

Core Activity Sheet 3.4

Case-Studies

Case-Study 1

Sami is a Turkish Kurd. He was a farmer in a village in eastern Turkey. This part of eastern Turkey is much poorer than the rest of the country. In his area most people belong to the Kurdish minority. Until recently Kurdish people were not allowed to speak their language in Turkey. They also suffered other forms of discrimination.

There has been fighting between the Turkish army and Kurdish guerrillas. Many innocent people have been killed. Amnesty International has criticised the Turkish government for keeping Kurds locked up without trial and using torture.

Sami's family has been harassed by the Turkish army during the last two years. Recently a Turkish soldier was killed by Kurdish guerrillas. Other army soldiers arrived in Sami's village and arrested his brother, accusing him of supporting Kurdish fighters. The soldiers threatened to take more villagers if there was more trouble from the guerrillas. Sami believes that he is in danger, and has run away to Britain.

Case-Study 2

Siva is 17 years old and is a Sri Lankan Tamil. Until recently he lived in the town of Jaffna.

The Tamils are a minority group in Sri Lanka. Since 1948 they have suffered from discrimination. For example, it has been more difficult for Tamils to enter university or get government jobs. Some Tamils have started to fight for independence. Since 1983 there has been a war in northern Sri Lanka between the Sri Lankan army and Tamil fighters. The town of Jaffna has been under siege (surrounded) by the Sri Lankan army since 1990. There is no electricity in Jaffna, and basic foods and medicines are in very short supply. Many people are suffering from malnourishment.

Siva and his family moved into Jaffna from an outlying village. The bad conditions caused them great stress. Siva's father used his last savings to pay for Siva to escape. In July 1993 Siva left Sri Lanka on a small boat to southern India. In Madras in India he bought an air ticket and a forged passport to enable him to come to Britain.