

Plea to free police and security personnel held by tigers. (1994, October 03). *The Island*.

Plea to free police and security personnel held by Tigers

A movement formed by the parents and dependents of police and security forces personnel missing in action has in a memorandum appealed to the Deputy Minister of Defence Col. Anuruddha Ratwatte to convey their plight to the Prime Minister.

According to the statement, Gen. Hamilton Wanasinghe, Defence Secretary has stated that there are about 200 to 300 police and security personnel in LTTE captivity.

The former IGP also confirmed this information.

Following the eruption of fresh violence after talks broke down during the former regime about 1000 police officers were taken into LTTE custody and out of them 361 were killed.

A representative of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) had told a journalist that a considerable number of police officers are in the custody of the Tigers.

Anton Balasingham had told Mr. John Colt of 'Asiaweek' that hundreds of police officers are in Tiger captivity. The ICRC had been given permission to see these officers, the statement said.

A statement given to a Sinhala newspaper by the ICRC on 23.12.90 indicated that five police officers from the Kalavanchikudi, Kalkudah and Valachchenai police stations were killed when they tried to escape. The parents of these policemen were informed by the ICRC. These incidents prove that there are other personnel still in the custody of the Tigers.

Nihal Ranjith who escaped from Vakaneri, Top-pigala LTTE camp after four years in captivity has claimed that there were 400-500 police officers in the camp.

The agents of the United Nations Human Rights Organization Amnesty have been requested to find about the missing officers.

They have informed that a large number of officers are in Tiger's custody. It is the opinion of the UNO and the Amnesty Organization that there are 2000 police and army officers in the custody of the Tigers, the Movement added in its memorandum.