

CID grills 11 Army, STF men. (1995, August 27). Sunday observer.

● Captain, Inspector linked to floating bodies mystery

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# CID grills 11 Army, STF men

By Panduka Senanayake and Jayampathy Jayasinghe

An Army Captain, an Inspector of the Police Special Task Force and nine other servicemen have been arrested by the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) in connection with the mysterious killings of unidentified men whose bodies were found in the Bolgoda Lake, Alawwa and Diyawanna-oya since May this year. Twenty four others are being questioned.

A number of trucks and jeeps belonging to Army and STF units and believed to have been used in the killings, have also been taken into custody.

A total of twenty one decomposed bodies of men believed to be in their thirties were recovered by Police during the past several months. According to CID sources, most of the victims belonged to the Tamil community. Although the reasons for the killings are not known, CID sleuths suspect the victims were abducted and killed by a group of persons for personal gain or to embarrass the government or both.

Meanwhile, a ring found in the possession of one of the arrested suspects has been reportedly identified by a woman as that of her husband whose body is believed to be among those recovered. Their

wedding photographs showing the identical ring on her husband's finger is in the custody of the CID officials.

The CID has also detained a number of vehicles including jeeps, trucks, vans and other vehicles belonging to the Army and

the STF, some of which are believed to have been used in the transportation of the dead men.

The vehicles have been dusted for prints by the police fingerprint bureau and technical branches for any evidence that may prove they were used by the killers. According to the source, the CID has sought the assistance of foreign forensic experts in connection with some of the items found during the course of their investigations.

The CID has also carried out thorough searches and video filmed the office complexes where the suspects have been working.

The other nine persons arrested were also security forces personnel of other ranks. CID officials would not specify the services to which they belonged.

## Arrests affect intelligence ops?

By our Defence Correspondent

Controversy has flared up in defence circles following the detention of 35 covert intelligence operatives of the Army and the STF, including officers, other ranks and some informers, in connection with the investigation by the CID into the floating corpses mystery.

Officials of Army Intelligence and the Special Task Force (STF), who have had their operatives rounded up, welcomed the breakthrough into the mysterious killings, but frowned on the 'mass round-ups' of personnel of the two organisa-

tions engaged in covert operations in the city against LTTE urban networks.

"The investigators seem to have put a spanner in the intelligence system covering the city by exposing both the operatives and their informants as well as the vehicles used in covert surveillance," said one officer. Some senior intelligence officials felt that the investigators should have gone for the specific persons involved without compromising undercover security operations covering Colombo.