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## Supporting Documents for Petition Regarding Save Tamil Nadu, India Fishermen

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# 1 Introduction

In this document we have attempted to provide the additional information supporting our petition regarding saving Tami Nadu, Indian Fishermen lives.

There are hundreds of news articles available in printed media and in online media. We did not intend to overwhelm United Nations with storms of documents.

We have provided a few sample news articles and government documents including joint statements of India and Sri Lanka governments.

We believe in a simple request United Nations could get complete history of all related documents from both Indian and Sri Lankan governments.

If United Nations requires additional documents from petitioners, we will be more glad to get it.

In section 2, we have provided news articles reporting attacks on Tamil Nadu, India fishermen and also a sample news article about how people protests such attacks in Tamil Nadu, India.

In section 3, we have provided a few Tamil Nadu State Government documents requesting immediate attention of our Indian central government to demand Sri Lanka stop killing our fishermen.

In section 4, we provided couple of joint statements of Indian and Sri Lankan government officials assuring the killings will be stopped.

## 2 Killings & People Protests

### 2.1 First Killing in This Year 2011

<b>Date</b>	January 12, 2011
<b>Source</b>	Times Of India
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/TN-fisherman-shot-dead-by-Lankan-navy-in-mid-sea-firing/articleshow/7274670.cms">http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/TN-fisherman-shot-dead-by-Lankan-navy-in-mid-sea-firing/articleshow/7274670.cms</a>
<b>Comments</b>	This killing happened just two days before our great festival Pongal. All our fishermen families quit Pongal celebrations.



*Indian fisherman shot dead by Sri Lankan navy*

**PUDUKOTTAI:** The Sri Lankan navy opened fire on a group of Tamil Nadu fishermen and killed a youth in mid-sea firing off Jegadapatnam coast in Pudukkottai in central Tamil Nadu on Wednesday night, said a senior fisheries department official.

The Lankan navy personnel opened indiscriminate fire and R Pandian, aged about 25, suffered a bullet injury in his chest and was killed on the spot, an assistant director in the state fisheries department, Jambunathan, told TOI. Pandian, a native of Chinnakudi village near Tarangampadi in Nagapattinam district put out to sea with three other fishermen -- C Baskaran (52), M Meyyappan (26) and M Manikandan (25) -- in a mechanized boat on Wednesday morning. They were preparing for the return trip when they encountered a Sri Lankan navy vessel late in the evening. The Navy personnel ordered the fishermen to jump into the sea.

Meyyappan and Manikandan jumped into the sea immediately while Pandian tried to remove his clothes, when the Lankan navy personnel opened fire. Pandian took the bullet in his chest and collapsed on the boat as the Lankan vessel left.

The fishermen claimed that they were well within the Indian side of the International

**Maritime Border Line.** The incident has triggered a fresh round of tension in the fishing hamlets in the area. The issue figured in the Tamil Nadu assembly on Thursday morning.

Such encounters with Sri Lankan navy are frequent and several Tamil Nadu fishermen have been killed in the past. Earlier it was the civil war in the Island nation that ensured that the Lankan navy strictly monitored the borders to prevent movement of LTTE cadres across the international boundary line. But fishermen complain that the Lankan navy continued to harass them even after the war ended. Recently, they pleaded with the two governments to allow them to go beyond the international boundaries for better fish catch.

## 2.2 Second Killing in Jan 2011

<b>Date</b>	January 23, 2011
<b>Source</b>	Times Of India
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Another-Tamil-Nadu-fisherman-brutally-killed-by-Lankan-Navy/articleshow/7346356.cms#ixzz1BshlcMid">http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Another-Tamil-Nadu-fisherman-brutally-killed-by-Lankan-Navy/articleshow/7346356.cms#ixzz1BshlcMid</a>
<b>Comments</b>	This news reports the second killing happened on last month Jan 2011.

### **Another Tamil Nadu fisherman brutally killed by Lankan Navy**

NAGAPATTINAM: Another Tamil Nadu fisherman was killed in a brutal manner on Saturday night by the Sri Lankan Navy off Vedaranyam coast in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu.

This time though, a young fisherman was dragged into the sea with a rope tied around his neck by the Lankan naval personnel. Only 10 days ago, another young fisherman had been killed mid-sea by Lankan naval personnel.

State fisheries department officials said N Jayakumar (27), his brother A Senthil (25) and A Rajendran (55), all from Pushpavanam village had ventured into the sea on Saturday morning in a fibre boat.

They had cast their net in the evening and were fishing south east of Kodiakkarai coast when a Sri Lankan naval vessel approached them around 11 pm. The Lankan naval personnel ordered the fishermen to jump into the sea. Rajendran and Senthil jumped immediately. But Jayakumar hesitated as he had lost two fingers in his right arm during the 2004 tsunami making it difficult for him to swim in the sea. Even as he was pleading with the Sri Lankan naval personnel, they entered his boat, tied a rope around his neck and pushed him into the sea. "Holding the other end of the rope in their boat, the Lankan naval personnel had dragged him for a while in the sea. Later they had asked the other two fishermen to take Jayakumar into the boat and left the place," a fisheries official told TOI.

By the time Rajendran and Senthil pulled Jayakumar into the boat, he was found dead. S Vivekandanthan, assistant director (marine), department of fisheries said they were waiting for the postmortem examination report.

"According to the fishermen, Jayakumar was thrown into the sea with a rope tied around his neck and was drowned to death," he said.

Meanwhile, in Chennai, Union finance minister Pranab Mukherjee, who called on chief minister M Karunanidhi on Sunday morning, told reporters that he would take up the matter with the external affairs ministry.

"We have been helping the Sri Lankan government. There is no justification for what they are doing. If our fishermen have done anything wrong, there is a due procedure," he told reporters after the meeting Karunanaidhi at his residence in Chennai.

RMP Rajendran Nattar, district president of Indian National Fishermen Trade Union said that it has been a regular practice of Sri Lankan navy to throw fishermen into the sea if they refuse to part with their fish catch. Only on January 12, a fisherman from Jagathapattinam in Pudukottai was shot dead by the Lankan Navy.

## 2.3 Third Attack in 2011

<b>Date</b>	February 07, 2011
<b>Source</b>	IBNLive
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://ibnlive.in.com/news/lankan-navy-attacks-tn-fishermen-three-injured/142623-3.html">http://ibnlive.in.com/news/lankan-navy-attacks-tn-fishermen-three-injured/142623-3.html</a>
<b>Comments</b>	This news reports the third attack in 2011. This attack has happened with a few days of joint statement given by both India and Sri Lankan governments on January 31, 2011.

### Lankan Navy attacks TN fishermen, three injured



**New Delhi:** Three fisherman from Tamil Nadu were injured on Monday in a mid-sea attack as their boats were ransacked by the Sri Lankan Navy.

Lankan Navy personnel allegedly ransacked their boat and pushed the trio into the sea on charges of straying into Lankan territorial waters.

This is the third such attack on Indian fisherman to be reported this year.

External Affairs Minister SM Krishna is set to raise the issue with his Lankan counterpart G L Peiris on the sidelines of the ongoing SAARC summit in Thimphu on Monday.



## 2.4 Fishermen Protest – Jan 2011

**Date** January 27, 2011  
**Source** Sify News  
**Web Link** <http://www.sify.com/news/tamil-nadu-fishermen-protest-against-killings-by-lankan-navy-news-national-lb1uEdgdcii.html>  
**Comments** Thousands of fishermen protested requesting security for lives  
**Tamil Nadu fishermen protest against killings by Lankan navy**  
2011-01-27 20:40:00

Thousands of fishermen staged a demonstration here on Thursday to protest against the recent killing of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan navy. The activists of the fishermen community sat on the roads and blocked the traffic for several hours.

Ramakrishnan, a leader of Tamil Nadu Fishermen Battle Organization told reporters that the Central Government has constantly failed in providing security to their community.

"For the past 12 years we have been asking for our security as well as the security of our belongings but the Indian Government has failed to do so," said Ramakrishnan.

The activists later raised slogans against the Sri Lankan Government demanding immediate action by the government to stop such incidents.

Ramakrishnan further warned that if the attacks are repeated, then the fishermen would go to war with the Sri Lankan navy.

"If the same type of attack repeated once again then we would be compelled to send 25,000 trained youth to wage a war on Sri Lanka," said Ramakrishnan.

A fisherman from Tamil Nadu was killed on January 12 and another injured after the Sri Lankan navy opened fire on them at sea near the Tamil Nadu coast.

The fishermen belong to a village in Pudukottai, about 350 kilometres from Chennai.  
(ANI)

## 2.5 Killing and Tortures – July 2010

<b>Date</b>	January 9, 2010
<b>Source</b>	Flash News Today
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://flashnewstoday.com/index.php/sln-kills-tamil-nadu-fisherman-torture-4-others/">http://flashnewstoday.com/index.php/sln-kills-tamil-nadu-fisherman-torture-4-others/</a>
<b>Comments</b>	This news reports the brutal attacking of Sri Lankan Navy on our Tamil Nadu, Indian fishermen.

### **SLN kills Tamil Nadu fisherman, torture 4 others**

Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) soldiers brutally attacked Wednesday fishermen from Vethaara'niyam in Tamil Nadu killing one of them besides denuding and torturing fellow fishermen as they were fishing in Tamil Nadu seas, according to Maalai Malar Tamil daily published in Chennai. SLN continue its brutal attacks on Tamil Nadu fishermen despite protests raised by the Central and Tamil Nadu governments, Maalai Malar said.

The English version of the report is as follows:

“Fishermen Chellappan, Kaliyappan, Selvaraj and Thuruvanpulam from Ve'l'appaalam near Vethaara'niyam went fishing in a boat Wednesday. Four more fishermen Murukesan, Arivalagan, Chinappoo and Iliyarajah from the same area too went in another boat.

Around 9:00 p.m as they were fishing near Aa'rukkaadduththu'rai on mid sea SLN soldiers who came there were enraged to see the fishermen from Tamil Nadu.

The SLN soldiers blocked Chellappan's boat and forcibly got into it. They dumped the catch and the fishing net they found in the boat into the sea.

They then attacked the four fishermen including Chellappan with iron rods. Chellappan, unable to stand the attack, fell dead in the boat while Kaliyappan, Selvaraj and Thiruvanpulam were seriously injured.

Later the SLN soldiers got into the boat of Murukesan and attacked Arivalagan, Chinnappoo and Ilayarajah with iron rods and denuded them and threw them overboard. All four of them were seriously injured in this attack.

The SLN soldiers left them after warning the Tamil Nadu fishermen who returned to the shore at midnight.

Fisheries Resources Co-director, Umakanthan inquired the seven fishermen including Kaliyappan who had managed to escape alive.

Tension prevails in Ve'l'lampa'l'lam and Aarukkaadduththu'rai fisher folk villages where people are enraged over the killing of Chellappan by SLN soldiers.”

## 2.6 SLN Navy Attacked 22 Fishermen – July 2008

**Date** July 17, 2008  
**Source** JDS – Journalists for Democracy in Sri Lanka  
**Web Link** <http://www.jdslanka.org/2009/09/lankan-navy-threatened-to-kill-us.html>  
**Comments** This news show how shamefully our fishermen were treated by Sri Lankan Navy.

### 'Lankan Navy threatened to kill us' - Indian Fishermen

In what is a shocking story from Tamil Nadu, twenty-two fishermen from the Nagercoil area of Tamil Nadu allege Sri Lankan Navy assaulted and humiliated them. The fishermen who were fishing in the Kanniyaakumari seas were reported to have been brutally assaulted and cast naked in high seas by Sri Lanka Navy soldiers.

The incident occurred on Friday night. The soldiers beat the fishermen with ice blocks and threatened to open fire on them after they confiscated their clothes, fishing nets and outboard motors.

The ordeal of the fishermen ended when they were thrown into the sea. However, they managed to swim to safety.

After swimming in the rough seas for several hours, the fishermen were spotted by local fishermen off the Tamil Nadu coast and were rushed to the hospital on the mainland.

The Secretary of the Fishermen's Association said it was an ordeal that the fishermen have yet to recover from.

An associate said, "22 of us were made to sit and stripped naked. The Lankan Navy soldiers threatened to beat us with sticks if we did not remove our clothes. They also threatened us with guns."

According to a fisherman, "We went into the waters at 11 pm. 2 Lankan Navy boats surrounded our boats. They got onto our boats, stripped us and threw our clothes and all other equipments into the water."

Meanwhile, the government of Tamil Nadu has said the matter would be taken up with the Central government to ensure that this does not happen again.

DMK Spokesperson, TKS Elangovan, said, "Tamil Nadu government condemns this act. This is inhuman treatment meted out to our fishermen by the Lankan army. We have passed a resolution urging the UPA government to act immediately and stop this treatment."

## 2.7 Various Attacks On Our Fishermen – July 1997

<b>Date</b>	July 30, 1997
<b>Source</b>	TamilNet News Website
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&amp;artid=41">http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&amp;artid=41</a>
<b>Comments</b>	This articles provides overview of Sri Lankan attacks on Tamil Nadu, Indian fishermen also around the period of 1996 and 1997

### **Colombo plays down Indian deaths**

[TamilNet, Wednesday, 30 July 1997, 23:59 GMT]

On Monday, the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry denied its security forces had fired on Indian fishing craft as described by the Indian High Commission here. According to the Indian government, Sri Lankan gunboats and aircraft had fired on fishermen from Tamil Nadu on July 14 and 17 respectively. Sri Lanka denied what it called 'monstrous allegations'. However, the Foreign Ministry's feigned innocence is in sharp contrast to the regularity of attacks on Tamil and Indian fishermen carried out by the Sri Lankan military.

In a statement, the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry said that it "categorically refutes the monstrous allegation that Sri Lankan aircraft have deliberately intruded into Indian territorial waters and attacked fishermen". Sri Lankan gunships are said to have attacked Indian Tamil fishermen close to the Tamil Nadu coastline on July 17.

According to three survivors, in another incident on July 14, Sri Lankan gunboats had attacked an Indian fishing boat, sinking it and killing two people on board. The Sri Lankans admit that two of their craft were in the vicinity, but deny they had fired on the Indians.

The issue was raised by the Indian High Commission because of rising public anger in Tamil Nadu. On Monday, a thousand people gathered in front of the Sri Lankan Deputy High Commissioner's office in Madras to protest.

Despite Sri Lanka's protestations of innocence, there have been several recent incidents in which Indian fishermen have been killed by Sri Lankan naval vessels or aircraft. On May 3 fishermen were killed when Sri Lankan gunboats strafed their boat. Last December two Indians were killed and seven injured in a similar incident. Another Indian was killed in another attack a month earlier, and there have been several other attacks in the past few years, with scores of Indians being killed and wounded.

Cartoon: Times of India, 13.12.1984



However, these incidents pale in comparison to the hundreds of Tamil fishermen killed by the Sri Lankan military in the same period. Whilst most deaths occur when the boats are at sea, many Tamil fishermen have died when the Sri Lankan navy and air force have blasted fishing villages on the coastline of the Tamil homelands.

On March 15, 1996, Sea Tigers attacked SLN vessels off Mannar, sinking one, destroying another and capturing a third. The following morning, Sri Lankan Air Force Mi-24 gunships leveled Nachchikudah village, killing 16 civilians and severely wounding 60 others. The Sri Lankan military described the attack as the destruction of an 'LTTE camp' and claimed 30 'terrorists' had been killed, despite protests by Members of Parliament, aid workers, local priests and civil servants.

On occasion, several Sri Lankan craft will take up position off a Tamil village and systematically destroy all standing structures. The Mullaitivu and Mannar coastlines are particularly vulnerable as they are crowded with fishermen who had fled the Jaffna peninsula in early 1996, ahead of a Sri Lankan army offensive. The attacks on fishing communities are typically claimed as attacks on Sea Tiger 'bases'.

Hitting coastal Tamil towns and villages has been a long-standing practice of the Sri Lankan navy. In August 1984, over 100 Tamil civilians were slaughtered when a Sri Lankan flotilla stood off the Tamil town of Velvettithurai (VVT) and launched a sustained barrage, according to the Times of India. The Sea Tigers had not been formed then, and Sri Lanka enjoyed uncontested supremacy of the seas around the island. VVT has regularly been targeted since as it is the LTTE leader's hometown.

Apart from the fact that most Indian fishing boats in the Palk Strait would be from Tamil Nadu fishing communities (and therefore crewed by Tamils), the Sinhalese have been ready to fire on Indian vessels as there are territorial disputes with India. In particular, the ownership of Katchathivu island has always been a point of contention.

Sri Lanka was to have taken possession of the island while Indian boats were to be granted access to the rich seas around it, according to an agreement. However, Sri Lankan naval vessels have jealously guarded this tiny island, firing at Indian fishermen

who approach it. Though this issue has not featured prominently between the two countries, it is an important issue in the state of Tamil Nadu.

The Indian central government is unlikely to let what it considers a trivial issue disrupt its efforts to build better relationships with Sri Lanka. True to form, the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister has blamed acrimony on the Tamil Tigers who he says "were constantly looking out for opportunities to disrupt the good relationship between Sri Lanka and India".

However, given recent events, it would appear that the Sri Lankan navy is quite capable of infuriating south India's Tamils unaided and the LTTE does not have any helicopter gunships.

Whilst Sri Lanka's prompt denial will probably give Delhi the opportunity to turn to Madras and shrug its shoulders, simmering anger in the south Indian state will fuel anti-Sri Lanka sentiment, which in turn can be expected to increase local support for the Tamil Tigers.

These are some of the attacks carried out by the Sri Lankan security forces on Tamil and Indian fishermen in the past 18 months. It is believed that many other fishermen who simply go missing have also been killed by the Sri Lankan Navy (SLN), but such instances are not included here.

19 Jan 1996 SLN gunboats attack Tamil fishing boats off Mullaitivu coast and shell shoreline villages. Several fishermen are killed, and bodies later wash up.

23 Jan 1996 SLN gunboats return to Mathathalan village area and open fire on fishing boats. One fisherman is killed, but others swim to shore. Their boats are destroyed.

2 Feb 1996 SLN gunboats fire on Tamil fishermen off Thanankilappu, wounding one.

3 Feb 1996 SLN gunboats launch dawn attack on Tamil fishing boats off Jaffna peninsula. One man was injured, but was rescued by fellow fishermen.

24 Feb 1996 SLN gunboats open fire on a group of Tamil fishing boats, destroying one.

5 Mar 1996 SLN gunboats fire on Tamil fishing boats off the Jaffna peninsula's eastern coast, sinking two. Fishermen abandon their boats and swim to nearby shore whilst navy confiscate their craft.

7 Mar 1996 SLN gunboats strafe Mullaitivu coastline, forcing residents to flee into the interior.

8 Mar 1996 Tamil boats fishing at night are attacked by several SLN gunboats. One fisherman is killed instantly.

16 Apr 1996 SLN gunboats fire on a Tamil fishing boat off Sirutheevu island, killing one man.

20 Apr 1996 SLN gunboats fire on Tamil fishing boats off Mannar, wounding one man.

9 Sep 1996 SLN gunboats fire on Tamil fishing boats off Mullaitivu coast, destroying several boats and killing one man.

10 Sep 1996 Whilst attacking an LTTE radar station, SLN gunboats pound nearby Tamil villages , killing at least three fishermen and wounding many others.

14 November 1996 Three fishermen returning to shore are fired on and arrested by Sri Lankan troops. Two were later found murdered.

23 November 1996 SLN gunboats fire on Indian fishing boat, killing one man.

18 Dec 1996 SLN gunboats fire on Indian fishermen, killing two and wounding seven. SLN craft also fire on Tamil fishermen elsewhere, killing one.

22 December 1996 SLN gunboats pursue and fire on Indian fishing boats, killing one man.

9 Jan 1997 The body of an Indian fisherman washes up on Mannar beach, riddled with bullets.

20 Jan 1997 A fisherman is killed in the sea off Trincomalee, when SLN gunboats fire on his boat.

23 Jan 1997 The headless body of a fisherman washes up on a Mullaitivu beach.

SLN gunboats launch night bombardment of Alampil village, causing villagers to flee deeper inland.

25 Jan 1997 Another headless body of a fisherman washes up on the Mullaitivu shore.

8 Feb 1997 SLN gunboats fire on fishing boats setting out from Mathalm village in Mullaitivu and then also attack the village.

17 Feb 1997 Sri Lankan jets bomb fishing boats off Mannar, killing three fishermen and wounding six. More than half the flotilla of 35 boats are destroyed.

13 Mar 1997 SLN gunboats attack a fishing boat before strafing nearby Tamil villages on Mullaitivu coast. One fisherman goes missing, presumed dead.

30 Mar 1997 A fisherman is wounded when his boat is fired on in Batticaloa lagoon.



27 Apr 1997 A Mannar fisherman is killed when SLN gunboats fire on his dinghy.

10 May 1997 A fisherman is shot dead whilst fishing in Batticaloa lagoon.

11 May 1997 Three Indian fisherman are shot dead by SLN personnel.

12 May 1997 Sri Lankan air force jets bomb and strafe Tamil fishing villages in Mullaitivu, destroying houses and boats.

13 May 1997 Air assault on Mullaitivu continues as SLN gunboats also shell villages on the shore line. Six fishermen are killed, and seven injured.

12 July 1997 SLN gunboats decimate fishing boats along Mullaitivu coast. Ten fishermen go missing after the attack and are presumed dead.

13 July 1997 SLN gunboats shell Mullaitivu coastal villages. Sri Lankan gunships destroy several fishing boats at sea.

## 3 TN State Government Actions

### 3.1 Request to Prime Minister – Sep 2006

<b>Date</b>	September 22, 2006
<b>Source</b>	Tamil Nadu Government Press Release
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://www.tn.gov.in/pressrelease/archives/pr2006/pr220906/pr220906_130.pdf">http://www.tn.gov.in/pressrelease/archives/pr2006/pr220906/pr220906_130.pdf</a>
<b>Comments</b>	This is one of the requests sent by our Tamil Nadu Honorable Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi to our Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. This official government document shows the facts of Sri Lankan Navy attacks Tamilnadu, Indian fishermen in Indian Territory Waters also.

#### **Press Note No.130 Dated 22-9-2006**

#### **D.O.Letter No.16804/FS 6/2006 Dated: 22. 09.2006**

Dear Prime Minister,

In recent past, a number of incidents of attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy on Fishermen of Tamil Nadu have caused great distress and hardship to the coastal fishermen of Tamil Nadu, and is a matter of great concern to the Government of Tamil Nadu. On 8.9.06, reports have been received regarding the inhuman act of the Sri Lankan Navy when they intercepted four Tamilian fishermen of Sirvathur (near Velankanni), took their catches, manhandled the fishermen and pushed them out of the boat into the sea ordering them to swim to safety. Two of these fishermen are feared to have drowned as they could not be rescued. **What is pertinent to note is that all the four fishermen were fishing within the Indian territorial waters, south east of Vedaranyam (at 5 lengths depth).** This incident has caused deep anguish and distress and has led to spontaneous protests by the fishermen especially in Nagapattinam district.

Prior to this incident, on 5th September 2006, the Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu had sent a D.O. letter to the Foreign Secretary requesting him to take up the issue of expediting the restoration of traditional fishing rights of Indian Fishermen in and around Katchathivu in the Palk Bay Region. **Unfortunately, now the Sri Lankan Navy has started preventing the fishermen of Tamil Nadu from fishing in our own territorial waters.** The total number of such incidents for the last few months is growing causing great anxiety to us.

As you are aware the fishermen of Tamil Nadu depend essentially on fishing in the waters near the Katchathivu for their livelihood. Attention of the Government of India has been drawn repeatedly by the Government of Tamil Nadu to the incidents of violence which Indian fishermen face in this region. Government of India has also been repeatedly urged to restore the traditional rights and privileges to carry on the normal occupation of fishing in these waters. As it is the question of the livelihood of our fishermen this issue is of great

concern for this Government and it is due to this concern that in the Governor's address to the Legislative Assembly on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2006 incorporated the following **"Necessary measures will be undertaken to safeguard the traditional fishing rights of fishermen of Tamil Nadu to undertake fishing activities near Katchathivu and to remove the difficulties faced by them"**.

I am sure you are also aware of the fact that the Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu had passed a resolution in 1991 on this issue wherein the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly called upon the Government of India to take all urgent action and efforts necessary to get back Katchathivu and restore it to the Indian territory apart from moving the Sri Lankan Government to pay compensation for families of fishermen killed by the Sri Lankan Navy as well as those who have lost their belongings in the attacks by them. Government of India was also requested to move the Sri Lankan Government **to create "Congenial conditions for Tamil Nadu fishermen to lead a peaceful life"**.

During the second meeting of the Indo-Sri Lankan Joint Working Group on Fisheries held in Colombo on 31.1.2006 with the Co-Chairman and the Joint Secretary (BSM), Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs, Tamil Nadu Government had suggested that Government of India should at least persuade the Sri Lankan Government to permit authorised fishing for fishermen in Sri Lankan waters at a distance of 5 nautical miles.

In the light of this, it is suggested that Government of India could work out a perpetual lease of Katchathivu for fishing, drying of nets and pilgrimage within the purview of the existing agreement .

I would be grateful if you could kindly look into this and use your good offices to resolve this long pending issue and restore the traditional fishing rights of Indian fishermen in the waters in and around Katchathivu and impress upon the Sri Lankan Government to instruct their Navy to desist from harming innocent Indian, more specifically fishermen of Tamil Nadu who solely depend on fishing in these waters for their livelihood.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

**(M. KARUNANIDHI)**

To

**Dr. Manmohan Singh,**

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,

Government of India,

New Delhi - 110001.

**Issued by:-** The Director of Information and Public Relations, Chennai-9

## 3.2 Request to Prime Minister – August 2008

<b>Date</b>	August 03, 2008
<b>Source</b>	Tamil Nadu Government Press Release
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://www.tn.gov.in/pressrelease/archives/pr2008/pr080308/pr080308_22.pdf">http://www.tn.gov.in/pressrelease/archives/pr2008/pr080308/pr080308_22.pdf</a>
<b>Comments</b>	This is one of the requests sent by our Tamil Nadu Honorable Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi to our Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. This official government document shows the facts of Sri Lankan Navy along with other violent groups of Sri Lanka attacks Tamilnadu, Indian fishermen.

### **Letter addressed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India**

**Date : 08.03.2008**

**Dear PM,**

**I am writing this letter to bring to your kind notice the anguish caused to me as well as the people of Tamil Nadu by the two shooting incidents which took place near Katchathivu on 5.3.08 wherein one fisherman by name Christy succumbed to his injuries and another fisherman , N. Francis is recovering from severe bullet injury. While local enquiries from the District of Ramanathapuram revealed that the boats were fired upon by Sri Lankan Navy near Katchathivu, the Sri Lankan Government has denied the same. However, what is true is that the incidents have taken place and we have lost a precious life.**

**As you are aware, in the past few months a number of incidents have been taking place in the International waters between Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka. Further, I would also add that there is yet another dimension to the problem which is caused by a certain local Sri Lankan organization called "*Langai Vadaku Pradesa Padhukappu Kazhagam*" who have threatened the Tamil Nadu fishermen in the last few months with dire consequences if in case the Tamil Nadu fishermen venture into Sri Lankan waters.**

**The frequent firing incidents have created a sense of insecurity and unrest among the fishermen in Tamil nadu and are causing lot of concern. Even yesterday, the Sri Lankan Navy has arrested 62 fishermen of Tamil Nadu in the mid-sea, causing anxiety and tension among the fishermen. It is necessary to contain the arbitrary activities of the Sri Lankan Navy. The protests and agitations staged by the fishermen of Tamil Nadu against the firing incidents are some**

times becoming unmanageable and creating law and order problems. As the situation is becoming alarming day by day and unprovoked attacks are taking place often, I would request the Coast Guards and the Navy to be instructed to be more vigilant and carry out effective patrolling and surveillance at sea. The sea surveillance also needs to be adequately strengthened.

I would therefore once again like to draw your attention to the D.O.letter from me dated 30.3.2007 wherein I had requested for (i) enhanced presence of Coast Guard and Navy for intensive sea and air patrolling with additional man power, and state-of the art Vessels and Aircrafts, and (ii) the entire sea patrolling of Tamil Nadu Coast to be brought under one single command irrespective of East or West Sea Coast, as presently there is some confusion in this matter.

I had also listed certain safety systems like (i) stationing an OPV with Helicopter to be stationed at Thoothukudi under the exclusive control of Eastern Command of the Coast Guard, (ii) providing funding for a seamless communication developed by the State Fisheries department, (iii) establishing and equipping with state of the art patrol and interceptive boats, a Coast Guard Station at Kanyakumari and bringing the entire coast guard command, to be put in position without any delay to substantially increase the security of the Tamil Nadu coastline and IMBL adjoining it as well as the safety of the fishermen.

In view of the incidents which have taken place in this area, it is imperative that the Defence Ministry gives adequate attention to my suggestions and ensures the protection of the Indian Maritime Boundary, as well as the Fishermen who operate in this area.

Needless to add that we have repeatedly instructed our fishermen from crossing the IMBL but the fishermen are guided by the availability of fish which, as you know, is available in plenty near Katchathivu - which has from time immemorial been the traditional fishing ground of fishermen of Tamil Nadu. **However my request is that even in cases where the fishermen have strayed into Sri Lankan waters, the men should be treated as per International Laws and norms and not through violence and bullets.**

I shall be grateful if the requests of the State Government are implemented on a war footing. Also the concern and sentiments of the State Government may be conveyed to Sri Lankan Government by the External Affairs Ministry with a request to ensure humanitarian

**treatment to the fishermen even if they have inadvertently strayed into their waters.**

**Yours sincerely,**

**Sd/-**

**(M. KARUNANIDHI)**

**To**

**Dr Manmohan Singh,  
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,  
New Delhi.**

### 3.3 Request to Prime Minister – Jan 2011

**Date** January 13, 2011  
**Source** Tamil Nadu Government Press Release  
**Web Link** [http://www.tn.gov.in/seithi\\_veliyeeedu/pr13Jan11/pr130111\\_10.pdf](http://www.tn.gov.in/seithi_veliyeeedu/pr13Jan11/pr130111_10.pdf)  
**Comments** Telegram sent by our Tamil Nadu Honorable Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi to our Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh requesting immediate action. This telegram indicates the failure of assurances from both Indian and Sri Lankan governments.

**Press Note No. 10 Date:13.01.2011**

#### **TELEGRAM**

A fisherman by name, Thiru. Veerapandian of Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu and 3 other fishermen were fishing at Palk Strait from Jagathapattinam Fishing Base in Pudukkottai District, in the boat PK/06/94 on 12.01.2011, when the Srilankan Navy opened fire on them, killing Thiru.Veerapandian. The atrocities of Srilankan Navy are continuing unabated, in spite of repeated assurances given by both Government of India as well as Srilankan Government. This particular incident may be taken up with the Government of Srilanka for immediate action against those responsible for shooting and killing. Your personal intervention is requested for firm action to put an end to such killings.

**M. KARUNANIDHI**

CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU.

To

**Dr. Manmohan Singh,**

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,  
New Delhi.

Issued by : DIPR , St. George Fort, Chennai-09.

## 4 India - Sri Lanka Govt. Assurances

### 4.1 Joint Statement – No Firing – October 2008

<b>Date</b>	October 26, 2008
<b>Source</b>	Indian Government Ministry of External Affairs Press Release
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://meaindia.nic.in/mystart.php?id=530214308">http://meaindia.nic.in/mystart.php?id=530214308</a>
<b>Comments</b>	In this joint statement Sri Lankan government assured no firing on Indian fishing vessels.

#### **India-Sri Lanka Joint Statement on Fishing Arrangements**

October 26, 2008

Keeping in mind the humanitarian and livelihood dimensions of the fishermen issue, India and Sri Lanka have agreed to put in place practical arrangements to deal with bonafide Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). This was agreed to during the visit to New Delhi on 26th October 2008 of Honourable Basil Rajapaksa, Member of Parliament and Senior Adviser to the President of Sri Lanka.

As part of these practical arrangements, following the designation by the Government of Sri Lanka of sensitive areas along the Sri Lankan coastline and their intimation to the Government of India, Indian fishing vessels will not venture into these identified sensitive areas. **Further, there will be no firing on Indian fishing vessels.**

It was agreed that Indian fishing vessels would carry valid registration/permit and the fishermen would have on person valid identity cards issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

India and Sri Lanka have agreed to continue with their discussions, initiated in 2005, on the proposed Memorandum of Understanding on development and cooperation in the field of fisheries.

New Delhi  
26th October, 2008



## 4.2 Joint Statement – January 2011

<b>Date</b>	January 31, 2011
<b>Source</b>	Indian Government Ministry of External Affairs Press Release
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://meaindia.nic.in/mystart.php?id=550317124">http://meaindia.nic.in/mystart.php?id=550317124</a>
<b>Comments</b>	In this joint statement both governments agreed the need to discuss further regarding safety and security of the fishermen.

### **Joint Statement during the visit of Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao to Sri Lanka**

January 31, 2011

The Foreign Secretary of India, Mrs. Nirupama Rao, visited Sri Lanka on 30-31 January 2011. During her visit, she called on His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksa and the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Prof. G.L. Peiris, on 31st January 2011. She also met Secretary to the President Mr. Lalith Weeratunga, Defence Secretary Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa and External Affairs Secretary Mr. C.R. Jayasinghe.

During the discussions, Foreign Secretary Rao expressed the deep concern of the Government of India at the recent violent incidents in the waters between India and Sri Lanka, which had resulted in the tragic death of two Indian fishermen. She stressed that these incidents should be fully investigated and all steps taken to prevent their recurrence in future. The Sri Lanka authorities emphasized in this regard that it is the consistent policy of Sri Lanka to treat in a humanitarian manner all fishermen, including those from the Indian fishing community, who cross into Sri Lanka waters. Given the very close bilateral relationship between the two countries, any development which impacts on the wellbeing of the Indian fishing community pursuing their livelihoods in the waters between the two countries, is of the utmost concern to Sri Lanka. The Government of Sri Lanka is therefore committed to ascertaining the facts behind the incidents. While continuing with further inquiries, the Sri Lankan authorities have requested that additional information be made available by the Indian side. **Both sides agreed that the use of force cannot be justified under any circumstances.**

The two sides noted that the Joint Statement on Fishing Arrangements of 26th October 2008, which had put in place practical arrangements to deal with bona fide fishermen crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), had led to a decrease in incidents. **They agreed on the need to discuss arrangements based on the current situation so as to strengthen the safety and security of the fishermen.**

Accordingly, it was decided that the next meeting of the Joint Working Group on Fishing would be convened at an early date, which would, inter-alia, address various issues relating to fishing by the two sides. The Joint Working Group would also address the

proposed Memorandum of Understanding on development and cooperation in the field of fisheries. It was decided as well to enhance and promote contacts between the fishermen's associations on both sides, since such contacts have proved to be mutually beneficial.

Colombo  
January 31, 2011