

## REPRESSION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE TAMIL PEOPLE

The following recommendations were supported at the previous UPR session on Sri Lanka:

- Continue and expedite the process of reconciliation, including by strengthening legal protections for ethnic and /religious minorities, preventing violence and intimidation against ethnic and religious minorities, investigating and prosecuting perpetrators of such violence and intimidation
- End military involvement in economic and civilian activities
- Accelerate process of returning military-occupied land in the northern and eastern provinces to its rightful owners resettling internally displaced people and ensuring resettlement and adequate housing for women heads of households in particular

## PEARL'S PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

Respect and protect Tamils' rights to free speech, assembly, and association, including by immediately ceasing the military policing and suppression of Tamil memorialization activities.

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Publicly commit to release all military-occupied private land back to their original Tamil-speaking inhabitants, and end military involvement in commercial and other civilian activities

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Create a transparent, accessible, and flexible process for the recognition of Tamil and other conflict-affected persons' land claims in line with international best practices.

## DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE LAST UPR:

Tamil memorialization of the war dead is banned, erasing Tamil identity and perpetuating the root causes of the conflict. Tamil areas in the North-East remain heavily militarized and displacement by the military or the national Mahaweli Authority has removed Tamils from their land and traditional sources of income. The government also continues to make Buddhism the foremost religion in the country at the expense of marginalised communities, including the destruction of non-Buddhist places of worship.

## JUSTICE & ACCOUNTABILITY

The following recommendations were supported at the previous UPR session on Sri Lanka:

- Fully implement its commitments under Human Rights Council Res 30/1
- Investigate and prosecute perpetrators of enforced disappearances; ensure the future work of the Office of Missing Persons is credible, independent, impartial, and adequately resourced and provide the families of disappeared or arbitrarily detained persons with answers
- Investigate and prosecute perpetrators of wartime and ongoing human rights violations, including sexual violence, in processes that are independent and internationalized

## DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE LAST UPR:

Sri Lanka withdrew from its commitments under Resolution 30/1. Furthermore, the

Office of Missing Persons has addressed no complaints to date, despite continuously requesting previously provided information. Families of victims have experienced state surveillance and harassment. Impunity has worsened since the presidency of Gotabaya Rajapaksa - military officials accused of war crimes rewarded with government/diplomatic appointments (e.g. Shavendra Silva). The Government has backtracked on justice, such as the pardoning of Sunil Rathnayake who was involved in the Mirusuvil Massacre, where Sri Lankan soldiers murdered 8 Tamil civilians in Jaffna, including 3 children, before dumping their bodies in a mass grave.

## PEARL'S PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

Immediately remove political and security force leaders credibly accused of international crimes from positions of power.

Immediately recommit to implementing UNHRC Resolution 30/1 and ensure the independent and timely investigation and prosecution of alleged international crimes, especially prioritizing justice for emblematic cases of serious human rights violations, especially those committed during the final months of the war.

Cooperate fully with any accountability efforts, including by the Sri Lanka Accountability Project, the ICC, ICJ and states exercising universal jurisdiction.