

Tigers loot twenty lorry loads of kerosene. (1993, November 20).
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UNHCR stop relief work in North

Tigers loot twenty lorry loads of kerosene

by Shamindra Ferdinando

With the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) suspending relief work in the North, Tigers have started looting essential supplies sent by the government to the Madhu refugees.

The UNHCR suspended all relief work in northern areas controlled by the LTTE including the transportation of supplies to Mannar mainland after Tamils threatened its staff stationed in Madhu and organised at least six demonstrations protesting against the UNHCR since mid August this year, sources based in North said.

Informed sources said Tigers had surreptitiously removed twenty lorry loads of kerosene on November 2. Tigers had loaded the barrels of

kerosene into their vehicles, sources said.

These sources said 32 lorries had gone from Mannar to Vavuniya to collect barrels of kerosene. The Tigers laid in wait at Madhu till the lorries returned with fuel and then looted the barrels in twenty lorries.

The transportation of kerosene had been arranged by government officials engaged in relief work and the Mannar Government Agent's office.

Informed sources said any attempts to send supplies to the Madhu refugees through state officials based in Mannar without UNHCR protection would only help the Tigers to divert essential supplies, for their use.

Sources also said that after UNHCR's suspension of relief work the Government Agent Mannar

was making arrangements to take over the transportation of essential supplies to Mannar shortly. But State intervention was not going to prevent the Tigers from looting supplies sent for refugees, sources said.

"Mannar people are so keen to replace the UNHCR we wonder why", one source said.

Military officers have repeatedly accused that certain government officials were covertly helping the Tigers to secure essential supplies particularly food.

Meanwhile the UNHCR believe that it could not resume relief work in rebel held areas in the North until the LTTE assured to guarantee full security to its staff.