

FEBRUARY 2021  
SRI LANKA: BRIEFING NOTE 4

## INSTITUTIONAL REFORM, VETTING AND SCREENING, AND THE RULE OF LAW

*"...incorporating the full range of judicial and non-judicial measures, including, inter alia, individual prosecutions, reparations, truth-seeking, institutional reform, the vetting of public employees and officials, or an appropriately conceived combination thereof, in order to, inter alia, ensure accountability, serve justice, provide victims with remedies, promote healing and reconciliation, establish independent oversight of the security system, restore confidence in the institutions of the State and promote the rule of law..."*

[UN HRC Resolution 30/1](#)

### INSTITUTIONAL REFORM: ONE STEP FORWARD, TWO STEPS BACK

Transitional justice is described as “the full range of processes and mechanisms associated with a society’s attempts to come to terms with a legacy of largescale past abuses, in order to ensure accountability, serve justice and achieve reconciliation”.<sup>1</sup> Mechanisms include criminal prosecutions, truth-recovery, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence such as institutional reforms, including vetting.<sup>2</sup> While the investigation and prosecution of serious international crimes is an essential component of transitional justice for combatting impunity, it also sends a strong signal that such crimes will not be tolerated under the rule of law. Institutional reforms of abusive institutions, particularly in the security and justice sectors, help to dismantle the structural machinery of abuses and legitimise these institutions to prevent the recurrence of violations.<sup>3</sup>

In the context of Sri Lanka, institutional reforms, particularly vetting, are critical elements of a comprehensive transitional justice program, envisaged under Resolution 30/1, to promote the guarantee of non-recurrence and prevention. Vetting is not only about providing accountability for past abuses, but is primarily aimed at building civic trust and legitimacy of public institutions, disabling and dismantling structures implicated in gross human rights violations carried out in the past. Resolution 30/1 emphasised the importance of institutional reforms to strengthen the rule of law – referencing inter alia constitutional reforms, security sector reform, including the need to strengthen the independence of the judiciary, and the National Human Rights Commission. The Resolution was also unambiguous about ensuring that military and security officials implicated in gross human rights violations including torture, rape and sexual violence should be held accountable through vetting them and precluding them from serving in the security sector and in peacekeeping.

The Coalition Government reneged on its 2015 commitment to screen and vet public and security officials tasked with delivering change. Sri Lanka is a small country with an even smaller English-speaking elite, and where politicians are like chameleons often swapping parties guided entirely by self-interest not policy; this makes it extremely difficult to disentangle networks of power, corruption, nepotism and cronyism. The Government of Sri Lanka reluctantly agreed to the vetting process required by the United Nations for peacekeepers which, despite problems, did appear to be starting to show results.

### PROBLEMATIC APPOINTMENTS

The Coalition Government under President Sirisena brazenly appointed a number of alleged perpetrators from the security forces to key positions of power. The most striking example of this was the Coalition Government taking out of retirement the policeman responsible for what the UN called the country’s most notorious police torture site, (CID headquarters also known as the ‘Fourth Floor’), appointing him an intelligence chief and sending him in 2016 as part of a Government delegation to the UN Committee Against Torture meeting in Geneva.<sup>4</sup> Given the controversy Sisira Mendis’s presence attracted, one would assume that the Coalition Government would have quietly retired him, but instead they renewed his employment contract.<sup>5</sup> This debacle was followed by numerous other problematic appointments from 2015-19 of individuals who were obviously not vetted – to the Witness Protection authority, as diplomats, in the Army, in the Police, in the Navy. It is worth noting Shavendra Silva – named by Michelle Bachelet as allegedly implicated in alleged war crimes - was repeatedly promoted by the Coalition Government, ironically at one point being put in charge of the Army’s human rights directorate.

### PROBLEMATIC APPOINTMENTS: NOW ON A NEW SCALE

The trend of appointing retired military officers to Government has intensified greatly following the change of Government in 2019, with a large number of former military officers, politicians, former paramilitary leaders and policemen being appointed or promoted without any vetting in place.<sup>6</sup> Many of them also played an active role in the final phase of the civil war, are accused of war crimes, have pending criminal investigations, and in some instances have pending indictments.<sup>7</sup>

A third of the cabinet members had ongoing criminal investigations or cases against them when appointed in 2020. In fact, one might go so far as to say that it is the individuals who would risk being screened out who now appear to be given priority for appointments.

### THE GOVERNMENT’S COUNTER-ARGUMENT

The Sri Lankan Secretary of Defence, General Kamal Gunaratne (also implicated in war crimes allegations according to OHCHR), has defended the appointment of retired military officers like himself to the administration on the grounds that they are

disciplined and efficient, and it would violate equal opportunities policies to deny them jobs after retirement. This does not acknowledge the extent of the militarisation of every key sector of the country currently – airports, ports, agriculture, land, welfare, customs, food distribution, the police and intelligence. Nor does it address the issue that there are credible allegations of war crimes against many of these individuals dating back to the war, including against Gunaratne himself.

The Sri Lankan Government argues that these are mere allegations, rather than convictions in a court of law. While the allegations have not been tested in a court of law, nevertheless they constitute prima facie findings by independent UN investigations. The Government of Sri Lanka itself acknowledged Sri Lanka's failure in respect of accountability for serious international crimes which resulted in the joint commitment made to the international community under Resolution 30/1 in October 2015 at the UN Human Rights Council. Establishing the Hybrid Court was seen as critical to dealing with the findings of potential war crimes in a court of law. The Resolution anticipated the appointment of international judges and prosecutors in order to ensure independence and credibility given the distrust by victims, the United Nations and the international community in past domestic accountability processes. In one case a former Army Commander, Jagath Jayasuriya, was the subject of a criminal complaint in Brazil and returned home rather than defending himself against allegations of command responsibility for war crimes in an impartial court. Even in a case of alleged wire fraud being prosecuted in the United States, a former Ambassador and Rajapaksa relative is now trying to claim immunity and political victimisation rather than face a hearing in court.<sup>8</sup>

When Shavendra Silva was designated by the US Government for alleged gross violations of human rights, Sri Lanka complained that there were no proven allegations against the Army Commander.<sup>9</sup> This is in spite of the recommendations of Sri Lanka's own domestic Commission of Inquiry, the Paranagama Commission, that a judicial inquiry be established to deal with the allegations of the 'White Flag' incident in which the political leadership of the LTTE were executed following an agreed surrender. Silva is alleged to have been present at the surrenders – something he has never denied. Sri Lanka's own Paranagama Commission also noted that there were credible

allegations, which if proved to the required standard, may show that some members of the armed forces committed acts during the final phase of the war that amounted to war crimes giving rise to individual criminal responsibility.<sup>10</sup> This was more than 5 years ago, and no further action has been taken by Sri Lanka to investigate.

## VETTING AND UN PEACEKEEPING

As of the end of 2020, Sri Lanka had 665 peacekeepers in the UN,<sup>11</sup> stationed mainly in South Sudan, Mali, CAR and Lebanon. The Government of Sri Lanka continues to emphasise the financial benefit of peacekeeping,<sup>12</sup> as well as to express their delight at "international recognition".<sup>13</sup> UN deployments regrettably have continued despite the Government of Sri Lanka boasting about not holding any security official accountable,<sup>14</sup> reneging on commitments to the Human Rights Council, and appointing Shavendra Silva as Commander of the Army in August 2019. This controversial appointment did cause the UN to announce a suspension of peacekeeping deployments from Sri Lanka, "except in instances where suspension would expose U.N. operations to serious operational risk".<sup>15</sup> The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations in October 2019 clarified that only 25% of Sri Lankan soldiers would be replaced – among them it said, the Sri Lankan contingent in Lebanon.<sup>16</sup> Shortly thereafter, Sri Lankan troops left for Mali, embarrassing the UN by saluting Shavendra Silva not once but twice before they left.<sup>17</sup> The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, said she was deeply concerned by the appointment of Shavendra Silva which compromised Sri Lanka's commitment to promote justice and accountability.<sup>18</sup> This was echoed by the US Government,<sup>19</sup> Canada<sup>20</sup> and the European Union.<sup>21</sup>

Notwithstanding the UN's stated decision to suspend deployments from Sri Lanka, the UN suspension never happened. According to the Sri Lankan State-run newspaper it was because of "the strong objections registered by the Foreign Ministry".<sup>22</sup> The UN's own statistics – see table – show deployment numbers have remained constant for several years.

SRI LANKAN DEPLOYMENT TABLE <sup>22</sup>	Dec 2020	Nov 2020 <sup>24</sup>	Jan 2020 <sup>25</sup>	Aug 2019 UN announces 'suspension'	Sep 2019	Jan 2019	Jan 2018	Jan 2017 <sup>26</sup>
MINUSCA - Central African Republic.	113	111	111	116	116	120	124	118
MINURSO - Western Sahara	3	2	2	4	4	4	4	3
MINUSMA - Mali	241	243	250	203	203	205	167	
UNIFIL – Lebanon <sup>27</sup>	138	143 <sup>28</sup>	149	149	149	150	151	149
UNMISS – South Sudan	170	169	170	173	173	190	203	200
<b>Total deployment</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>651<sup>29</sup></b>	<b>676</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>501</b>

## **LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PAST ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (SEA)**

Sri Lankan soldiers posted in Haiti 2004-7 were involved in widespread systematic child sexual exploitation; this was investigated by the UN itself.<sup>30</sup> Some Sri Lankan soldiers were repatriated as a result of these investigations but none were jailed; commanders who had failed to prevent the systematic sexual exploitation of children over many years went on to rise up the ranks. In 2016, the UN Committee Against Torture asked Sri Lanka for details of its investigation and prosecution of soldiers repatriated from Haiti, but the Government has yet to respond.<sup>31</sup> In 2017, a Haitian teenager alleged that a Sri Lankan peacekeeper raped her, but the Army dispatched a General to investigate who himself faced allegations of war crimes.<sup>32</sup>

The decision not to implement the decision to suspend peacekeepers from Sri Lanka is in contravention of the UN's own policy of zero tolerance of SEA. It is astonishing given the statement of the Undersecretary-General for Peace Operations in January 2020 that "the UN is committed to addressing its peacekeepers' sexual abuse of women in Haiti",<sup>33</sup> however, in Haiti it is necessary to point out that the allegations involve the sexual exploitation of children.

## **SRI LANKA A PILOT PROJECT FOR PEACEKEEPER VETTING**

As a response to the UN OISL report on Sri Lanka findings regarding the Sri Lankan security forces, a decision was taken to change the policy on deploying UN peacekeepers from Sri Lanka to include vetting. It was agreed in 2016 that the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) would vet UN peacekeepers from Sri Lanka as a pilot project that was to be rolled out in other countries if successful.<sup>34</sup> The process involved vetting and screening out members of the military or police who posed a risk given their presence in combat where reasonable grounds existed to say violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law had occurred. Initially the OHCHR in Geneva was involved in the vetting process but this responsibility devolved to the HRCSL who took ownership of the process using UN volunteers. Almost as soon as the HRCSL programme began, it was beset by problems affecting the first deployment. On 19 February 2018, the Sri Lankan Army despatched troops to Lebanon without waiting for the HRCSL to finish vetting. This resulted in all deployments being suspended until the year end, when a plan for better coordination was put in place.

## **VETTING ACHIEVEMENTS**

When the vetting was done jointly in Geneva and Colombo it appears there was progress in terms of screening out compromised individuals; if they had been retired or removed from the Army, this could have gradually promoted changes within the Army itself, facilitating desperately needed security sector reform. In October 2018, the Sri Lankan Contingent Commander in Mali was repatriated in the light of new information showing he had been involved in frontline combat in 2009 under Shavendra Silva's 58 Division.<sup>35</sup> This sent a powerful signal to the Army regarding accountability for commanders of all ranks.

## **VETTING CRISIS NOW**

Since the change of Government in Sri Lanka, OHCHR (§28) has reported on how the HRCSL has lost its independent status and is now headed by a former minister. It is also now a predominately Sinhala body.<sup>36</sup> The report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also confirms that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is no longer in a position to certify that Sri Lankan troops have been properly vetted and screened. It must now urgently take steps to move the screening process back to Geneva.<sup>37</sup> Deploying Sri Lankans who may be implicated in serious international crimes to peacekeeping missions is in breach of the United Nation's own due diligence policy adopted in 2011, which is intended to prevent risk to civilians through allowing potential human rights violators to commit grave violations of international humanitarian law, human rights law or refugee law while on peacekeeping missions.

## **SECURITY SECTOR REFORM**

Security Sector Reform became defined by the idea of 'right sizing' and 'restructuring' the military, rather than dealing with impunity.<sup>38</sup> The World Bank noted that the number of soldiers as a percentage of the labour force actually rose after the war,<sup>39</sup> as did Sri Lanka's military expenditure.<sup>40</sup> More than a decade after the end of the conflict, the majority of the Army still remains deployed in the north east of the island and is still overwhelmingly from the majority Sinhala community. Post-war, the Army has branched out into businesses such as farming and tourism in former conflict areas, in part to preserve a heavy military presence and also to benefit financially.<sup>41</sup>

The Sri Lankan Police have also been recipients of decades of international training and capacity building programmes which accelerated post-war. This included community policing,<sup>42</sup> described as security sector reform.<sup>43</sup> There have also been efforts to recruit more Tamil police officers, including more women, and to teach Tamil language skills.<sup>44</sup> A National Police Commission was established, and an anti-corruption investigation unit, whose own Head faced allegations of corruption. None of these reform initiatives effectively addressed the entrenched culture of torture by the police which is widely acknowledged to be widespread in Sri Lanka.<sup>45</sup> Sri Lanka is a text book case of conducting training without addressing the systemic and root causes and at the same time not holding the torturers or their commanders accountable. Furthermore, the conundrum of monitoring bodies providing technical capacity may inhibit full monitoring and also poses a potential conflict of interest in reporting ongoing violations.

Democracy and the rule of law are at great risk in Sri Lanka; the increasing militarisation of the Government, coupled with the onslaught on fundamental freedoms and the increasing impunity afforded to the military and security forces is directly attributable to the failure to secure institutional reform in Sri Lanka. UN Peacekeeping has a huge role to play in ensuring that Sri Lankan participation in peacekeeping is conditional on ensuring that military officials implicated in war crimes and serious human rights violations are held accountable and vetted out. Conflict-affected countries should not have to risk the security and integrity of their own citizens because of the deployment of human rights abusers.

## ENDNOTES

- 1 United Nations, "The Rule of Law and Transitional Justice in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies", Report of the Secretary-General, S/2004/616, 23 August 2004, p 4.
- 2 Ibid
- 3 Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Rule-of-Law Tools for Post-Conflict States. Vetting: An Operational Framework (New York and Geneva: United Nations, 2006
- 4 <https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/Press-Release-Sisira-Mendis.pdf>
- 5 <https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/Press-release-24-July-2017-on-Sisira-Mendis-2.pdf>
- 6 Militarisation: At least 28 since 2020 according to OHCHR A/HRC/46/20; 39 according to ITJP: <https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/ENGLISH-Battlefield-to-Boardroom-copy.pdf> plus one more since that publication =40.
- 7 No Vetting: ITJP at <https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/Final-9-Dec-2020-ITJP-Infographic-press-release-copy.pdf>  
As district commanders: <https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/Final-ITJP-JDS-press-release-6-January-2021.pdf>  
Parallel state: <https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/7-july-2020-OTJP-press-release-merged-2.pdf>  
[https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/English-ITJP\\_COVID-19-press-release-Merged-copy.pdf](https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/English-ITJP_COVID-19-press-release-Merged-copy.pdf)  
<https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/English-press-release-22-May-2020.pdf>
- 8 <https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/8446817/united-states-v-wickramasuriya/#minute-entry-152128459>
- 9 Mr. Aryasinha defended Lt Gen Silva against allegations of war crimes saying there were "no factually substantiated or proven allegations of human rights violations against him", a Foreign Ministry statement said.  
<https://www.un.int/srilanka/news/sunday-times-lanka-strongly-attacks-un-over-peacekeeping-troop-reduction>
- 10 <https://parliament.lk/uploads/documents/paperspresented/report-of-paranagama.pdf>
- 11 [https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/01\\_summary\\_of\\_contributions\\_32.pdf](https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/01_summary_of_contributions_32.pdf)
- 12 Sirisena called it "a major source of earning foreign exchange". [http://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking\\_news/Appointment-of-LTTE-member-s-relative-caused-several-problems-MS/108-197841](http://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking_news/Appointment-of-LTTE-member-s-relative-caused-several-problems-MS/108-197841)  
Daily Mirror, 14 Oct 2020, Appointment of LTTE member's relative caused several problems: MS
- 13 STF to gain UN deployment, 3 February 2017, Mirror Citizen, <http://mirrorcitizen.dailymirror.lk/2017/02/03/stf-to-gain-undeployment/>  
"one of the compulsory prerequisites for anybody to don the "blue Helmet" is, being cleared of Human Rights (HR) violations" claimed the Army in 2019:  
[http://www.defence.lk/Article/view\\_article/352](http://www.defence.lk/Article/view_article/352)
- 14 "This government has not allowed a single person to be investigated for their conduct of the war, despite several false allegations to the contrary. That is what it means to truly stand by the armed forces, and not to just use our brave men and women in uniform as political tools to win votes." Foreign Minister Tilak Marapana, Sri Lanka emerges proud – united with allies at UNHRC, 24 March 2018, The Daily News, <http://www.dailynews.lk/2018/03/24/local/146449/sri-lanka-emerges-proud-unitedallies-unhrc>
- 15 Reuters, 25 Sep. 2019. U.N. suspends Sri Lankan troops from peacekeeping over army chief appointment  
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-sri-lanka-un-peacekeepers/u-n-suspends-sri-lankan-troops-from-peacekeeping-over-army-chief-appointment-idUSKBN1WA2SL>
- 16 "Only 25 percent of the troops from Sri Lanka now engaged in peacekeeping operations will be replaced when they complete their term in Lebanon, Mr. Lacroix said. These places would be filled through a re-adjustment of existing peacekeepers now in Lebanon and there will be no further reduction of Sri Lanka Peacekeepers."
- 17 <https://www.un.int/srilanka/news/sunday-times-lanka-strongly-attacks-un-over-peacekeeping-troop-reduction>  
<https://www.un.int/srilanka/news/foreign-secretary-aryasinha-discusses-obstacles-placed-sri-lanka-s-peacekeeping-contribution-un>  
<https://www.army.lk/news/mali-bound-next-ccc-salutes-commander-army>
- 18 OHCHR 19 Aug 2019 Bachelet "deeply troubled" by appointment of new Sri Lankan army chief  
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24908&LangID=E>
- 19 <https://twitter.com/usembsl/status/1163400674643759104?lang=en>
- 20 [https://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/sri\\_lanka/highlights-faits/2019/2019-08-21-statement-declaration.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/sri_lanka/highlights-faits/2019/2019-08-21-statement-declaration.aspx?lang=eng)
- 21 [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/lebanon/66564/joint-statement\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/lebanon/66564/joint-statement_en)
- 22 Daily News, 27 May 2020, <https://www.dailynews.lk/2020/05/27/features/219411/time-pull-together-pm>
- 23 Data at <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/troop-and-police-contributors>
- 24 [https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/03\\_country\\_and\\_mission\\_32.pdf](https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/03_country_and_mission_32.pdf)
- 25 [https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/4\\_mission\\_and\\_country\\_1.pdf](https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/4_mission_and_country_1.pdf)
- 26 [https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/jan17\\_3.pdf](https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/jan17_3.pdf)
- 27 "15 oct 2020 : Sri Lankan troops, majority being from the Sri Lanka Army have been deployed in Lebanon (UNIFIL), South Sudan (UNMISS), Mali (MINUSMA), Abyei (UNISFA), New York (UNHQ), Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and Western Sahara (MINURSO), either as military observers, Staff Officers, Staff Officer assistants or general contingent troops". <https://www.army.lk/news/sri-lankan-troops-unifil-conduct-joint-exercise-apcs-mpmg-weapons>
- 28 138 Sri Lankan troops as of 20 dec 2020: <https://unifil.unmissions.org/unifil-troop-contributing-countries>
- 29 Includes 6 in UNISFA.
- 30 <https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/haiti-FINAL.pdf>  
<https://apnews.com/article/e6ebc331460345c5abd4f57d77f535c1>
- 31 <https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/haiti-FINAL.pdf>  
<https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/Press-Statement-haiti-f.pdf>
- 32 <https://apnews.com/article/5d2d63869e3740c69c3b9aef051f00ea>
- 33 Catherine Pollard, UN Under-Secretary-General for management strategy, policy and compliance, Jean-Pierre Lacroix Under-Secretary-General for peace operations, 21 Jan. 2020, Miami Herald opinion piece. U.N. is committed to addressing its peacekeepers' sexual abuse of women in Haiti; <https://www.miamiherald.com/opinion/op-ed/article239499293.html#storylink=cpy>
- 34 <https://www.hrcsl.lk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/HRCSL-Press-release-on-vetting-English.pdf>
- 35 <https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/UN-repatriates-Sri-Lankan-peacekeeper-for-his-role-in-2009-war.pdf>
- 36 Tamil Guardian 26 Nov 2020 Sri Lankan Human Rights Commission staffed with all Sinhalese nominations by Gotabaya Rajapaksa  
<https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/sri-lankan-human-rights-commission-staffed-all-sinhalese-nominations-gotabaya-rajapaksa>
- 37 [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/LK/Sri\\_LankaReportJan2021.docx](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/LK/Sri_LankaReportJan2021.docx)
- 38 <http://www.dailymirror.lk/article/Army-to-be-restructured-not-downsizing-152906.html>  
"the number soldiers and officers serving the army will not be reduced at all," said the Army Commander.  
<https://www.dailynews.lk/2018/09/10/local/162146/army-s-right-sizing-programme-grossly-misinterpreted>
- 39 <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/MS.MIL.TOTL.TF.ZS?locations=LK>
- 40 <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/MS.MIL.XPND.CN?locations=LK>

---

**41** Lists of businesses at <https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/increasing-military-involvement-in-sri-lankan-business-ventures/> and also <https://sri.lankabrief.org/2018/04/power-and-profit-investigating-sri-lankas-military-businesses/>  
The Guardian, 2011, The Sri Lankan army is selling vegetables  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2011/jan/28/sri-lanka-army-military>

---

**42** <https://asiafoundation.org/2010/11/10/bringing-police-and-communities-together-in-post-war-sri-lanka/>  
<https://asiafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Security-Sector-Reform-in-Asia.pdf>

---

**43** An output was to 'Facilitate greater consultation between military or police units deployed in conflict-affected or fragile regions and community leaders'.  
400 police officers trained in advanced Tamil language and 500 trained in basic Tamil language.  
Police officers trained in advanced Tamil language – 94% men and 6% women; police officers trained in basic Tamil language – 97% men and 3% women. [https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rot=i&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjspq6UoZbuAhVMTsAKHYs\\_B1MQFjAAegQIBRAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fassets.publishing.service.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fuploads%2Fsystem%2Fuploads%2Fattachment\\_data%2Ffile%2F198728%2FHuman\\_rights\\_in\\_Countries\\_of\\_Concern\\_-\\_Sri\\_Lanka.pdf&usg=AOvVawOckLLSHDXLLsYvDuLNOLaR](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rot=i&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjspq6UoZbuAhVMTsAKHYs_B1MQFjAAegQIBRAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fassets.publishing.service.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fuploads%2Fsystem%2Fuploads%2Fattachment_data%2Ffile%2F198728%2FHuman_rights_in_Countries_of_Concern_-_Sri_Lanka.pdf&usg=AOvVawOckLLSHDXLLsYvDuLNOLaR)

---

**44** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-12141070>  
"The Sri Lankan government reported that recruitment of Tamil-speaking police increased by 427 to 1,216 in 2012." [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/198728/Human\\_rights\\_in\\_Countries\\_of\\_Concern\\_-\\_Sri\\_Lanka.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/198728/Human_rights_in_Countries_of_Concern_-_Sri_Lanka.pdf)  
IN 2016 the UK said "A total of 5,155 Sinhala-speaking police officers in Sri Lanka have been trained in Tamil, with 95% of the officers re-deployed in police stations in the North and East." [https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rot=i&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjspq6UoZbuAhVMTsAKHYs\\_B1MQFjAAegQIBRAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fassets.publishing.service.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fuploads%2Fsystem%2Fuploads%2Fattachment\\_data%2Ffile%2F198728%2FHuman\\_rights\\_in\\_Countries\\_of\\_Concern\\_-\\_Sri\\_Lanka.pdf&usg=AOvVawOckLLSHDXLLsYvDuLNOLaR](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rot=i&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjspq6UoZbuAhVMTsAKHYs_B1MQFjAAegQIBRAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fassets.publishing.service.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fuploads%2Fsystem%2Fuploads%2Fattachment_data%2Ffile%2F198728%2FHuman_rights_in_Countries_of_Concern_-_Sri_Lanka.pdf&usg=AOvVawOckLLSHDXLLsYvDuLNOLaR)

---

**45** UN Committee Against Torture (CAT), Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Sri Lanka, 27 January 2017, CAT/C/LKA/CO/5, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/596f5cc24.html> [accessed 1 February 2021]

---