

**Eight Sinhala fisherman captured by tigers. (1994, November 04).
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Eight Sinhala fishermen captured by Tigers

**Wimal Keerthi,
our Negombo Corr.**

Tigers have captured eight Sinhala fishermen who were fishing in the high seas at Kokilai in the Mullaitivu district around 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

The captured fishermen are from Negombo, Marawila, Katuneriya and Arasimale. K. A. D. Ravindra Jayashantha (17), K. M. Ranjan Fernando (32), Vasantha (25) and five others whose names are still not known have been seized by the tigers, according to eye witnesses K. M. Sunith

Shantha (26) and M. Nilan Christie (28) of Duwa, Negombo.

They recalled: "A large number of Sinhala fishermen are living in the Kokilai fishing village. They are from Negombo Duwa, Katuneriya, Trincomalee Arasimalai. On security advice they had gone fishing in the Kokilai sea front about 6 a.m. on the day of the incident. There were about 30 fishing boats around us. Around 10 a.m. we saw a long red boat moving at high-speed approaching us. This boat steered round

the 3½ ton fishing vessel which was in our vicinity. Nearby there were two fibre glass boats also engaged in fishing. At that moment we clearly saw the presence of about 10 to 15 persons in the red boat. They were clad in commando-type uniforms and carrying T-56 automatic rifles in their hands. We were certain that they were Tiger terrorists. They took into custody the fishermen and the two fibre glass boats. After witnessing this incident we immediately started the engines of our

fishing boats and sailed towards the shore. The armed Tigers gave chase in their boat, but they failed to capture us. Later we reported this incident to the Army camp at Kokilai. Then the Navy and the Air Force joined the Army to track down the Tigers but they were unable to locate them".

"The Tigers had captured eight fishermen and two fishing boats belonging to us. We are innocent fishermen who are living a hard life. The government should intervene on behalf of these fishermen

to get them released soon. We have also informed Deputy Minister of Finance, Planning and National Integration, Jeyaraj Fernando-pulle about this incident", they added.