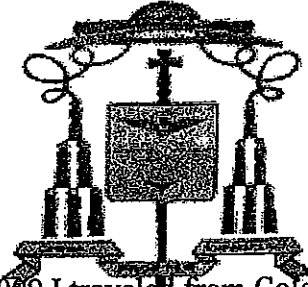


Annex n. ....

Report n. 405/10 .....

Date 14.7.2010 .....

Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Savundaranayagam  
Bishop of Jaffna



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Your Excellency,

On the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2009 I traveled from Colombo to Cheddikulam in order to visit my priests of the Jaffna Diocese who are working for the refugees in the IDPS Camps and also visit myself the camps. Having met the Dean Fr A.F Bennet and appraised of the situation. I went to see the the 3 priests in Camp 4 and the people. With the permission of the CCMP Major Bandara, we were able to go into the campo with a MP as escort. I was able to meet Frs Amalaraj, Stephen and Alfred omi and speak to them in order to find out their situation and life in the camp. They were living just like the IDPs in small tent with bare minimum of things and sharing the food that is give to the others. They celebrated Mass in the tent and Sundays celebrated Mass for the people in a common place. They had very little privacy and opportunity to teach the children. They are for all purpose treated as captives since they were rescued by the military on their last operation in the proximity of the terrorists. Having prayed with them we left them to meet the Brigadier who was in over all charge of the IDPS camps. Visited also Camp One called Arunachalam Camp where Fr.Reginald omi was detained and he was staying with his own parents. who were also old. He was teaching the pre-school teachers psycho-social information

Brigadier L.C.Perera

Having prayed with them we left them to meet the Brigadier who was in over all charge of the IDPS camps. After thanking him for the permission given to our Fathers to celebrate Sunday Mass in some camps, I asked him to extend this to other camps and make it liberally for fathers to visit. When we asked him about releasing the Fathers from the detention camps, he was firm that it would be difficult and would not happen soon.

Ulukulam – Verrapuram and other camps.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> I visited the Veerapuram Camp where Frs Mariathas and Neheru are detained. Reluctantly the military allowed us to visit the camp. The two priests were very Happy to meet me. They had grown beard but were alright. They too were in small tents where they ate, slept and said Mass. They said that they were able to help in the distribution of the provisions for cooking supplied by Caritas-Jaffna. And they said mass on Sundays for people and were also able to counsel those who approached them. They were keeping themselves occupied.

In general they all feel the effects of detention and isolation from other priests community. But also felt that their presence was appreciated by the IDPS themselves and they wanted priests to stay with them.

On The 15<sup>th</sup> Evening I went to Sumathupuram a camp on the Neriyaikulam Road to Vavuniya and I was given permission to celebrate Mass for the people. Under a small common shed I said mass and 300 people were present. A Rev Sr Ruparani stays here with some orphan children.