

	<b>Meeting (Name)</b>	
	<b>Date</b>	

Ref: 1/2.1/1/06/ Minutes 1
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**Document Information**

<b>Meeting :</b>	Operational Meeting
<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	Ref. Eg 1/2.1/1/ 06/ Agenda -1
<b>Prepared By/ Date:</b>	Nileshi/4 <sup>th</sup> August 2006

<b>Type:</b>	Conference /Closed Door/ Lecture/ Special				
<b>Purpose:</b>					
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2006	<b>Start Time:</b>	8.15 am	<b>End Time:</b>	9.30 am
<b>Venue</b>	Nagarodaya				
<b>Meeting Chair:</b>		<b>Phone:</b>			
<b>Facilitator:</b>	CHA	<b>Phone:</b>			
<b>Minute Taker:</b>	Nileshi	<b>Phone:</b>			

**Present**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Sewalanka Foundation	WUSC	NCA
Forut	JRS	CHC
SIT	GAA	Samaritan's Purse
Care	Leads	Muslim Aid
NWMTI	American Red Cross	French Embassy
UMCOR	LWR	Relief Int
Manitha Neyam Trust	CPA	UN RC/HC Office
ADT	Helvetas	ASB
HIA	WCDO	JEN
Diakonie	Foundation de France	Leads
ACF	Caritas	CRWRC
IFRC	NCCSL	SMEI Chamber
Nonviolent Peace Force	ADRA	Americares

<p>CONSORTIUM OF <b>CHA</b> HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES</p>	<p><b>Meeting (Name)</b></p> <p><b>Date</b></p>	<div data-bbox="1161 264 1520 333" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: right;">Ref: 1/2.1/1/06/ Minutes 1</div>
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UNHCR	World Concern	Dan Aid Church
RADA	SDC	Sarvodaya
UMCOR	UNFTA	CASA
HelpAge	ActionAid	Danida
Italian Cooperation	Handicap International	FORUT
CASP	British HC	

Agenda No	Subject	Action by/ date
1	<p><u>Feedback and Updates</u> <u>Issues from Districts</u></p> <p><u>Jaffna-</u> UNDP “sports for peace” program Save the children – year of the child</p> <p>Batticaloa- Livelihood IDP coordination Forum Update</p>	CHA
2	<p>Marcel Smits gave a brief update about the situation in Mutur. Also about what the organizations can do collectively rather than as an individual organization. Communication is a problem with the decision makers and the government. There should places of safety and sanctuary.</p>	Non-violent Peace Force
3	<p><u>Rapid Peace Assessment for the month of July – CHA</u> <u>Peace and Research Unit</u></p> <p>Following reports are exclusively the views of the residents living in the conflict districts in the North-East. They include interpretation of the situation, dynamics strategies and options.</p> <p><u>BATTICALOA</u> - A tense situation in the district prevailed in the last month. Security measures were tightened by the government forces. A large scale search operation was carried out by the Sir Lanka army and air force. The STF has increased checking and search operations followed by the recent development in the eastern districts in the island. Although major incidents have not been reported, isolated attacks and killings have taking place in the area. In addition, youth abduction incidents have been reported.</p> <p><u>JAFFNA</u> - Tension levels were on the rise in the district. Security is tight all over Jaffna town. The insecurity caused day to day activities to slow down. For instance, all banking activities opened at 9 am and closed at 1pm affecting the customers who come from distant places. Fishermen were restricted from fishing, putting the entire fishing community in calamity. Due to the disturbances in the A9 highway the vehicle movement is minimal. The restriction in entry of</p>	CHA- Fareeha

lorries at the Omanthai Check Point has resulted in some goods being sold at extremely high prices in Jaffna. Body checking is carried out in all the main roads. It was also reported that a lot of thefts take place at night.

MANNAR- Changes in relation to the structures in the District of Mannar at this point are not significantly visible; however, attacks on the security personnel on patrol are taking place frequently. Most of the time when retaliation occurs it becomes for the civilian population in the area. Both, the general public and security forces have a sense of uneasiness in the face of uncertainty. Government offices are functioning and the shops are open until 7 pm

TRINCOMALEE- War times are back in no uncertain terms in the district of Trincomalee. The district has bared aerial bombing of retaliatory attacks by the GoSL to LTTE's provocative attacks on military targets. This time round the district suffers from open hostilities that are very dramatic.

VAVUNIYA- The current events taking place in the district suggests that the overall situation is relatively dormant compared to previous periods.

With the assurance of stepped up security and regular patrolling by the forces and police, villagers of Mahakachakodiya, have returned to their homes, which they desert at nights to seek shelter in temples for fear of attacks.

These are some of the reports taken from each district. Under current circumstances, the police, and specially the STF should be on alert and take immediate and adequate measures to ensure safety of the civilians. Meanwhile, it is vital that they strategically win the trust of the multi-ethnic population in the district. This is very important when considering the presence of several powerful armed groups who can influence the district. Furthermore, the support of grassroots groups is vital for the success of the government forces in ensuring safety of the district.

The religious leadership and other influential civil groups too, should actively play a role in promoting an environment conducive to reducing conflicts between ethnic/religious groups. This should be further followed by continuous activities and programmes to encourage positive connections between civilian groups.

Update from Muttur on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- Shelling starts and LTTE moves into the Muttur 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 Muttur town area.
- Army cannot move from their camps. Every small army camp is now blocked by Tigers. Some strategic areas in Muttur Town under the control of the Tigers.
- LTTE cadres are now freely moving in public roads- Like Main Street, Iqbal road in Muttur.
- 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 Muttur town. Civilians have fled to the interior side of Muttur where it is relatively calm.
- 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 Muttur by gun boat
- Heavy shelling continuing in the night

**AMJAD  
MOHAMED-  
SALEEM**

**MUSLIM  
AID SRI  
LANKA**

### 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
- 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'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

