

Four fisherman recount their experiences. (1994, October 30). The Island .

Four fishermen recount their experiences



Six of the freed fishermen

"Four of us aboard 'Gunasiri Bahu Dina' were laying out our nets at sea, when all at once some people came in a boat and pulled it close to ours," recounted Nimal Nilantha the experiences they had when they were cap-

tured. They had been taken captives on August 29 at Cod Bay off Trincomalee and were kept for nearly two months.

Describing how they were taken into captivity, Nimal Nilantha said "they fired their guns

Tamil terrorists. We said that we did not speak Tamil. Thereafter they asked for a knife by using sign language.

"They cut our nets took our boat and went towards the shore.

"Afterwards they tied our hands and took us

enquired whether we were married. We were kept in the jungle. After travelling in a jeep for 5 1/2 hours we reached a house with the Red Cross emblem. We were happy to see that sign. Two days later we were taken in a jeep to



Karunaratna



P. T. Siripala

tives for nearly two months.

The fishermen were P. T. Siripala, U. G. Karunaratne, N. Kusu-mashantha, Joseph Ebert, Ranjith Perera, A. A. Ameen, W. Stanley, W. G. Maxie and M.

into the air. We were frightened and raised our hands and surrendered."

"Then three men armed with guns got into our boat and spoke to us in Tamil. We then realised they were

to the jungle and made us sit on a mat. We were given meals. But we couldn't eat because we thought of our families.

"In the night a Tiger leader came in a Pajero and spoke to us and

a house where a Sinhala man from Negombo was working for the Tigers.

"From there we were taken in a tractor to a lagoon and then we were put into a boat and taken to a point and off loaded. Thereafter we were taken to a two-storeyed building and kept there for two days. We realised we were in Jaffna.

"We found 15 Sinhalese were kept in custody. We were given Tamil papers to read.

"At the moment we are holding peace talks. What do you say? they asked. We replied, 'good'. During the time when we were in custody we were given food and drinks.

"We were handed to the Red Cross. We believed we were freed because of the peace talks that were going on."

"When we were freed we were not given back the fishing gear that was in our boat," concluded Nimal Nilantha giving a detailed account of the conference they had with the Tigers.



The wife and friends of Nimal Nilantha inquiring about his captivity