



# Tamils Rehabilitation Organisation

410/112 Bullers Road, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**1 February 2006**

**23:00 hours Sri Lanka Time**

RE:

Statement made by  
Ms. Punniyamoorththy Nadeswari &  
Ms. Siththiravel Sivamathi  
PSEDC Pre School Teachers  
on Wednesday 1 February 2006

The follow statement was made to TRO Batticaloa Staff by **Ms. Punniyamoorththy Nadeswari** and **Ms. Siththiravel Sivamathi** the PSEDC Pre School Teachers who were kidnapped on **Sunday 29 January 2006** at approximately 20:00 hours. They were released 25 hours later at 21:00 hours on Monday 30 January 2006.

The statement was translated from the Tamil original into English by TRO Colombo staff. All times are Sri Lankan Time.

“At about 5:30 PM (17:30 hrs Sunday 29 January 2006) we (*the two Pre School Teachers and one coordinator from Mamunai North*) joined Mr. K Ganeshalingam at Kallady (Batticaloa District). While we were moving on the Batticaloa road police stopped our vehicle and checked us. They asked us, in a threatening manner, whether we were carrying bombs and then allowed us to proceed.

We met Ms. Kalaivani, PSEDC Zonal Coordinator (Kalkuda) at Valaichenai and after meeting we left her in Valaichenai and proceeded towards Welikanda. We saw a white Hi-Ace vehicle following our vehicle. The front lights of this vehicle shed some light into our vehicle. When I looked at my watch it was 8 o'clock (20:00 hrs).

We were subjected to checks at the Welikanda checkpoint. At the time we saw the white van parked behind our vehicle. When we moved a short distance from the checkpoint the white van came behind us, overtook our vehicle and stopped us.

Some men got down from the white van assaulted Mr. Ganeshalingam and the driver tied them up and dumped them in the back of the vehicle. Then they drove the vehicle into the jungle area. After a long drive the vehicle stopped at 11:30 pm (23:30 hrs Sunday 29 January 2006)



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A girl there made a body check on us. We were there the whole night. We were separated and we didn't see Mr. Ganeshalingam and the driver all night. The next morning the PSEDC Divisional Coordinator Ms. Dosini was separated from us. That day night at 9:00 pm (21:00 hrs Monday 30 January 2006) they brought us to the main road put us in a bus and sent us with a warning not to tell this incident to anyone."

## The following persons are still being held by the unidentified armed persons:

### **SUNDAY ABDUCTION** after passing through Welikanda Checkpoint:

Mr. Kasinathar Ganeshalingam	PSEDC North-East Province Secretary
Ms. S. Dosini	PSEDC Divisional Coordinator Mamunai North Division
Mr. Thangarasa	Driver (Missing Vehicle Number: WP PA 3074)

### **MONDAY ABDUCTION** after passing through Welikanda Checkpoint:

Ms. Thanuskody Premini	TRO Batticaloa Chief Accountant
Mr. Shanmuganathan Sujendram	TRO Accountant, Manikkavasahar Children's Home, Santhivelli
Mr. Thambiraja Vasantharajan	Accountant, TRO Batticaloa
Mr. Kailayapillai Ravindran	Accountant, Vipulananda Children's Home, Palugamam
Mr. Arunesarasa Satheswaran	Accounts Trainee, Vellavali

TRO would once again like to appeal to the international community and the Government of Sri Lanka to investigate and make every effort to ensure the safe release of our colleagues.

### For more information please contact:

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