 Acres	200
Gold Jewelleries	475,000 Grams	300
Cattle	211,000	150
Motor Vehicles	320	160
Motor Cycles	800	20
Carts	750	4
Bicycles	4000	25
Fishing Boats	850	40
Engines (Boats)	400	16
Fishing Nets	1200	8
Refrigerators	200	2
Television sets	2000	40
Radio Sets	600	1
Total:		Rs.10,256

Urgent Works that have to be carried out in the Muslim areas prior to the commencement of the resettlement of forcibly displaced Muslims from the North-East

01. Demining

Mannar District
Musali DS Division
Chilavathurai, Kondachchi.
Mannar DS Division
Thalaimannar Pier.
Manthai DS Division
Vidathalthievu, Periyamadu, Minuka.
Mullaithievu DS Division
Mullaithievu Town, Hijirapuram.
Jaffna District
Pommaveli, Mankuman, Chavakachcheri.

02. Clearing of unlawful occupants from all residential, commercial and Industrial buildings belong to Muslims
03. Clearing of unlawful occupants from all Religious and Cultural buildings.
04. Clearing of all unlawful occupants from all Muslim Agricultural land and preparation of such land for cultivation.
05. Clearing of shrub jungles covered in the residential premises.
06. Clearing of the jungles on the access road and internal lanes
07. Renovation of Tanks and Irrigation channels.
08. Reconstruction of all residential, commercial, cultural and religious buildings.
09. Reconstruction of Infrastructure – Electricity, Water, Roads etc.
10. Reconstruction of Civic centres and public buildings Schools, Hospitals, Market, Bus Stands, Post Office, Police Station and Secretariat Offices
11. Puttalam- Mannar Western Coastal Highway and bridge should be repaired and opened immediately
12. The railway tract from Mathawatchi to Thalaimannar should be repaired and the train services should commence immediately
13. The bridge connecting the Mannar Island with the main land should be reconstructed.
14. The Causeways in Mannar, Muthur and Kinniya should be reconstructed.
15. The road from Mankulam to Mullaithievu should be reconstructed.
16. The A15 Road and the bridges from Palathopur to Trincomalee should be reconstructed.
17. The Road, from Akkaraipattu – Paddiyadipitti/ Puddampai to Sagam Tank/ Kanchirankuda Junction should be reconstructed.

RESETTLEMENT OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED MUSLIMS IN THE NORTH-EAST

	Northern Province			Eastern Province			Total	TOTAL
	Jaffna	Vanni	Total	Amp.	Batti.	Trinco		
Internally Displaced Muslim Families	4000	14,954	18954	110	343	2207	2660	21,614
	18.51%	69.19%	87.70%	0.51%	1.59%	10.20%	12.30%	100%
Internally Displaced Muslim People	20000	69,367	89,367	500	2000	11000	13500	102,867

FUNDS REQUIRED – DRAFT ESTIMATE

33,250.25 MILLION RUPEES (350 MILLION US \$)

		Northern Province			Eastern Province				Total
		Jaffna	Vanni	Total	Amp.	Batti.	Trinco	Total	
Demining	Rs.	4.50	11.71	16.21	3.04	6.20	6.25	15.49	31.70
	US\$	0.05	0.12	0.17	0.03	0.07	0.07	0.16	0.33
Roads	Rs.	238.39	1175.77	1414.16	59.43	29.54	140.00	228.99	1643.15
	US\$	2.51	12.38	14.89	0.63	0.31	1.47	2.41	17.30
Housing	Rs.	2163.63	9680.83	11844.46	107.20	347.79	2167.55	2622.54	14467.00
	US\$	22.78	101.90	124.68	1.13	3.66	22.82	27.61	152.28
Mosques	Rs.	41.86	108.87	150.73	3.48	10.96	70.53	84.97	235.70
	US\$	0.44	1.15	1.59	0.04	0.12	0.74	0.89	2.48
Schools	Rs.	41.86	108.87	150.73	5.53	17.40	112.04	134.97	285.70
	US\$	0.44	1.15	1.59	0.06	0.18	1.18	1.42	3.01
Hospitals	Rs.	20.93	54.44	75.37	2.76	8.73	56.04	67.53	142.90
	US\$	0.22	0.57	0.79	0.03	0.09	0.59	0.71	1.50
Electricity	Rs.	41.36	150.96	192.32	3.82	12.04	77.52	93.38	285.70
	US\$	0.44	1.59	2.02	0.04	0.13	0.82	0.98	3.01
Pub. Utility	Rs.	20.93	54.44	75.37	2.76	8.73	56.04	67.53	142.90
	US\$	0.22	0.57	0.79	0.03	0.09	0.59	0.71	1.50
Land Prep.	Rs.	53.80	190.92	244.72	60.00	66.82	60.00	1338.28	1583.00
	US\$	0.57	2.01	2.58	0.63	0.70	0.63	14.09	16.66
Irrigation	Rs.	53.80	190.92	244.72	60.00	66.82	60.00	1338.28	1583.00
	US\$	0.57	2.01	2.58	0.63	0.70	0.63	14.09	16.66
Fisheries	Rs.	11.73	142.71	154.44	8.27	24.80	158.74	191.81	346.25
	US\$	0.12	1.50	1.63	0.09	0.26	1.67	2.02	3.64
Cattle Farm	Rs.	53.80	190.92	244.72	60.00	66.82	60.00	1338.28	1583.00
	US\$	0.57	2.01	2.58	0.63	0.70	0.63	14.09	16.66
Compensation	Rs.	402.92	9956.88	10359.80	8.39	26.32	169.49	204.20	10564.00
	US\$	4.24	104.81	109.05	0.09	0.28	1.78	2.15	111.20
Consultancy	Rs.	66.80	173.74	240.54	1.83	5.73	36.90	44.46	285.00
	US\$	0.70	1.83	2.53	0.02	0.06	0.39	0.47	3.00
Audit	Rs.	16.70	43.44	60.14	0.46	1.43	9.22	11.11	71.25
	US\$	0.18	0.46	0.63	0.00	0.02	0.10	0.12	0.75
Total Rs.		3233.01	22235.42	25468.43	386.97	700.13	3240.32	7781.82	33250.25
Total US\$		34.03	234.06	268.09	4.07	7.37	34.11	81.91	350.00

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