

MUTUR SITUATION

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UPDATE – 02 AUGUST 2006

- Shelling starts and LTTE moves into the Mutur area after taking over the small army camps.
- LTTE informed civilians in border villages like Ralkuli and Kattaiparichchan to evacuate to safer areas within Muthur.
- The SL army trying to move in to retake control of Mutur town area.
- Army cannot move from their camps. Every small army camp is now blocked by Tigers. Some strategic areas in Mutur Town under the control of the Tigers.
- LTTE cadres are now freely moving in public roads- Like main street , Iqbal road in Mutur.
- They have laid siege to the small villages around the army and Navy camps.
- Shelling has been continuing in the centre of town. Two children were injured and one building damaged. Civilians originally took cover in the main mosque area and the church and are now moving to further safe areas in the south.
- Two state banks close to the police station were also damaged by the shelling.
- There are no medical facilities in town because the hospital was partly damaged including the delivery ward according to Dr. Sukri , Chief Medical Officer.
- Artillery fire being undertaken by govt from Trincomalee to LTTE bases and shelling also hitting coastal villages around Mutur town. Civilians have fled to the interior side of Mutur where it is relatively calm.

UPDATE – 03 AUGUST 2006

- Fighting continuing during the night and into the morning
- About 9am, 2 hour ceasefire initiated by ICRC / SLMM for the evacuation of civilians from the town area to safe zones in the south
- Severe fighting resumes after the two hour period.
- DS operating from a church. Other staff at a temporary office within the Arabic College which also has IDPs (7000 families)
- Shell attack reported at 1.30pm on the college with 10 reported dead and 50 injured (majority women and children)
- 1pm communications via land phone disrupted
- Reports from Trincomalee state heavy shelling from the govt to the LTTE sides
- 70 injured people brought from Mutur by gun boat
- Heavy shelling continuing in the night

CURRENT NEEDS

- Food and water shortage for those displaced
- Lack of medical facilities to look after injured.
- Current cessation of hostilities to evacuate the injured to Trincomalee or Kanthalai
- **POSSIBLE MASS EXODUS OF 30,000 PEOPLE TO KANTHALAI.**

MUSLIM AID'S OPERATION

- Field Officers in Mutur currently undertaking needs assessment (not contactable since 1pm 3rd August)
- Local partner presence in Mutur for any distribution of food and water
- Kinniya office has already supplied food to Muthur residents stuck in Kinniya
- Teams of doctors and volunteers (from local partners) have been mobilised to Kinniya ready to move as and when possible
- This team also includes an ambulance and drugs.
- Muslim Aid has opened a coordinating office and store in Kinniya with a local partner to monitor as well as store food items and other NFIs.
- Volunteers on stand by to be mobilised from Colombo and Kanthalai.
- Field office set up in Kanthalai as well to prepare for refugees
- Setting up a dedicated hotline and incident room to monitor all reports, fund raising and liaising with all stakeholders in Colombo.

WHAT IS NEEDED NOW?

- Seeking a 'safe' corridor for supplies to be sent into Mutur from Kinniya
- Removal of injured people from the scene
- Cessation of fighting in civilian areas –
Lobbying both sides to come to stop shelling
- Coordination of relief work
- Preparing for mass exodus of people

Muslim Aid Operations

- Contact Numbers:
 - Amjad (Country Director) - 0773138281
 - Abdul (Logistics) – 0773566340
 - Asker (Emergency Coordination) - 0777572935
 - Muslim Aid Hotline - 2515024