

FEBRUARY 2021
SRI LANKA: BRIEFING NOTE 2

ONGOING VIOLATIONS – TORTURE, ARBITRARY ARRESTS, DEATHS IN CUSTODY

ABDUCTIONS AND TORTURE

“OHCHR has also continued to receive credible allegations through well-known human rights organisations of abductions, torture and sexual violence by Sri Lankan security forces ... including in the past year...”

OHCHR, 2021

GOVERNMENT DENIAL

Like its predecessors, the current Government of Sri Lanka continues to assert that it has “zero tolerance for torture and sexual violence”, as if that alone were enough to prevent violations. This, despite the 2015 UN Investigation into Sri Lanka (OISL) finding that “incidents of sexual violence were not isolated acts but part of a deliberate policy to inflict torture”.¹ The Government has disparaged this UN report as a mere narrative of events including desk-reviewed information. This is simply untrue; the OISL investigation consisted of seven UN investigators assisted by three distinguished experts, Mr Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland, Dame Silvia Cartwright, former High Court Judge of New Zealand, and Ms Asma Jahangir, former President of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, who supported and advised the investigation. In addition, the investigation was supported by a committee of special procedures mandate holders. It had access to extensive documentation from a wide variety of sources, and interviewed victims in multiple locations, met with United Nations officials and staff members, civil society organisations, forensic medical doctors, international NGOs, human rights defenders and other professionals and also obtained evidence from multiple governments. UNOSAT provided invaluable analysis on satellite imagery. The OISL team conducted extensive research into patterns and legal analysis, verifying and evaluating all information received, before coming to their conclusions. It is a figment of imagination on the part of the Sri Lankan Government to dismiss the OISL report as a desk-top review; the Government response intentionally undermines the report’s findings regarding war crimes and crimes against humanity as well as serious human rights violations and abuses.

Sri Lanka also says it has repeatedly asked for evidence to be shared confidentially with the Government or the Human Rights Commission (HRCSL) so that it can investigate torture and sexual violence allegations. This overlooks the fact that many families have been to the Commission to complain and of late have

been told the complaint would be forwarded to the very police unit that they were complaining against. It also ducks the issue of witness protection for victims of torture and sexual violence at the hands of State security forces, especially if those victims are Tamils who were connected to the armed conflict. The ITJP has noted over time an increasing level of threats, intimidation and attacks against victims, witnesses, NGOs and justice actors in Sri Lanka. In the absence of a robust system of witness protection to ensure that victims, witnesses and organisations in possession of information are able to engage with these bodies securely, it is unlikely that information will be shared which puts witnesses at risk, as the consequences may be fatal. Resolution 30/1 sought to address the fact that the current witness protection system in Sri Lanka is inadequate. While the adoption of the Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act of 2015 establishing a national Victim and Witness Protection Authority and Division was a progressive step towards establishing such protection, the law has substantial shortcomings that weaken the Authority, including failing to provide sufficient independence from law enforcement bodies that have been implicated in human rights violations and intimidation of witnesses. The Government of Sri Lanka has failed to bring this law in line with international standards.

In 2016 and 2017 the UN Committee on Torture (UNCAT) expressed its concern to the Government of Sri Lanka over credible reports indicating that the practice of so-called ‘white van’ abductions of Tamils, unlawful detention, torture including sexual violence and rape of men and women continued in the years following the end of the armed conflict. It urged the Government to conduct an investigation using an independent body.² Sri Lanka maintains it has been open in its engagement with the Convention on Torture in so far as the UN Subcommittee on torture visited the country in 2019. It was urged by the Subcommittee to make their confidential report public, but this has not happened.³ More significantly, Sri Lanka has not responded yet to questions raised by the Committee Against Torture in 2016.⁴

TORTURE AFTER NOVEMBER 2019

Since Gotabaya Rajapaksa came to power in late 2019, at least 5 cases have been documented abroad of abduction, torture and sexual violence of Tamils. This likely represents the tip of the iceberg. These men and women were abducted between November 2019 and March 2020; thereafter travel abroad was severely disrupted by the Covid-19 virus.⁵ In one case, the independent medico-legal report corroborates recent torture and rape and maps 59 cigarette burns on the victim’s body including her upper thighs and genital area. The victim attempted suicide three times in Sri Lanka and now in the UK has to be locked in her room at night to prevent her accessing kitchen knives or tablets to try again. Two of the recent victims had been previously detained in Sri Lanka post-war and were ex members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), but the others were too young to have played a role in the war. The victims were either involved in commemoration events⁶, protests regarding

disappearance⁷ or election campaigning against Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Ethnically derogatory language was used to disparage them in detention, and they were all sexually violated.⁸

DECADES OF TORTURE

It is necessary to locate ongoing human rights concerns in a broader history of violations. Torture, for example, has a long and sordid history in Sri Lanka. The ITJP produced a Sri Lanka torture map that shows more than 200 sites used for torture over the last 50 years⁹. These include a large number of Sri Lankan schools, colleges and training institutes, as well as factories, farms, cinemas, stadiums and even a golf course. Among the multiple torture sites used in the late eighties were ironically the Law Faculty of Colombo University, as well as the basement of the State-run Lake House newspaper building. The incidence of reported torture peaked in 2009 at the end of the civil war as the security forces detained tens of thousands of former combatants and civilians and interrogated them using torture and sexual violence to extract information or merely punish their 'enemy'. The patterns of the violations were documented by the OHCHR Investigation into Sri Lanka¹⁰ (OISL) report.

THE PATTERNS OF TORTURE

Throughout the last 12 years abduction and torture by the security forces of mainly Tamils suspected of links to the LTTE, or involvement in anti-Government activities, have continued, following broadly similar patterns. The abductions are in part a lucrative practice for those security officials involved, who solicit ransoms for release and are often involved in the profitable process of smuggling the broken victims abroad. Typically, the abductions occur in 'white vans' by 4-5 plain clothes operatives; the detainees are then taken to purpose-built detention sites, interrogated by a separate team, fingerprinted, photographed, forced to sign a confession they cannot read, released by another team for ransom money at a quiet spot and often warned to leave the country. The methods of torture are brutal – beatings, whippings, kicking, branding with hot metal rods, asphyxiation with bags soaked in petrol or chilli, burning with cigarettes, water torture, falaka, sexual violence and gang rape. The perpetrators leave visible scars, indicating a high degree of impunity.

TORTURE 2015-19

It was hoped that the Government that came to power in 2015, promising reform, would ensure that torture stopped. But the structural nature of the violations was never tackled. In 2018, OHCHR conducted a 3-month independent investigation into allegations of ongoing abduction, unlawful detention, torture and sexual violence by Sri Lanka security forces. It found the allegations to be credible, but no further action was agreed and the violations continued.¹¹ Organisations documented 178 documented credible cases of torture from the 2015-18 period. This does not include many more allegations not yet investigated, nor does it include 22 individuals abroad who describe being tortured after the UN special investigation.

Organisation

| | |
|--|------------|
| ITJP (2015-17) detailed statements from victims in 3 countries | 76 |
| Freedom from Torture ¹² (2015-18) medico-legal reports in the UK | 33 |
| OHCHR (2016-18) investigation Interviews outside Sri Lanka | 29 |
| Others granted asylum in UK regarding torture 2015-2019 that are known to the ITJP | 40 |
| Total cases found based on credible allegations | 178 |

IMPUNITY FOR ALLEGED PERPETRATORS

A succession of governments in Sri Lanka¹³ have made it a practice to reward¹⁴ individuals alleged to have been in command responsibility of sites notorious for torture. This is one of the reasons why there has been no success in tackling the problem of torture in Sri Lanka, despite years of international training of the Sri Lankan Police and Army. Ironically the Coalition Government¹⁵ sent Sisira Mendis¹⁶ – the man the UN had named as in charge of a notorious torture site – to represent Sri Lanka in Geneva at a UN Committee Against Torture meeting; then, when this caused controversy, extended his contract and never answered the Committee's questions.¹⁷ It was also the Coalition Government that promoted wartime 58 Division commander, Shavendra Silva, three times¹⁸; in 2020 Shavendra was designated by the US Government for gross violations of human rights.¹⁹ Sri Lanka also sent the wartime 57 Division commander Jagath Dias to investigate alleged rape by a Sri Lankan peacekeeper in Haiti²⁰; he exonerated the soldier without interviewing the victim.²¹ The Coalition Government's diplomatic appointments also included sending the wartime Wannu Security Force Headquarters commander, General Jagath Jayasuriya, to Latin America. Since he came to office, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has appointed a large number of his inner circle to key positions, including several military figures. He has also made a number of problematic appointments to the diplomatic service, the police and the intelligence.. A former naval officer who has advocated violence towards his opponents was appointed the minister in charge of the Police Force and an Army officer facing credible allegations of human rights violations from his role in the war was appointed Secretary of Defence. With appointments like this, no amount of training and capacity building is going to eradicate torture.

In 2017, concerned at the continued levels of impunity in Sri Lanka, particularly of security officials, UNCAT recommended that Sri Lanka expedite the establishment of the mechanisms called for in Human Rights Council resolution 30/1 and, in particular, a judicial mechanism with a special counsel to investigate allegations of torture, enforced disappearances and other serious human rights violations.²² The mechanism should include independent judicial and prosecutorial institutions led by individuals known for their integrity and impartiality at national and international levels.²³ The State party should also map all pending criminal investigations related to serious human rights violations perpetrated during the course of the conflict and its aftermath, as well as the findings of all presidential commissions that documented such cases, and ensure that prompt, thorough

and independent investigations to establish the truth and to ensure that those responsible, directly or as commanders or superiors, are held to account. The Government of Sri Lanka has failed to uphold its obligations in terms of Resolution 30/1 to address impunity for white van abductions, torture including rape and sexual violence, enforced disappearances and serious human rights violations, instead consistently maintaining a narrative of denial and massively disparaging the OISL findings and recommendations, as well as the findings of other UN bodies.²⁴

DEATHS IN CUSTODY

"The High Commissioner is also concerned by a recent series of deaths in police custody..."

OHCHR, 2021

Deaths in custody at the hands of the police in Sri Lanka are the result of impunity and government approaches that are increasingly militarised, according to the High Commissioner for Human Rights.²⁵

On 20 October 2020, Samarasinghe Arachchige Madush Lakshitha, the alleged leader of a drug trafficking group, was reportedly killed in police crossfire while he was under the custody of the Colombo Crime Division (CCD).²⁶ Four other deaths at the hands of the police of alleged members of organized crime gangs took place between June and August 2020.²⁷ Recent deaths in custody also occurred in police stations, including allegedly as a result of torture, and in prisons during attempted escapes and protests linked to fears of contracting COVID-19. The most serious incident resulted in the death of 11 inmates and injuries to over 100 during a protest in Mahara remand prison on 29 November 2020. The use of lethal force by prison authorities at Mahara prison, has been condemned.²⁸ On 30 November, the Industries Minister stated in parliament that the 'clash' broke out after some inmates consumed a 'drug' that made them violent,²⁹ while the Minister for Prisons Management told Parliament on 3 December that none of the prisoners suffered gunshot injuries.³⁰ However, post-mortem reports have since confirmed that all the victims died from gunshot injuries.³¹ The OHCHR report noted that these incidents reflect the persistence of longstanding and endemic patterns of custodial deaths, use of torture and other ill-treatment, and extrajudicial killings by law enforcement officials with impunity.³² Under international law, the use of lethal force by State authorities is only permissible where strictly necessary to protect life and should be an act of last resort. This standard should govern any investigation, and those responsible for unlawful conduct resulting in death or injuries to prisoners must be held to account.³³

ARRESTS

Arrests under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) have continued unabated both under the former regime, which promised a freeze on the use of the PTA, and the current regime. The OISL report recommended a review of the PTA with a view to its repeal. It also recommended that the cases of all detainees held under the PTA should be reviewed, including investigating and prosecuting all allegations of torture committed by law enforcement and security agencies.³⁴ There has also been a consistent call for the repeal of the PTA which the Government of Sri Lanka has failed to deal with.

As of 2019, in the following instances the Sri Lankan Government has been using the ICCPR Act as well as the PTA to stifle freedoms:

- In May 2019, Jaffna University Student Union leaders were arrested when the Army entered the University to verify that it was safe for reopening following the Easter Sunday attacks and found photographs of LTTE leader, Mr V Prabhakaran, in the Student Union office. They were subsequently released on bail.
- On 4 May 2019, Dilshan Mohamed, a researcher and activist campaigning against violent Islamic militancy was arrested. He had publicly and repeatedly spoken against the group known as Islamic State on Facebook for several years. Following the April 2019 bombings, he was arrested and accused of supporting the group known as Islamic State on Facebook. Dilshan Mohamed was charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and section 3(1) of the ICCPR Act. The ICCPR Act charges were later dropped and he was released from custody on bail on 7 June 2019 after spending 34 days at the Negombo remand prison. However, the investigation under the PTA continues.³⁵
- Shakthika Sathkumara, a Sinhala Buddhist journalist and employee in Government service, was arrested in April 2019 for writing a short story about homosexuality among Buddhist monks, which he had posted on his Facebook page. Following complaints from a Buddhist monk, he was arrested and charged under Section 291B of the Penal Code ('deliberate and malicious intention of outraging the religious feelings') and Section 3 of the ICCPR Act; he was released after 130 days in prison. On 17 June 2019, CIVICUS and the Asian Human Right Commission (AHRIC) called the arrest and ongoing detention of Sathkumara a clear violation of his right to freedom of expression stating, "This is a clear misuse of the law, which was enacted to protect human rights recognized by the international community including fundamental freedoms such as freedom of speech. We also call on the authorities to ensure that writers and artists may work freely and without fear of retribution for expression critical opinions or covering topics that the government or others may find sensitive or offensive."³⁶
- In April 2020, Ramzy Razeek was arrested for writing a Facebook post that was critical of the growing islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims. In that post he called for 'ideological struggle' (ideological jihad) against the oppression.³⁷ He was granted bail in September 2020 after five months in custody.
- In May 2020, Ahnaf Jazeem, a Muslim poet was arrested under the PTA in relation to a collection of poems that he had published in 2017.³⁸ The poems call for peaceful resistance and action against discrimination meted against Muslims locally and globally.
- In November 2020, Murugupillai Kokulathasan, a Tamil journalist, was arrested under the PTA for posting photographs of the LTTE during the Maaveerar Week (a week of commemoration of fallen LTTE cadres). At the time of writing the report he is still in detention.³⁹

EASTER SUNDAY-RELATED ARRESTS

A number of people, mostly Muslims, were arrested in the aftermath of the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks. Arrests have been made for extraordinary reasons including for possessing chlorine, having Arabic songs stored on the phone and possessing documents in Arabic, including the Quran.⁴⁰ In Kaththankudy, where the mastermind of the attacks originated, more than 100 arrests were made in one village alone. Those people have languished in jail for close on two years now. These detainees have had problems finding legal representation. Reports have been received that lawyers appearing for such detainees have been harassed.⁴¹

In May 2019 the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka found that the Government had failed to protect Muslims during communal rioting.⁴² Police have repeatedly failed to act properly or to prosecute perpetrators.⁴³ For instance, the manager of a Muslim-owned business who was attacked said that the police did not make any arrests “despite plenty of CCTV footage to identify the perpetrators”. Public campaigns by religious figures targeting Muslims and putting them at greater risk continue unabated. On May 15, Gnanarathana Thero, one of Sri Lanka’s most senior Buddhist monks, called for the stoning to death of Muslims, and propagated an unfounded allegation that Muslim-owned restaurants put “sterilization medicine” in their food to suppress the majority Sinhalese Buddhist birth rate. Government leaders, instead of fulfilling their duty to protect Muslim citizens, have at times appeared to associate themselves with Buddhist nationalist elements. Many stood by when nine Muslim cabinet and junior ministers felt compelled to resign after the opposition accused them of supporting Islamist militants.⁴⁴ On 23 May, President Maithripala Sirisena shamefully pardoned Gnanasara Thero, the leader of the nationalist Bodu Bala Sena (BBS), who has long been associated with instigating deadly anti-Muslim violence, freeing him after he had served less than a year of a six-year prison term for contempt of court.

VISIT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE PROMOTION OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND BELIEF TO SRI LANKA IN AUGUST 2019

Following a visit to Sri Lanka, the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Freedom of Religion and Belief reported on the targeting and scapegoating of the Muslim community after the Easter Sunday Bombings. He reiterated that “The culture of impunity in Sri Lanka has been repeatedly pointed out as one of the main reasons why religious extremism and hate speech thrive in the country, undermining the rule of law and human rights. Many interlocutors complained about how acts of violence were ‘indulged’ by the silence and inaction of the authorities”.⁴⁵ The Special Rapporteur recommended that “the Government of Sri Lanka take concrete steps to address all of the identified root causes of religious intolerance and tensions, and to promote trust among different ethnic and religious communities in Sri Lanka and urgently address impunity and the lack of accountability by fulfilling the pledges to various international human rights mechanisms”.⁴⁶

CONCLUSION

Decades of impunity and denial in Sri Lanka of serious international crimes such as abductions, unlawful detentions, torture, rape and sexual violence has entrenched in Sri Lanka a

culture of security force officials and those in command operating without fear of accountability for the crimes they perpetrate. Until such time as this culture of impunity is addressed, these crimes will continue. Torture in Sri Lanka is not about a ‘few bad apples’ but rather a structural faultline in which the humanity and dignity of minority communities is denied and individuals who dissent are considered fair game.

ENDNOTES

1 §591

2 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 30 January 2021]

3 <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24477&LangID=E>

4 <http://www.jdslanka.org/index.php/news-features/politics-a-current-affairs/643-sri-lanka-shy-away-from-answering-un-questions-on-torture>; <http://www.jdslanka.org/index.php/news-features/human-rights/741-uncat-sisiramendis-srilanka>

5 Other cases from July 2020 are known to the ITJP but not interviewed yet because of COVID-19 restrictions.

6 "They accused me speaking in broken Tamil of wanting to revive the LTTE by participating in Mullivaikkal Remembrance Day and encouraging other people to participate. They also said that I was behind the organization of these protests despite their warning to me not to participate in such activities". W338

7 "They asked me in broken Tamil who else was involved in the protests and other activities against the government and who had helped the families of the disappeared to do these kinds of things. They asked me to identify the other people involved," "Then he took my phone from his pocket and showed me the videos and photos and said "here we have all this evidence of your political activities and your actions against the government". The videos he showed me were of the various protests I had attended".

8 "When I tried to move away from him he got angry and said "You Tamil dog, you are an arrogant Tamil dog, whatever we do to you no one is going to ask about it." W341 "As they did these things to me they said "Tamil dog tell us the truth otherwise you will lose your life in this room". I thought that they were going to kill me". W342

9 <https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/18-June-torture-map-press-release-2.pdf>

10 (OISL A/HRC/30/CRP.2)

11 United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka, 8 February 2019, Para 56. "OHCHR has continued to receive credible information about cases of abduction, unlawful detention, torture and sexual violence by Sri Lanka security forces, which allegedly took place in 2016 to 2018. A preliminary assessment of the information received indicates that there are reasonable grounds to believe that accounts of unlawful abductions and detention and of torture, including incidents of sexual violence against men and women, are credible, and that such practices might be continuing in northern Sri Lanka..." A/HRC/40/23

12 Freedom from Torture. Response to Country Policy Information Note Sri Lanka: Tamil Separatism July 2020. Sixteen of these cases were included in the 2019 report, Too Little Change: Ongoing Torture in Security Operations in Sri Lanka.

13 <https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/TID-ITJP-18-Sep-2019-final-Press-Release.pdf>

14 <https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/25-February-2019-english-final.docx>

15 <https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/cedaw-press-release-final-english.pdf>

16 <https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/The-case-against-Sisira-Mendis-final.pdf>
<https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/Press-Release-Sisira-Mendis.pdf>

17 <https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/Press-release-24-July-2017-on-Sisira-Mendis-2.pdf>

18 <https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/31-March-2017-ITJP-PRESS-RELEASE-3.pdf>
<https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/Shavendra-Silva-as-COAS-press-release-10-January-2019.docx>
<https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/29-Jan-2019-Shavendra-Silva-press-release.pdf>
<https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/SS-Press-Release-final-2.pdf>

19 <https://www.state.gov/public-designation-due-to-gross-violations-of-human-rights-of-shavendra-silva-of-sri-lanka-under-section-7031c-of-the-department-of-state-foreign-operations-and-related-programs-appropriations-a/>

20 <https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/Press-release-Jagath-Dias.pdf>

21 <https://apnews.com/article/5d2d63869e3740c69c3b9aef051f00ea>

22 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 30 January 2021]

23 Ibid

24 Ibid

25 https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/LK/Sri_LankaReportJan2021.docx

26 Ibid

27 Ibid

28 <https://www.icj.org/sri-lanka-mahara-prison-killings-must-be-properly-investigated-and-urgent-measures-taken-to-protect-detainees-from-covid-19/>

29 <http://www.newswire.lk/2020/11/30/prison-unrest-minister-wimal-ays-drug-tablet-given-making-inmates-violent-mp-anura-responds-address-real-issues-without-staging-sherlock-holmes-storis/>

30 <https://island.lk/inmates-killed-during-prison-riot-had-not-suffered-any-gunshot-injuries-lohan/>

31 <http://www.themorning.lk/all-11-inmates-of-mahara-prison-died-from-gunshot-wounds/>

32 https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/LK/Sri_LankaReportJan2021.docx

33 Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/UseOfForceAndFirearms.aspx>

34 United Nations Human Rights Council, 'Report of the OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka (OISL)' available at accessed on 30 January 2021. See page 249.

35 <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/07/03/sri-lanka-muslims-face-threats-attacks>

36 <https://monitor.civics.org/updates/2019/07/05/icopr-act-and-judicial-system-being-misused-stifle-freedom-expression-sri-lanka/#:~:text=Lanka%20Country%20Page,Misuse%20of%20ICCPR%20Act%20and%20judicial%20system%20to%20stifle%20freedom,three%20hotels%20on%20Easter%20Sunday.>

37 Financial Times (Sri Lanka), 09 May 2020 <http://www.ft.lk/opinion/Ramzy-Razeek-An-extraordinary-struggle-for-an-ordinary-life-of-service-upended-by-a-Police-arrest/14-699917>

38 Financial Times (Sri Lanka), 14 December 2020 <http://www.ft.lk/news/Poetic-injustice-Another-writer-languishes-in-prison-under-PTA/56-710172>

39 Reporters without Borders, 12 January 2020 https://rsf.org/en/news/sri-lanka-tamil-reporter-held-absurd-terrorism-charge-0?fbclid=IwAR11MU5S-rjxQsQchoAoDWlu2HjJDrZIDHRp1pqlGFAG3c_NKyZUVY_Qaxk

40 See further: <https://groundviews.org/2021/01/17/not-all-detainees-are-equal-class-ethnicity-and-the-prevention-of-terrorism-act/>

41 Ibid

42 <https://www.hrcsl.lk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Annual-Report-2019.pdf>

43 Ibid

44 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/4/21/sri-lanka-easter-bombings-mass-casualties-in-churches-and-hotels>

45 <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/43/48/>

46 Ibid

1971

Almost all police stations in the south were used for torture in this period; they are too numerous to depict on the map. Torture also occurred at two university premises used for "rehabilitation". Detainees were frequently taken from police cells to CID offices in Longdon Place and Wijerana in Colombo 7 where torture was routine during interrogation.

1987-9

A large number of police stations mainly were used for torture during this period; they are too numerous to depict on the map. Below are some of the army torture sites.

◆ "REHABILITATION" CAMP

1. Royal college open camp Polonnaruwa

● SINGHALA PARAMILITARIES

2. Batalanda housing scheme, Biyagama, Sapugaskanda Police and paramilitary (PRRA).

● ARMY SITES

Colombo District

3. Law faculty, Colombo University - Army Intelligence and PRRA paramilitary
4. Henry Pedris Stadium (Joint Operations Combined), Havelock Town, Colombo 5
5. Yataro Cafeteria, Thimbirigasyaya, Colombo 5
6. Isurupaya Building housing government offices, Battaramulla, Colombo District
7. Salawa Plywood Corporation premises Army Camp, Kosgama, Colombo District
8. Oruwala Steel Corporation Training Centre, Army Camp, Colombo District
9. Tyrone Fernando Stadium, Moratuwa
10. Mattegoda Army camp, Colombo District

Ratnapura District

11. Sevana Army Camp, Embilipitiya
12. Municipal Council Building, Ratnapura
13. Kuttigala Army Camp, Embilipitiya
14. Kuruwita Army Camp, Kuruwita

Matara District

15. Johnnydale Army Camp, Theljjawila
16. Eliyakanda Army Camp
17. Mulatiyana Army camp
18. Weligama Army Camp
19. Hettiyawala Army Camp
20. Talalla Vocational Training Centre

Hambantota District

21. Community Centre, Angunakolapelessa
22. Middeniya Army Camp

Kalutara District

23. Beruwala Agricultural Centre
24. Army Detention Camp, Pelawatta, Kalutara District; This was an open prison camp opened in 1985 and taken over to detain PTA suspects in 1987 and was used for torture from 1989.

Kurunegala

25. Hettipola Army Camp
26. Wehera Army Camp

Galle District

27. Kotigala Army Camp

Anuradhapura District

28. Pandulagama Army Camp
29. Yakalla Army Camp
30. Kekirawa Army Camp
31. Saliyapura Army Camp

Polonnaruwa District

32. Minneriya Weaving Mill
33. Sewagama Army Camp
34. Polonnaruwa Mahasen Building
35. Mediriginiya, Palliyagodella Army Camp
36. Mediriginiya, Meegawewa, Army Camp
37. Mediriginiya Maha Vidyalaya
38. Giritale Army Camp

Kandy

39. St. Sylvester's College
40. National Institute of Co-operative Development, Polgolla
41. Hilda Hostel, Peradeniya University premises
42. Army Training Centre, Randenigala
43. Uduwa Army Camp, Galagedara
44. Across the Mahaweli river opposite Army Camp, Palkelele
45. Aladeniya Army Camp
46. Sinha Regiment camp, Yatinuwara Street

Matale District

47. Matale Rest House (Gajaba Regiment Coordinating office)

48. Vijaya College, Matale
49. Mattawa army camp, Warakawala
50. Naula Army Camp
51. Army Camp, Ovilikanda
52. Kataranthena Bungalow Army Camp, Raththota
53. Army Camp, Ukuwela
54. Army Camp, Udupihilla
55. Army Camp, Hettipola
56. Technical Training College in Nagolla Road, Matale
57. Army Camp near Christ Church College Army Camp, Matale
58. Government Farm, Pelwehera
59. Bandarapola Camp, Bandarapola
60. Kaikawala Army Camp
61. Raththota Army Camp
62. Kimbissa Army Camp

Badulla District

63. YMCA building, Welimada
64. Ambagasdoowa Camp, Welimada
65. Urban Council building, Bandarawela
66. Race Course Grounds, Badulla (Army and RDF)
67. Army camp, Bandarawela
68. Beragala Army camp, Haputhale
69. Beragala Summer Fashion garment factory, Haputhale
70. Pinarawa Army camp
71. Hali Ela Motors building, Badulla
72. Senanayaka grounds STF camp

Nuwaraeliya District

73. Paddy Marketing Board Store, Walapane
74. Walapane Tea factory (now provincial council), Walapane
75. Cinestar Cinema theatre, Nuwaraeliya
76. Town Hall, Nuwaraeliya
77. Tea Factory, Lindula, Talawakelle

Gampaha District

78. Yakkala Maha Vidyalaya, Yakkala
79. Commando camp, Ganemulla
80. Hunumulla Sinha Regiment Camp, Divulapitiya
81. Dompe Army safehouse

■ POLICE SITES

82. Crime Detective Bureau, Gregory's Road, Colombo 7
83. Crime Detective Bureau
83. Police office building, Panadura.

Kalutara District

OTHER POLICE

84. STF Headquarters (Presently ODEL showroom), Colombo District
85. Police office building, Peliyagoda, Colombo District
86. Ampitiya Police Barracks, Kandy District
87. Divulapitiya Police Station, Gampaha District
88. Badulla Haliela Motors garage, Badulla District (also used by army)

COUNTER SUBVERSIVE UNIT

89. Police Bachelors Quarters, Gampaha District

● TAMIL PARAMILITARIES

90. PLOTE camp near Sivan Kovil, Kovilkulam, VAVUNIYA
91. Rambaikulam PLOTE camp, VAVUNIYA
92. EPDP camp in Sridhar cinema theatre, Stanley Road, Jaffna
93. EPDP office in Park Road, Colombo 5.
94. Malal bakery, Vavuniya

► UNIDENTIFIED PERPETRATOR UNITS

Kandy District

95. Adjoining Kadugannawa police station

Moneragala District

96. Moneragala Community Center
97. Muthukandiya Project Office near 4th mile post, Muthukandiya

Nuwaraeliya District

98. Walapane Paddy Marketing Board Store
99. Nuwaraeliya, St Rita's Camp
100. Nuwaraeliya Town Hall

Gampaha District

101. University of Kelaniya Gym
102. Mirigama Youth Centre
103. Kelaniya, Pattiya Junction, Billiards Hall

Kegalle District

104. Wickremesinghe Bungalow

Matale District

105. Sunatha Camp
106. Koombiyangoda Buddhist Temple
107. Technical Training College in Nagolla Road, Matale

Colombo District

108. Race Course (Opposite Royal College), Colombo 7

109. Sethsiripaya Building, Battaramulla
110. Lakehouse(newspapers) Basement, Colombo Fort
111. Torrington Avenue, Colombo 7
112. Colombo Municipal Council Slaughterhouse, Dematagoda Colombo 8
113. Borella Public Cemetery, Colombo 8
114. Royal Colombo Golf Club, Model Farm road, Narahenpita, Colombo 8

Ratnapura District

115. Mahaweli Authority staff quarters opposite Embilipitiya National School, Embilipitiya

Kalutara District

116. Soranathota Estate, Soranathota
117. Gikiyanakanda Estate, Kalutara
118. Rest House, Mahagama
119. Agriculture centre, Bombuwala
120. Hotel Meriviya, Kalutara

Galle District

121. Hilltop Hotel, Kaluwella

2006 – 2019

◆ "REHABILITATION" CAMPS

NORTH

122. Dharamapuram Welfare Centre
123. Gaminii Maha Vidyalaya
124. Kovilkulam Maha Vidyalaya
125. Maradamadu
126. Nellukkulam Technical College
127. Omanthai School - TID detention site then Rehabilitation camp
128. Pampaimadu (army camp & rehabilitation camp)
129. Poonthottam Cooperative Training School/College of Education
130. Pothanichchur Muslim Maha Vidyalaya
131. Rambaikulam Holy Family Convent
132. Tamil Maha Vidyalaya
133. Vellikulam Muslim Girls College

EAST

134. Kandakadu in Polonnaruwa
135. Welikanda/Senapura Camp

IDP camp

136. Manik Farm Internment Camps, near VAVUNIYA.

■ POLICE

TID

137. Boosa Camp, Galle
138. TID camp in VAVUNIYA, known as Thekkawatta.

CID

139. 4th floor, Colombo Fort, Colombo 1
140. CID in Harbour, Colombo Fort
141. Borella CID building, Colombo 8
142. CID Intelligence Unit at Kotahena police station, Colombo 13
143. Nugagoda CID office, Colombo District
144. CID in Chavakachcheri, Jaffna District
145. CID in Vallipunam, Vanni District
146. CID in VAVUNIYA, Vanni District
147. CID office in Kilinochchi, Vanni
148. CID office opposite Iranamadu army camp,
149. CID in Mullaitivu army camp, Vanni District
150. CID office in Ampara
151. CID in Kalmunai Town, Ampara District
152. CID in Mulliyawalai - abducted from here to another unknown place, Vanni District

SIS secret detention sites

153. Jungle place near VAVUNIYA
154. Sri Mahavihara, Temple Street in Colombo
155. Wattala somewhere close to the railroad, Gampaha District

CCD

156. Kollonnawa, Colombo District
157. Dematagoda, Colombo District

STF

158. Gonahena, Gampaha District
159. Chettikulam STF camp, Vavuniya

Police Stations

160. Bambilapitiya police station, Colombo District
161. Colombo Harbour police station, Colombo District
162. Hettiyawatte Police station Colombo District
163. Kotahena police station Colombo District
164. Mt. Lavinia police station, Colombo District
165. Wellawatte police station, Colombo District
166. Pettah police station, Colombo District
167. Sreeduwa police station, Gampaha District
168. Jaffna Police station Jaffna District
169. Nelliyadi police station Jaffna District
170. Padawiya police station, Anuradhapura District
171. Pulmuddai police station Trincomalee District

172. Kandana Police station, Gampaha District

1980s:

Presidential Commissions of Inquiry into the Involuntary Removal or Disappearance of Persons (1995-2000), Amnesty International, JDS reports & testimony, Dhanman Wickremaratne book.

2009+:

ITJP testimony. Rehabilitation Sites listed in IJC report (2010) and Bureau of Commissioner General of Rehabilitation.

● TAMIL PARAMILITARIES

173. Calls behind a Hotel (name redacted) in Panadura, Kalutara District
174. STF & Tamil paramilitary site in Kaluwanchikudy, Batticaloa District
175. Iniyabharathi's basement under his office in Thambiluvil, Batticaloa
176. Kiran detention site, Batticaloa District

● ARMY CAMPS

Jaffna Peninsula

177. Achchuvelli Army Camp, Jaffna
178. Allarai Camp in Kodikaman, Jaffna
179. Chavakachcheri Army Camp, Jaffna
180. Jaffna Town Army Camp
181. Keerimalai Army Camp close to Kanakesanturai, Jaffna
182. Thelipalay Army Camp, Jaffna
183. Palalay Army camp, Jaffna
184. Uduvil Army Camp
185. Urelu Army Camp Jaffna
186. Urumpirai Army Camp Jaffna
187. Kaithady Junction Army Camp, Jaffna

Vanni

188. Kilinochchi Army Camp
189. Kangapuram Army Camp, Kilinochchi
190. Iranapalai Army Camp, Kilinochchi
191. Camp near Paranthan Junction, Kilinochchi
192. Iyakkachchi Army Camp, Elephant Pass, Kilinochchi
193. Iranamadu Army Camp, Kilinochchi
194. Keppapulavu Army Camp, Mullaitivu
195. Mullaitivu Army Camp
196. Sampath Nuwara IDP / Army Camp, Mullaitivu

War end at Surrender:

197. Udayaarkaddu Mahavidyalaya Camp, Vanni
198. Vallipunam School, Vanni
199. Kilinochchi Hospital

Vavuniya District

200. Veppankulam Army Camp
201. Army Camp near Omanthai School
202. Joseph Camp, VAVUNIYA Town
203. Kanagarayankulam Army Camp, VAVUNIYA

Anuradhapura District

204. Thanthirimale Army Camp, Anuradhapura

Colombo District

205. Panagoda Army Camp, Colombo District
206. Colombo Army Camp

Trincomalee District

207. Plantain Point, Trincomalee
208. Orr's Hill Army Camp, Trincomalee
209. Minneriya Army Camp, Polonnaruwa District
210. Welikanda main Army Camp, Polonnaruwa
211. Facility in jungle circa 30 minutes' drive from Welikanda (Executions)

Batticaloa District

212. Batticaloa military facility ("toothpowder camp"), Lake Road.

Ampara District

213. Ampara - a military facility it does not appear to have been either the main military base / training school, but a smaller facility

● Navy

214. Trincomalee Naval Dockyard
215. Trincomalee Naval Gunsite
216. Navy Site, Chaitiya Road, Colombo.
217. SLNS Gemunu, Welisara, Gampaha
218. Pooneva Camp (between Medawachchiya and VAVUNIYA)
219. Navy camp in Trincomalee behind the Koneswar temple, Fort Frederick

Multiple unidentified sites - a navy camp in Jaffna Peninsula, a CID office Colombo, an army camp, VAVUNIYA, unidentified CID and TID sites in VAVUNIYA and Colombo, unknown army sites in Jaffna, another detention site in Trincomalee.

Source: 1990s: Presidential Commissions of Inquiry into the Involuntary Removal or Disappearance of Persons (1995-2000), Amnesty International, JDS reports & testimony, Dhanman Wickremaratne book (2008), ITJP testimony, Rehabilitation Sites listed in IJC report (2010) and Bureau of Commissioner General of Rehabilitation.