



வடகிழக்கு மனித உரிமைகள் செயலகம்
North East Secretariat on Human Rights - NESOHR

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13 November 2009

**NESOHR working with MANITHAM
on the Publication of the book on Massacres of Tamils**

During the early part of the life of NESOHR, the Statistical Division of North-East (SNE), and NESOHR collated the large scale massacres of Tamils in the island, spanning nearly five decades, into a report, "Lest We Forget – Part 1". This was released in our website in English in 2007. NESOHR released another report, "Lest We Forget – Part 2", in July 2008, recording the massacres that occurred since the later part of 2005.

In October 2008, five months after its chair-person Fr M X Karunaratnam was assassinated by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces, NESOHR displaced with the entire city of Kilinocchchi. NESOHR quickly re-established itself in Puthukkudiyiruppu with minimal facilities and started releasing reports on current events. When the genocide attacks of artillery and aerial bombardment was stepped up by the Sri Lankan military in January 2009, NESOHR staff could not report to work and it effectively shut down. Later, our staffs who were in Vanni were interned in the camps for several months. From there, some of us managed to find our way out of the island and regroup. Like the rest of the population from Vanni, NESOHR is still searching for many of its staff, at the same time fearful of putting out public notices.

It is in this context that the MANITHAM human rights group has come forward to publish the two reports mentioned above as a book in several languages. NESOHR made the decision to fully support MANITHAM in this endeavour and is working closely with them. MANITHAM expects the release date for the book to be in December 2009. MANITHAM, is based in Chennai in India, and has been working for human rights and environmental protection for many years.

The two reports have been combined and updated with events until the end 2008. NESOHR does not want to claim that it can document the events of 2009. A brief last section has, however, been added on the evolution of these events. Report on this period ought to be published separately after an enormous amount of information gathering, a very dangerous task in the prevailing culture of terror in the Tamil homeland.

NESOHR Team