

SRI LANKA CONFLICT TIMELINE

Velupillai Prabhakaran forms a militant group called the Tamil New Tigers.

Burning-down of Jaffna Library, one of the biggest in Asia and a symbol of Tamil culture, by a pro-government Sinhalese mob.

MARCH: India withdraws troops due to clashes with the LTTE, who take control of Jaffna.

JUNE: LTTE kill hundreds of policemen in eastern Sri Lanka following breakdown of talks.

JULY: LTTE suicide attack on Colombo International Airport.

21 JANUARY: Government announces first 'no-fire zone' for civilians.

12 FEBRUARY: Second 'no-fire' zone for civilians announced.

8 MAY: Third 'no-fire' zone announced.

18 MAY: The last village under LTTE control is captured by the Sri Lankan Army.

JANUARY: The Consultation Task Force on Reconciliation Mechanisms publishes a 700 page report which the Government disregards.

JANUARY: UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Juan Mendez, issues report saying there are credible reports that "white van" abductions continue¹.

MARCH: The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights reports to the Council that there is credible information regarding ongoing "white van" abductions, torture and sexual violence by the Sri Lankan security forces¹.

JULY: UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism visits Sri Lanka and delivers scathing assessment of progress on transitional justice¹.

JANUARY: Rajapaksa loses Presidential elections and Maithripala Sirisena comes to power in a coalition government.

AUGUST: Parliamentary elections won by the same coalition.

SEPTEMBER: OHCHR publishes its investigation into Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan Government promises an ambitious programme of transitional justice measures, including a Truth Commission, a Hybrid Court, an Office of Missing People and a Reparations Body - none of which is operational yet.

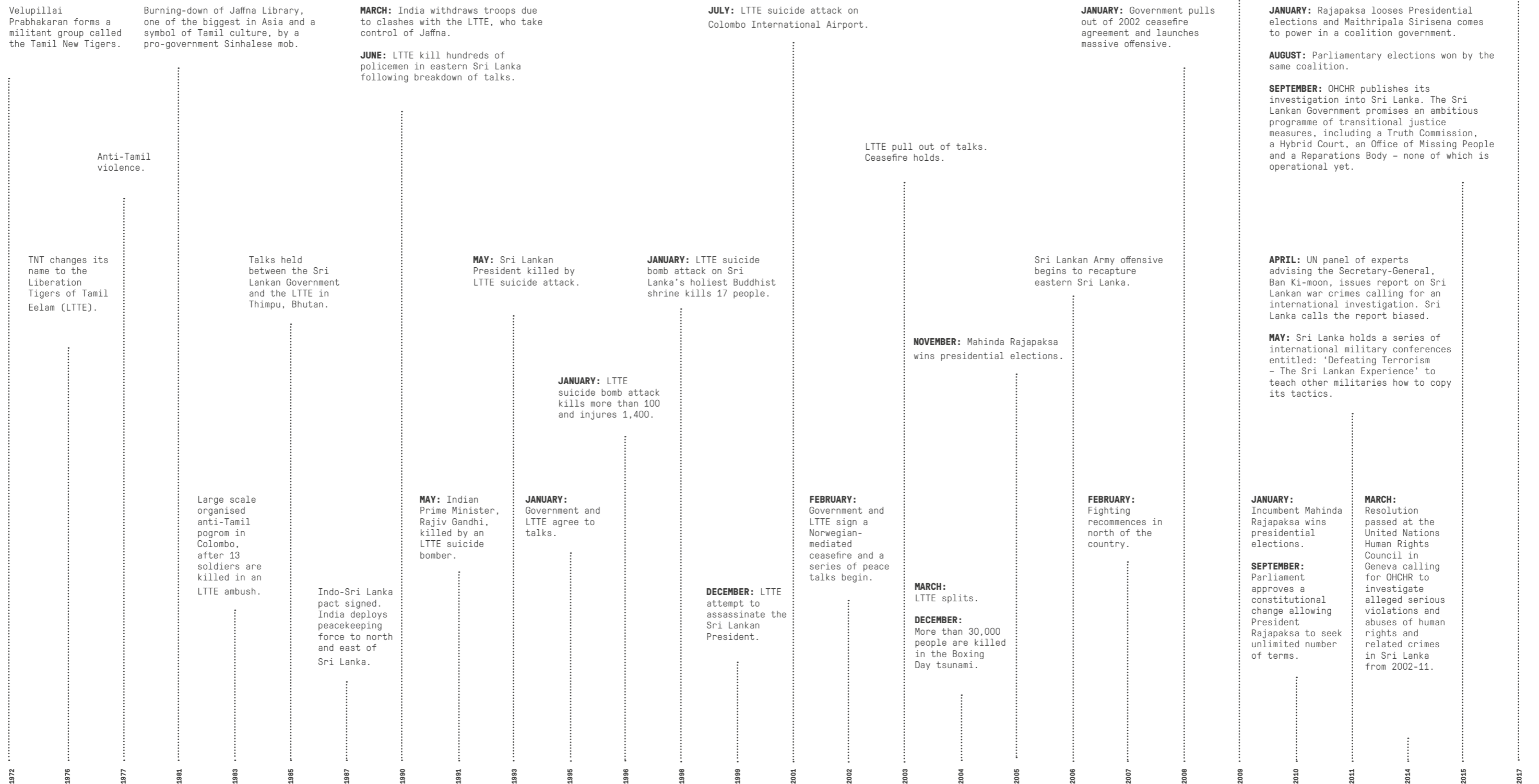
APRIL: UN panel of experts advising the Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, issues report on Sri Lankan war crimes calling for an international investigation. Sri Lanka calls the report biased.

MAY: Sri Lanka holds a series of international military conferences entitled: 'Defeating Terrorism - The Sri Lankan Experience' to teach other militaries how to copy its tactics.

JANUARY: Incumbent Mahinda Rajapaksa wins presidential elections.

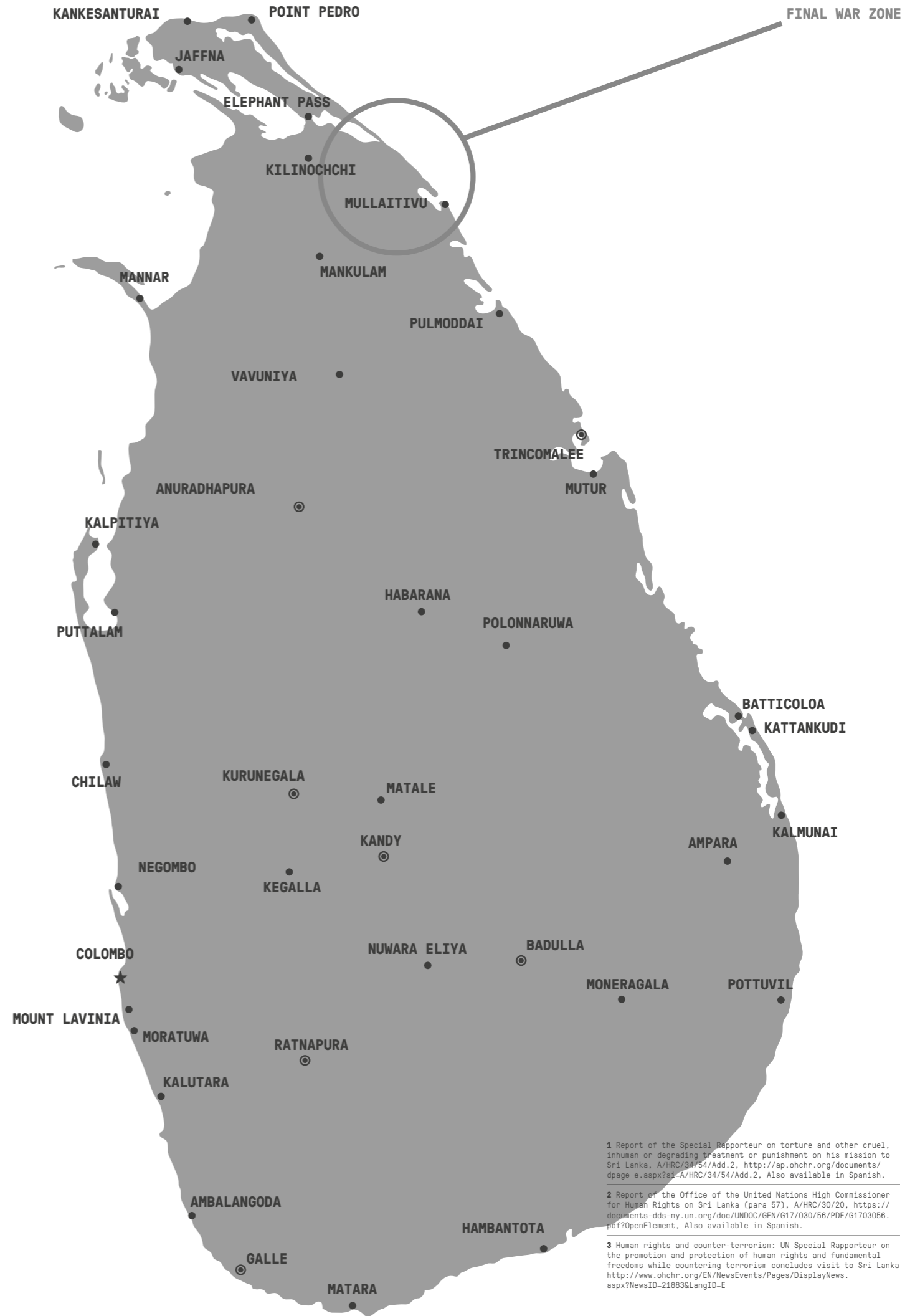
SEPTEMBER: Parliament approves a constitutional change allowing President Rajapaksa to seek unlimited number of terms.

MARCH: Resolution passed at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva calling for OHCHR to investigate alleged serious violations and abuses of human rights and related crimes in Sri Lanka from 2002-11.



1972 1976 1977 1981 1983 1985 1987 1990 1991 1993 1995 1996 1998 1999 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2014 2015 2017

SRI LANKA MAP



1 Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment on his mission to Sri Lanka, A/HRC/34/54/Add.2, http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?e=A/HRC/34/54/Add.2. Also available in Spanish.

2 Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Sri Lanka (para 57), A/HRC/30/20, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G17/030/56/PDF/G1703056.pdf?OpenElement>. Also available in Spanish.

3 Human rights and counter-terrorism: UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism concludes visit to Sri Lanka <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21883&LangID=E>