

දුරකථන) 2698475
දුරකථන) 2698490
Telephone) 2698507

ෆැක්ස්) 2692913
ෆැක්ස්) 2694860
Fax)

විද්‍යුත් තැපෑල)
மின்னஞ்சல் முகவரி) postmaster@health.gov.lk
e-mail)

වෙබ් අඩවිය)
இணையத்தளம்) www.health.gov.lk
website)



සුවසිරිපාය
சுவசிரிபாய
SUWASIRIPAYA

මගේ අංකය)
எனது இல) SH/Misc/2009
My No.)
ඔබේ අංකය)
உமது இல)
Your No. :)
දිනය)
திகதி) 05/03/2009
Date)

සෞඛ්‍ය ආරක්ෂණ හා පෝෂණ අමාත්‍යාංශය
சுகாதார பராமரிப்பு மற்றும் போசணை அமைச்சு
Ministry of Healthcare & Nutrition

All Media Institutions

Regarding deaths due to starvation

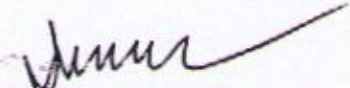
This refers to the media publicity given to a letter written by Dr. T. Vartharajah, Regional Director of Health Services, Mullaitivu, regarding the above subject. The media has cited Dr. Varatharajah as having said that during the last few days there had been 13 dead bodies brought to Puthumattalam hospital and the deaths have been due to starvation.

I contacted Dr. Vartharajah, RDHS, Mullaitivu on 04/03/2009 and inquired about the contents of his statement. He admitted that he wrote this letter to GA Mullaitivu. He further admitted that the cause of death due to starvation was not based on scientific evidence but on suspicion based only on the physical appearance of the dead. A cause of death cannot be given without an autopsy and Dr. Varatharajah has apparently made this statement without an autopsy or evidence.

I wish to inform international media that I am personally aware that the government has taken all possible measures to provide enough food and medicines to the people kept by the LTTE as a human shield. All the sick are being evacuated to Trincomalee and Vavuniya without undue delay.

Therefore, I wish to further state that this letter may have been written due to pressure by the LTTE to embarrass the government and other partners like the ICRC who are working with the government to provide the required services and supplies to the un-cleared areas.

However an inquiry would be undertaken to verify the claims made in this statement and appropriate action would be taken in the future.


Dr. H.A.P. Kahandaliyanage
Secretary / Ministry of Healthcare & Nutrition