Preserving Evidence
Advancing Accountability for Sri Lanka

A Snapshot of OHCHR Sri Lanka Accountability Project's Repository

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Understanding OSLap's Repository

What it is

- OSLap's repository contains **over 112,000 materials** documenting human rights violations, abuses, and serious crimes committed in Sri Lanka over the past decades.
- The majority of these materials were inherited from **previous UN bodies**, including the **OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka** (OISL). Additional materials were collected directly by OSLap or submitted by victims and civil society organisations.
- The repository is maintained on a **secure digital evidence management platform**, with encryption and strict access controls.

What it shows

- The repository is **victim-centred**, often reflecting first-hand accounts of the experiences and harms endured by victims and survivors.
- Testimonies and reports frequently **describe multiple, overlapping violations**, making the collection inherently **cross-cutting** and **intersectional**.
- It provides valuable insights into the **patterns**, **scale**, and **impact of violations** committed in Sri Lanka.
- As a result of its **victim-centred focus**, the repository contains comparatively less material related to attribution of responsibility.
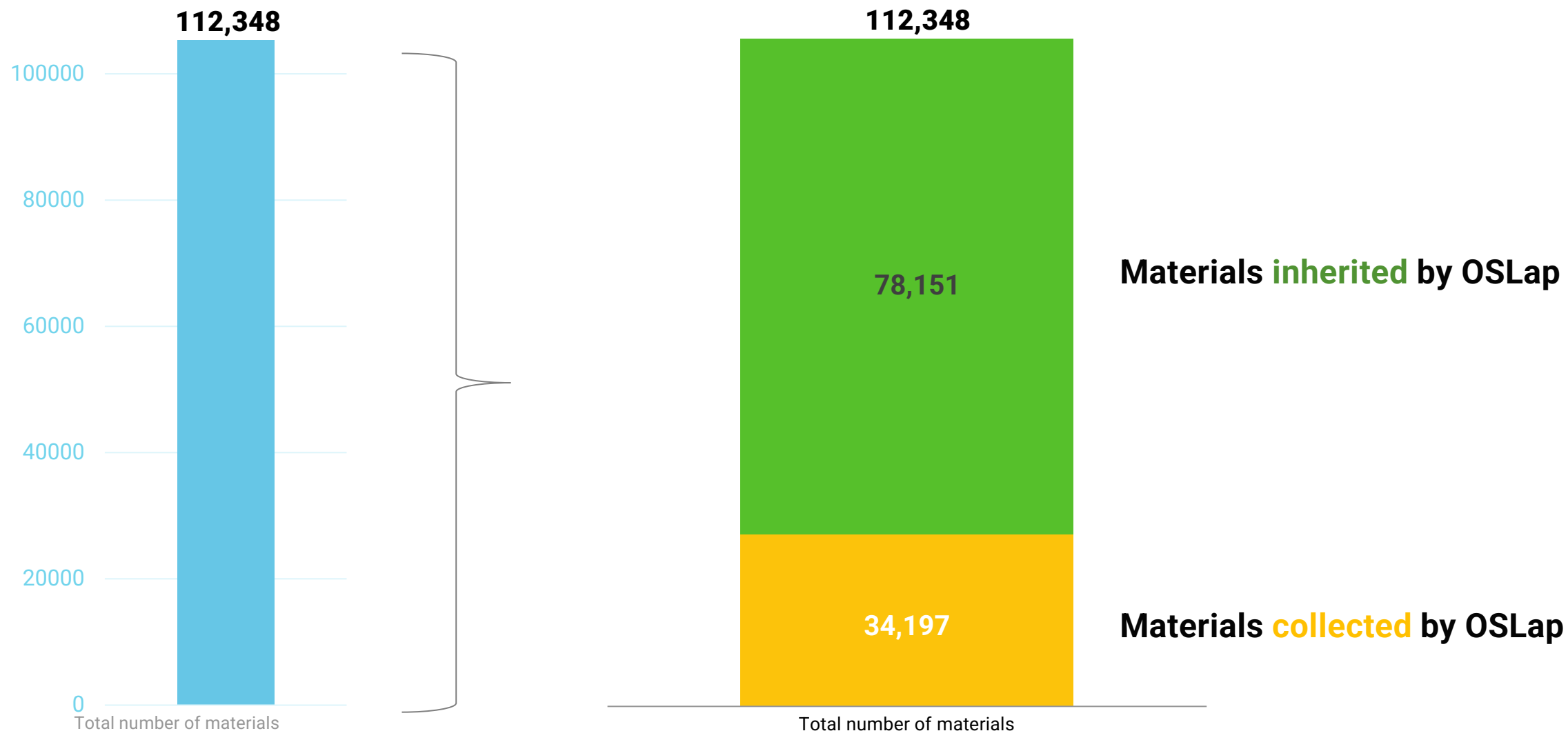
Access and Safeguards

- Access to the repository is governed by **United Nations rules, privileges, immunities**, **and safeguards**, to ensure the protection of victims, witnesses, and information providers.
- All materials are classified as "**strictly confidential**" and **cannot be disclosed without explicit consent** from the individuals or organizations concerned.
- While OSLap regularly reviews consent with information providers, at present **the vast majority have not agreed to the sharing of their information** with national authorities.

Legacy and Future use

- After OSLap's mandate ends, its repository will be **securely preserved** within OHCHR, with access restricted to authorized staff only.
- While it may still support future judicial or human rights processes, OHCHR's capacity to collect new evidence or respond to requests will be limited.
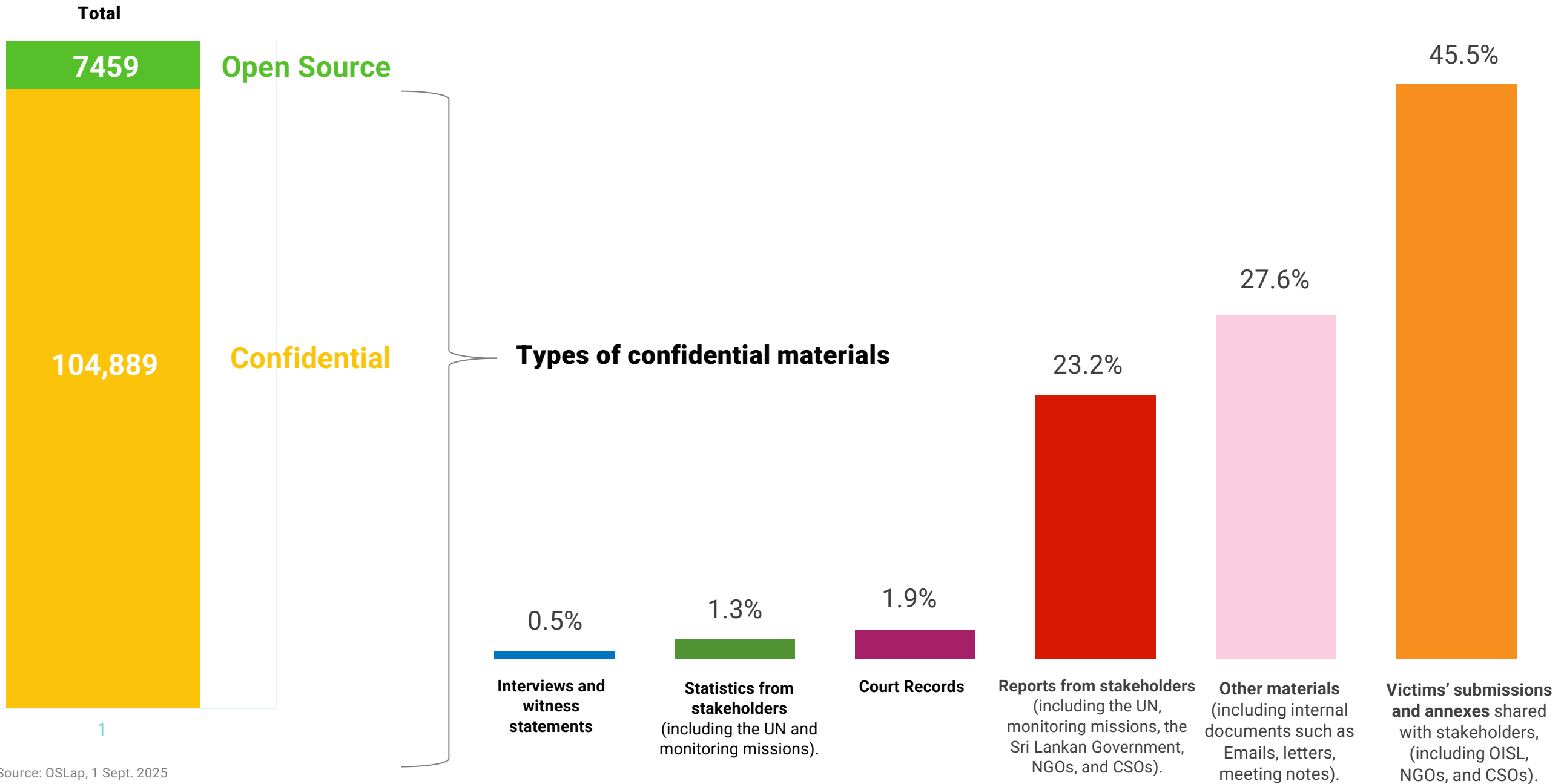
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Total number of materials in OSLap's repository

112,348

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Materials inherited by OSLap

78,151

Materials collected by OSLap

34,197

Total number of materials

Total number of materials

"**Materials**" refer to documents, items of information, evidence, reports from NGOs, interviews, statements, videos, and photographs in OSLap's repository.
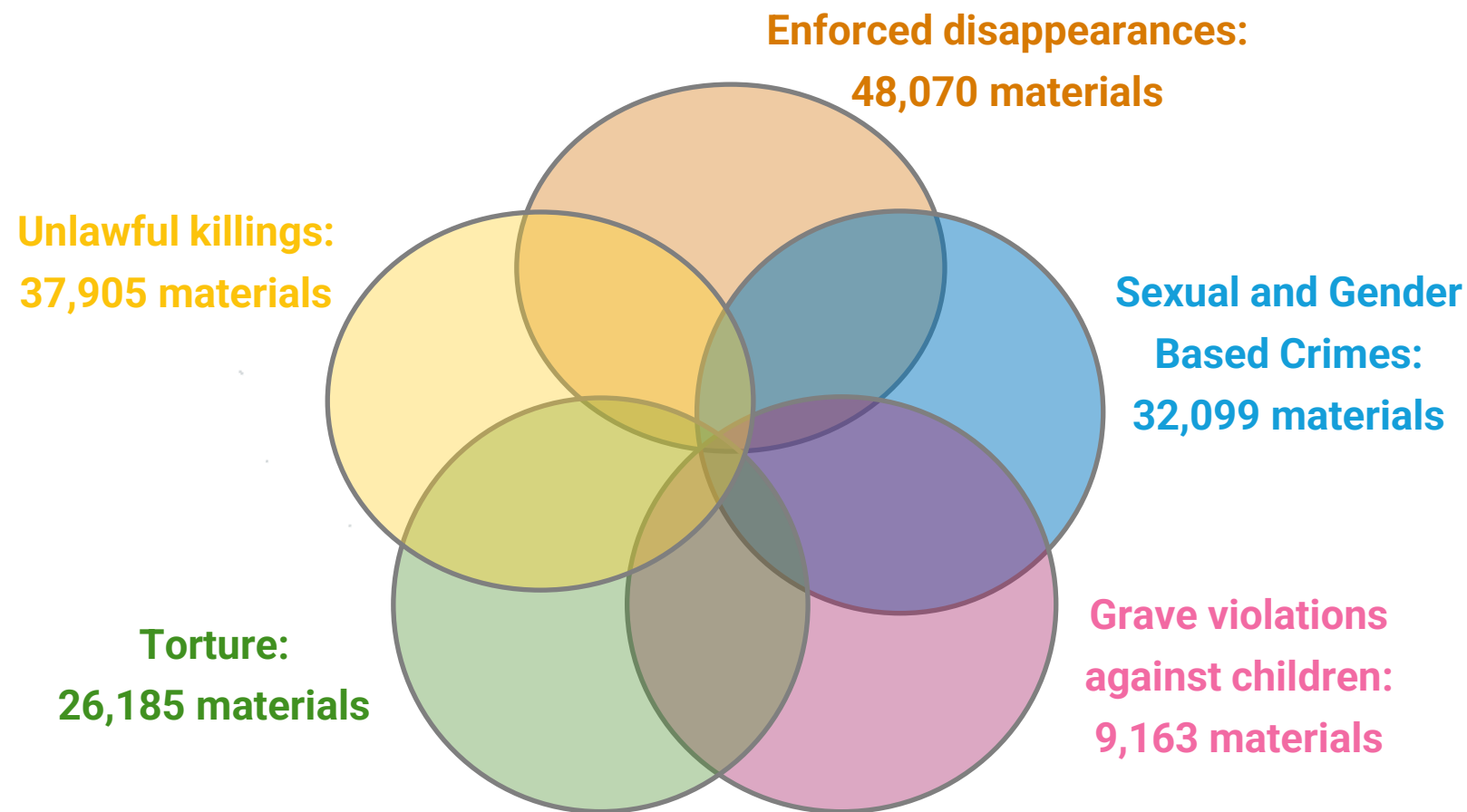"**Materials inherited by OSLap**" refer to materials collected by previous UN bodies related to investigations in Sri Lanka.

Source: OSLap, 1 Sept. 2025.

Breakdown of the materials in terms of confidentiality

Total

7459 — **Open Source**

104,889 — **Confidential**

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Types of confidential materials

0.5% — **Interviews and witness statements**

1.3% — **Statistics from stakeholders** (including the UN and monitoring missions).

1.9% — **Court Records**

23.2% — **Reports from stakeholders** (including the UN, monitoring missions, the Sri Lankan Government, NGOs, and CSOs).

27.6% — **Other materials** (including internal documents such as Emails, letters, meeting notes).

45.5% — **Victims' submissions and annexes** shared with stakeholders, (including OISL, NGOs, and CSOs).

Cross-cutting nature of OSLap's repository

Enforced disappearances:
48,070 materials

Unlawful killings:
37,905 materials

Sexual and Gender
Based Crimes:
32,099 materials

Torture:
26,185 materials

Grave violations
against children:
9,163 materials

Most materials in OSLap's repository - whether reports, witness statements, or court records - cut across several types of violations. Reports often document the full range of crimes committed, while witnesses recount their experiences as a whole, without separating one harm from another. This makes it difficult, and sometimes artificial, to classify an item under a single violation. However, for the purposes of its thematic reporting (e.g. on enforced disappearances in 2024 or on CRSV in 2025), OSLap used generic categories to identify violations and related information and evidence. In many cases, the same item was tagged under more than one category, since reports and testimonies frequently describe multiple, overlapping crimes.

Source: OSLap, 1 Sept. 2025