

East Not at Ease: SLMM

<http://www.dailymirror.lk/2007/09/15/news/5.asp>

Even though no military operations had been carried out in the eastern region during the past few days, an increased sense of insecurity was evident in the area with killings, abductions and arrests on the increase, the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission said in its latest security assessment report.

A total of seven abductions were reported to the SLMM, with most victims being abducted from their homes, the report said adding that six people were released after being detained for a week. The report said arrests of people with alleged links to the LTTE had increased.

Seven people were abducted, two reportedly by the TMVP during the week September 3-9, the SLMM said adding that six people previously reported abducted were released in the same period. The SLMM received further three complaints on abductions, all pointing out the TMVP as the perpetrator. Six people abducted on September 2 in the jungle area of Mavil Aru, Trincomalee district, were released on 9th after being allegedly severely mistreated.

On 3rd police in Thirukovil, Ampara district arrested a man suspected for the abduction of 22 school children and two teachers on December 18 last year. The man was suspected to be a member of the LTTE. Further arrests of people accused of being connected to the LTTE were made in Batticaloa, Kinniya, Kovilkulam and Kalmunai, adding up to a total of seven people.

In several villages in the west of Batticaloa, and around Trincomalee the population had self-imposed a curfew at 6pm due to fear and also distrust of the security forces, the SLMM said.