



# MAISON DU TAMIL EELAM

Centre de Protection des Droits du Peuple Tamoul

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The Honourable Mr. Volker Turk,  
United Nations High Commissioner of Human rights,  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human rights (OHCHR)  
Palais Wilson,  
52 rue des Paquis,  
CH-1201 Geneva,  
Switzerland.

Paris 17 June 2025

**Your Excellency,**

We extend our sincere gratitude for your visit to Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka has long been a site of serious human rights abuses and systemic crimes, particularly targeting a section of its population since the country's independence. These violations have left deep scars on affected communities, especially in the Tamil regions.

Throughout the country's history, we have witnessed mass enforced disappearances, and in several parts of the Tamil homeland, mass graves have been discovered. Unfortunately, many investigations into these sites have been halted or obstructed for unclear reasons.

Coinciding with your visit, another mass grave has reportedly been unearthed in the Chemmani region. Notably, in 1998, a Sri Lankan soldier on trial for rape and murder alleged that hundreds of individuals who disappeared from the Jaffna Peninsula after it was recaptured by government forces in 1995 and 1996 were killed and buried in mass graves near Chemmani. At that time, estimates suggested between 300 and 400 bodies may have been buried there.

Now, in June 2025, excavation work at the Chemmani-Sindubathi burial site in Jaffna's Nallur division has led to the discovery of human remains, including those believed to be of an infant under one year old. So far, court-ordered excavations have uncovered 18 human skeletons, including those of three children. These findings underscore the urgent need for international oversight in investigating mass graves across the island.

Unfortunately, Chemmani is not the only site of concern. Recent discoveries in Kokuthoduvai and earlier in Mannar are part of a growing list. As time passes, more mass graves may be uncovered in the Tamil regions.

These areas remain heavily militarized, with hundreds of army camps operating across the North and East. The pervasive military presence subjects the local population to constant surveillance, significantly limiting their freedom of expression and movement.



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In this context, we welcome your visit and respectfully urge you to engage directly with the affected communities. We ask that you consider the historical and ongoing suffering of the Tamil people and advocate for the United Nations Human Rights mechanisms to take charge of investigations into these mass graves. We also request that international representatives be allowed to visit the Tamil regions freely, including lands currently occupied by military installations.

We sincerely hope your visit will be followed by meaningful action, including a call for an **International Independent Investigation**, particularly in light of the Sri Lankan government's continued denial and lack of accountability.

We thank you once again, Your Excellency, for your attention and commitment to justice.

**Respectfully,**

Mr T. Thiruchchoti

Responsable Polit Bureau

Center for the Protection of the Tamils Rights.