

10000 Tamils stranded near Jaffna Lagoon. (1992, Dec. 30). *The Island*.

10,000 Tamils stranded near Jaffna Lagoon

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by Shamindra Ferdinando

Civilian traffic between the Jaffna peninsula and the mainland had come to a standstill with the disruption of the Tiger boat services in naval operations in the past few weeks, Tamil sources said.

The near total disruption of the boat services had stranded well over 10,000 Tamils on the either side of Jaffna Lagoon.

Tamil civilians had been forced to use Tiger boats to cross the Jaffna Lagoon after government forces had regained control of the Elephant Pass causeway, Sangupiddy ferry and the Ooriyan and Kombadi — all entry points to the peninsula.

Tamil civilians coming from the North said that all civilian movements to and from the peninsula had come to a halt after naval craft had destroyed scores of boats, both carrying

sea Tigers and civilians.

The Tigers were not allowing the civilians to use the Elephant Pass causeway which linked the peninsula with the mainland.

Tigers had indicated they were not in a position to permit civilian movements across Elephant Pass as the Army could use it for military and propaganda purposes.

Meanwhile the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was making arrangements to send food and medical supplies to the peninsula, authoritative officials said.

They said the people in the peninsula were in the need of urgent supplies.

The UNHCR was in contact with the Tiger leadership to secure their support to send supplies through Sangupiddy.