

# Repression of Dissent in Sri Lanka

1<sup>st</sup> October -31<sup>st</sup> December 2021



*Poet Ahnaf Jazeem with his family after being bailed out following 18 months of detention under Prevention of Terrorism Act. He was accused of writing a book of poetry that contained extremist ideas, a claim that was refuted by literary experts and rights activists. Photo Courtesy: WSWs.org*

# INFORM

**Human Rights Documentation Centre**

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Repression of Dissent in Sri Lanka in Oct -December 2021.

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*INFORM was established in 1990 to monitor and document human rights situation in Sri Lanka, especially in the context of the ethnic conflict and war, and to report on the situation through written and oral interventions at the local, national and international level. INFORM also focused on working with other communities whose rights were frequently and systematically violated. Presently, INFORM is focusing on election monitoring, freedom expression and human rights defenders. INFORM is based in Colombo Sri Lanka, and works closely with local activists, groups and networks as well as regional (Asian) and international human rights networks.*

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# Repression of Dissent in Sri Lanka

October - December 2021

## **1. Methodology**

This report provides some general trends and details of some significant incidents related to the repression of dissent in Sri Lanka in the months of October to December 2021.

This report was prepared mainly based on the information reported in mainstream and social media. Incidents of repression mentioned in this report include arrests, threats, intimidation, investigations against human rights defenders (HRDs) etc. and potential threats such as new repressive laws, appointments, policy decisions etc., which may have a negative impact on freedom of expression, assembly, association and dissent in the future.

In this report, “dissent” is broadly defined to include acts of protest, resistance, defiance, challenge against, question or attempt to record rights violations, social injustice at the hands of state or non-state apparatus, including police, armed forces, religious groups, and politicians among others. “Repression” is defined as any attempt by the above state or non-state actors to suppress the acts of dissent. Any rhetoric decrying human rights has also been considered as repression of dissent because of its potential to erode rights. We have also included government officials who had faced reprisals when trying to do their duties.

The report is based on 73 incidents related to repression of dissent in Sri Lanka. Section 1 describes the methodology. Section 2 describes the socio-political context and some trends relating to the human rights situation in Sri Lanka during the month. Section 3 provides updates about ongoing legal cases related to dissent. Section 4 provides a thematic summaries of the incidents described in the report. This month’s report is organized under 5 themes: (4.1) Repression of journalists, Mass Media and Social Media, (4.2) Repression of Freedom of Assembly (4.4) Repression of other State officials and (4.5) Repression of dissent through legal and policy actions and (4.6) other incidents. Section 5 includes the list of incidents presented in a table, with a brief description about each incident.

## 2. Context

**Economic crisis and other socio-economic issues:** Inflation rates and food prices rapidly increased in this quarter due to the existing economic crisis and deficit of foreign reserves, creating many socio-economic problems. The food inflation rate increased up to 12.8% in October, 17.5% in November, and 22.1% in December<sup>1</sup>. The food inflation rate was only 3% in January 2021.<sup>2</sup> According to Sri Lanka Central Bank officials, it has printed 1.4 trillion Sri Lankan rupees in the year of 2021.<sup>3</sup> In December, Fitch Ratings downgraded Sri Lanka's sovereign rating to 'CC' from 'CCC', citing a growing risk of debt default in 2022, despite repeated assurances from the central bank that steps will be taken to meet all repayments.<sup>4</sup>

In October, domestic gas prices were raised from more than 80% of their previous prices<sup>5</sup>. In the meantime, more than 800 incidents of cooking explosions and one death were reported around the country from October to December. Experts stated that these explosions were caused by high pressure in the cylinders due to changes in chemical composition of the domestic gas, for which gas companies should be held accountable. However, a committee appointed by the President claimed that gas explosions were not caused by the changes of the gas composition, but by the poor quality accessories used with gas cookers.<sup>6</sup>



*Police obstructed the people attending the SJB protest. Photo Courtesy: Ceylon Today*

In this context, the main Opposition party Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) organized a massive protest in Colombo on 16th November under the slogan “Protest against the curse of the Government.”<sup>7</sup> Government attempted to prevent the rally from happening using various strategies.. Several trade unions also organized a protest and a strike against a controversial liquid natural gas (LNG) deal with US-based New Fortress Energy which allegedly circumvented standard tender procedure.<sup>8</sup> In the North and East several events organized to celebrate the great heroes’ day (maaveerar naal) were met with various strategies of repression. Teachers, health workers, other government workers, farmers

<sup>1</sup> [Central Bank of Sri Lanka press release](#). Published 30<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>2</sup> [Central Bank of Sri Lanka press release](#). Published 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>3</sup> [Central Bank of Sri Lanka press release](#). Published 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021. Last accessed 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>4</sup> [Cabraal reveals how much money Sri Lanka printed in 2021 | Newswire](#). Published 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022. Last accessed 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>5</sup> [Fitch downgrades Sri Lanka to 'CC' on higher debt default risk | Reuters](#). Published 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022. Last accessed 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>6</sup> [Sri Lanka food, cooking gas prices up after controls removed amid money printing | News First](#). Published 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022. Last accessed 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>7</sup> [Sri Lanka presidential probe on gas explosions contradicts previous official claims](#). Published 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2022. Last accessed 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>8</sup> [SJB holds 10 K-strong protests amid police obstacles | The Morning](#). Published 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>9</sup> [Sri Lanka trade unions to protest controversial energy deal | Economynext](#). Published 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.



and political parties held a number of protests. Incidents where these events were repressed are detailed in the summary of incidents section. Meanwhile Prime Minister Rajapakse traveling to an Indian temple using a private jet at an alleged cost of USD 32 Million came to public criticism, to which the government responded that it was a sponsorship made by an (undisclosed) Indian business person.<sup>9</sup>

**Legal and policy changes:** Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) was downgraded to B status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), a United Nations Institute of National Human Rights Organisation, for HRCSL's failure to meet requirements of independence and effectiveness indicated in the UN guiding principles for National Human Rights Commissions (NHRCs) known as "Paris Principals."<sup>10 11</sup>

Government withdrew their decision to bring an obscene publication act that "prohibits any form of obscene publications, produced through information technology and other media."<sup>12</sup> In a statement issued to the media, the Ministry of Justice stated that their intention was to strengthen protection to children and women who are facing violence, but not restrict freedom of expression. The statement stated that they will bring the new laws after holding consultations with the relevant stakeholders.<sup>13</sup> The Ministry of Defence introduced a new and controversial requirement for Sri Lankans to obtain defence ministry approval before getting married to a foreign national.<sup>14 15</sup>

In October, General Secretary of Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) controversial monk Galabodaththe Gnanasara was appointed as the chairperson of "Presidential Task Force for One Country, One Law" by the President. On 1st November, he stated that proposals made by Bodu Bala Sena - the ultra-nationalist group that allegedly instigated violence against minority Muslims during multiple riots would be included in a draft Act to be prepared by the committee.<sup>16</sup>

Pandora papers<sup>17</sup> revealed the information about hidden wealth of former minister and a member of ruling Rajapakse family Nirupama Rajapakse and her husband Nadesan.<sup>18</sup> Singapore based Asiatic Trust has managed some of Nadesan's offshore companies and trusts, with assets valued at about \$18 million, according to an ICIJ analysis, while confidential emails said that their wealth exceeds more than \$160 million, as of 2011. In October, President Rajapaksha ordered the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) to launch an immediate investigation into the Sri Lankans and the related transactions revealed in the Pandora Papers.<sup>19</sup> In November, the CIABOC officials met with the President and briefed the progress of investigations. A confidential interim report has been reportedly submitted to the President.<sup>20</sup> Also a statement from Nirupama Rajapaksha

<sup>9</sup> [Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksha made a pilgrimage to Tirupati by a private jet | News First](#) Published 30<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>10</sup> [Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission downgraded by UN body, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions | Aithiya](#) Published 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>11</sup> [GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation Report – October 2021](#) Published Oct 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>12</sup> [A Tale of Two Obscene Publications Acts — A Brief and Incomplete Contextualisation of Obscenity Laws and Imperial Censorship in Sri Lanka | Engenderings](#) Published 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>13</sup> [Tweet | Senel Wanniarachchi](#) Published 29<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>14</sup> [Defence ministry vetting foreign spouses: Sri Lanka lawyer goes to human rights body | Economynext](#) Published 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>15</sup> [Revoke the unjust limitation to marriages with foreigners- International Network for Sri Lankan Democracy \(INSD\) | Sri Lanka Brief](#) Published 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>16</sup> [Gnanasara reveals BBS proposals will be included in the draft Act | Colombo Gazette](#) Published 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>17</sup> The Pandora Papers is an investigation into the [shadowy offshore financial system](#) that reveals the workings of a secret economy that benefits the wealthy and well-connected at the expense of everyone else. The "papers" are the more than [11.9 million confidential records](#) obtained by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists that form the backbone of the investigation. [Frequently asked questions about the Pandora Papers and ICIJ](#) Published 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>18</sup> [Sri Lankan power couple piled up luxury homes, artworks and cash offshore as ruling family rose and rose - ICIJ, Power Players - ICIJ](#) Published 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>19</sup> [Launch an immediate investigation into Sri Lankans revealed in Pandora Papers | Presidential Secretariat of Sri Lanka Press Release](#) Published 6<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>20</sup> [President briefed on progress of investigation into Pandora Papers | Presidential Secretariat of Sri Lanka Press Release](#) Published 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

has not been recorded in the preparation of this interim report.<sup>21</sup> President Rajapaksha's involvement in an investigation concerning a family member, and not releasing findings of the interim report to the public brings many doubts about the independence of the inquiry conducted.

### Acquittal of suspects:

In December, former minister Ravi Karunanayake, former Central Bank Governor Arjun Mahendran and Perpetual Treasury owner Arjun Aloysius were released of 11 of the 22 charges against them in connection with the controversial bond scam case.<sup>22 23</sup>

In December, the Colombo High Court ordered acquittal and release of interdicted Magistrate Thilina Gamage, the fourth accused in the case filed against him and another three accused for the alleged possession of an elephant calf named 'Sakura' without a license.<sup>24</sup> Around 2015-2016, a number of elephants who have been allegedly illegally captured and trafficked were arrested including an elephant belonging to the current President. In this case, the high court judge held that the prosecution had failed to prove charges against the accused beyond reasonable doubt.

On 10th December, the controversial monk Galabodaaththe Gnanasara there was released from a legal case for allegedly inciting hate speech against Muslims and disparaging the Holy Quran, after the Attorney General withdrew the charges.<sup>25</sup> The withdrawal of the case happened immediately after Gnanasara there was appointed as the chairperson of the controversial "One Law, One Country Presidential Task Force."

**Political Prisoners:** In October and December, Tamil Guardian reported that two Tamil political prisoners, detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) for 12 years<sup>26</sup> and 15 years<sup>27</sup> were acquitted and released from Welikada and Negambo prisons.

**LGBTIQ community:** The Colombo Chief Magistrate has dismissed a case filed against three gay men for homosexuality. The dismissal of Case No. 34131/3/20, was based on a letter by the Attorney General (AG) informing the Police that the AG will not pursue the case.<sup>28</sup> In the same month, the Court of Appeal also granted leave to proceed regarding a fundamental rights petition filed by LGBTIQ rights activists and civil society activists<sup>29</sup>.

**Deaths in Custody:** At least two suspicious deaths in custody were reported in this period. In one case, Sri Lanka Bar Association which received information about the impending extrajudicial killing, reported it to the Senior Police officers, National Human Rights Commission and others. However, the suspect was killed in a Police shooting as predicted earlier, in the pretext of "while being escorted to recover hidden weapons."<sup>30</sup> Another suspect in Panamure area in Ratnapura district who was arrested regarding a family dispute was also found dead in custody. The residents in the area protested against the Police claiming the death was suspicious, while Police claimed it was a death by suicide.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>21</sup> [Interim report without recording Nirupama's statement | Ceylon Today](#) Published 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>22</sup> [Ravi Karunanayake has been acquitted from 11 cases of Bond Scam | The Morning](#) Published 6 Dec 21. Last accessed 15 Feb 22

<sup>23</sup> [The Bond Issue Controversy: An Analysis | Groundviews](#). Published 26<sup>th</sup> Mar 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>24</sup> [Magistrate Gamage acquitted from elephant calf case | Daily News](#) Published 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>25</sup> [Gnanasara Thera released | Ceylon Today](#) Published 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

[Gnanasara Thera released | Lanka 24 News](#) Published 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

[අල්ලා ගැනීමට අපහාස කළායි කියන නඩුවෙන් ඥාණසාර හිමි නිදහස් | Lankadeepa Online](#) Published 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>26</sup> [Tamil political prisoner acquitted after 12 years in jail](#). Tamil Guardian. Published 12<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>27</sup> [Tamil political prisoner acquitted after 15 years in jail](#). Tamil Guardian. Published 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>28</sup> [Colombo Chief Magistrate dismisses case against three gay men for homosexuality](#). Daily Mirror Published 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>29</sup> [Court permits to proceed with petition on police discrimination against LGBT community | The Morning](#) Published 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>30</sup> [BASL reveals attempts were taken to stop Police killing suspect in custody | NewsWire](#) Published 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>31</sup> [Suspect dies in police custody, Public Security Minister denies connection to SJB protest | News First](#) Published 17<sup>th</sup> 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

**Other forms of Police brutality:** Multiple incidents of Police brutality were reported in this period. In Eravur of the Eastern Province, two Tamil youth were brutally assaulted and arrested by Police for allegedly violating a traffic offence in October. After a video showing the assault circulated in social media the Police officer was arrested and released on bail along with two youth who were arrested.<sup>32</sup> In December, another similar assault was reported from Kegalle in Sabaragamuwa province after a video of the assault was again circulated in Social media. Police Issued a statement saying that the Police officer had assaulted the person in an attempt to arrest him, and claimed that the person assaulted was a drug addict with an ongoing legal case, and a suspect of an assault case. Police also noted that they have launched an investigation regarding the incident for the use of excessive force by the Police officer.<sup>33</sup> In another incident, a driver was assaulted on the roadside by a senior Police officer in Kiriella area, in Ratnapura District in Sabaragamuwa Province. In this case too, a video of the assault has been shared on social media. The victim has been later taken to the Police station, sexually and physically tortured according to a letter submitted to the President by the lawyers representing the victim.<sup>34</sup>



*The video showing a police officer brutally assaulting two Tamil youth on the streets for an alleged traffic offence have gone viral in social media. Photo Courtesy: JDS Lanka.*

In a separate incident, MediaLK reported that a mob including the area officer-in-charge (OIC) of Kilinochchi Police attacked diners in a restaurant for not wearing facemasks, while people have asked how they could have food while wearing facemasks. According to a report on [MediaLK](#), the Sri Lankan police have claimed that the raid was carried out due to diners not wearing face masks.<sup>35 36</sup>

In mid-October, two prisoners in Angunakolapelessa Prison in Hambantota were allegedly beaten by the prison officers. Amila Kumarasinghe and Dulantha Rajapaksha are the beaten prisoners and Rajapaksha was in critical condition.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>32</sup> [Sri Lanka policeman assaults and arrest two Tamil youth | JDS](#) Published 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>33</sup> [Police issues statement on viral video of cop assaulting a man | The Morning](#) Published 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>34</sup> [Senior DIG of Sri Lanka police, Ranmal Kodithuwakku accused of torture, sexual abuse & cover up | Sri Lanka Brief](#) Published 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>35</sup> [Tweet | Ambika Satkunanathan](#) Published 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>36</sup> [Sri Lankan police officer attacks diners in Kilinochchi restaurant for not wearing face masks | Tamil Guardian](#) Published 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>37</sup> [Two prisoners beaten mercilessly at Angunakolapelessa prison.](#) The Morning. Published 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last Accessed 02<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022



## Persecution of ethnic and religious minorities

On 6th December, the secretary of the Health Ministry issued a letter instructing the Director of Kurunegala Hospital to reinstate Dr. Shafi Shihabdeen who was arrested in 2019 for allegedly conducting involuntary and illegal sterilization of 4000 women belonging to the Sinhala Buddhist majority.<sup>38</sup> <sup>39</sup> However, the Public service Commission later denied advising to reinstate or to pay salary arrears.<sup>40</sup> In June 2019, the Criminal Investigation Department of the Sri Lanka Police informed the court that there is no evidence to prove such a claim.<sup>41</sup> Arrest of Shafi Shihabdeen occurred in the pre-election period of the Presidential Election 2019. The Opposition leader and other politicians alleged that the government benefited from inciting islamaphobia using the arrest of Shihabdeen.<sup>42</sup> A fact finding mission in Batticaloa conducted by group of female activists concluded that Christian community in Batticalao has been marginalized in number ways including denial of permission to establish places of worship, preventing them from using the public cemetery, denying their children admission to national schools, interruption of prayer meetings, through the use of violence, and perpetration of violence against pastors etc.<sup>43</sup>



*Medical doctor Shafi Shihabdeen arrested for allegations of illegal and involuntary sterilization of 4000 women in 2019.*

*Photo courtesy: Hiru News.*

**Media and journalists:** Previous restriction on journalists reporting on Parliament that allowed only one journalist from a media institution was reportedly removed on 17th October.<sup>44</sup> Government stated their plans to introduce a code of ethics for journalists. However, media rights advocates demand for strengthening the current system of self-regulation of media without the government control. Government has also expressed their plans to amend and revive the Press Council Act that has been a repressive law for journalists and media workers historically.

<sup>38</sup> [Trending news: Relief to Muslim doctor accused of sterilization of four thousand Sinhalese women, Sri Lankan government reinstated | Hindustan News Hub](#) Published 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2022.

<sup>39</sup> [Dr. Shafi reinstated, salary arrears to be paid | News First](#) Published 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2022.

<sup>40</sup> [Sri Lanka : Public Service Commission denies advising to reinstate or pay arrears to Dr. Shafi | Colombo Page](#) Published 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2022.

<sup>41</sup> [CID tells court no evidence to back claims on Dr. Shafi | Colombo Gazette](#) Published 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Last accessed 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2022.

<sup>42</sup> [Ruling party benefited through Dr. Shihabdeen controversy – Sajith | Ceylon Today](#) Published 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2022.

<sup>43</sup> [Female group concludes fact finding mission in Batticaloa, says Christian community marginalized | The Morning](#) Published 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2022..

<sup>44</sup> [මාධ්‍යයෙහිදීන්ට පාර්ලිමේන්තු යන්ත්‍ර අවසර | Lankadeepa Online](#). Published 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last accessed 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2022.

### 3. Case updates

In December, former Western Province Governor Azath Salley was acquitted and released after being arrested and detained since 16th March 2021, under the provisions of Prevention of Terrorism Act No 48 of 1979 (PTA) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Act No 56 of 2007 (ICCPR) Act. He was accused of making comments that harm ethnic and religious harmony in Sri Lanka in relation to a statement he made at a Press Briefing. The High Court Judge held that prosecution had failed to establish evidence mentioned in the indictment, and ordered him to be acquitted of all charges.<sup>45</sup> The Free Media Movement released a statement stating this incident was “an incident that highlights the attempt by the political forces to abuse the legal process.”<sup>46</sup>

On 15th December, detained poet Ahnaf Jazeem was granted bail by Puttalam High Court, after 578 days of detention by Terrorism Investigation Division (TID) under PTA provisions.<sup>47</sup> He was arrested on 16th May 2020. For almost one year, even his family and lawyer were not allowed to reach him. On 6th November, the case against Ahnaf Jazeem at the magistrate court concluded in the absence of the defense counsel according to Ahnaf’s lawyer Sanjaya Wilson Jayasekera.<sup>48</sup> Ahnaf was initially detained under the PTA by the TID for sharing his poetry with the children at the school he taught at that allegedly encouraged extremism- a claim that was denied by literary experts who analyzed his work. TID of Sri Lanka Police has alleged him of promoting Islamic extremism and violence among the children.<sup>49</sup>



*Poet Ahnaf Jazeem with his family after being bailed out. Photo Courtesy: WSWs.org*

Detained lawyer Hejaaz Hizbullah was not granted bail until the end of the year. On 9th December, President’s counsel Romesh de Silva requested the Appeals Court to issue an order granting Hejaaz bail. The Attorney General was directed to file the relevant objections before Jan 13, 2022. Legal counsel for detained lawyer Hejaaz Hizbullah made an application for bail for their client at the Puttalam High Court (HC) on 8 October.<sup>50</sup> Since High Court judge rejected bail request, as the

<sup>45</sup> [News Salley acquitted and released | The Island](#) Published 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>46</sup> [Azath Salley NOT Guilty, Acquitted & Released by Colombo High Court | News First](#) Published 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>47</sup> [Detained poet Ahnaf Jazeem granted bail after 578 days | Times Online](#) Published 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>48</sup> [Poet’s court case ends without defence counsel: Lawyer | The Morning](#) Published 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2022.

<sup>49</sup> [Sri Lankan court bails out Muslim poet Ahnaf Jazeem, after 18 months detention | WSWs](#) Published 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>50</sup> [Tweet | The Morning](#) Published 21<sup>st</sup> Oct 2021. Last accessed 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2022.

Prevention of Terrorism Act No. 48 of 1979 as amended (PTA) not permitting the grant of bail, they went to the court of appeal against the decision of High Court Judge. The petition before the Court of Appeal has been fixed for hearing on Jan 18, 2022.<sup>51</sup> One of the persons arrested in connection of the same legal case- the Coordinator of Save the Pearls organization Mohamed Sulthan informed the Fort Magistrate's Court that he was tortured in order to implicate Attorney-at-law Hejaaz Hizbullah.<sup>52</sup>

<sup>53</sup>

Five student leaders including Wasantha Mudalige, the convener of Inter-University Student Federation (IUSF) were granted bail on 11th November.<sup>54</sup> They have been arrested and detained in custody for over 100 days after organizing a protest against the proposed Kotelawala Defence University Bill. They were accused of allegedly injuring (a finger of) the Maharagama Police OIC during the protest, damaging the road by burning a coffin and violating inter-provincial travel restrictions by transporting people to Colombo in vans.<sup>55</sup>

Author, writer Shakthika Sathkumara's Fundamental Rights case (SCFR 169/19) against former IGP, former OIC Polgahawela and AG was taken up for argument on 26th October, and then re-fixed for Argument on 22 March 2022.<sup>56</sup>



*Journalist Keerthi Rathnayake. Photo courtesy: Lankaenews*

On 27th November, detained Lanka-e-News journalist Keerthi Rathnayaka's bail application was taken up at the court and postponed till 8th December 2021.<sup>57</sup> He has also submitted a Fundamental rights petition at the Supreme Court. In mid-December, Keerthi Rathnayake was further remanded till 15th January 2022 by Colombo Fort Magistrate's Court. A number of local and international rights groups have condemned the arrest of the journalist.<sup>58</sup>

<sup>51</sup> [Tweet | Justice for Hejaaz](#) Published 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2022.

<sup>52</sup> [Suspect tells Magistrate he was tortured to implicate Hejaaz Hizbullah - Latest News | Daily Mirror](#) Published 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last accessed 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2022.

<sup>53</sup> [Suspect tortured to implicate Hizbullah? | The Morning](#) Published 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last accessed 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2022.

<sup>54</sup> [IUSF's Wasantha Mudalige and four others released on bail | News First](#) Published 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>55</sup> [Five student activists including IUSF convener arrested | Colombo Page](#) Published 6<sup>th</sup> Aug 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

<sup>56</sup> [Tweet | Sanjaya Wilson](#) Published 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last accessed 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2022.

<sup>57</sup> [Lanka-e-News journalist Keerthi Rathnayaka's bail application postponed | Sri Lanka Brief](#) Published 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2022.

<sup>58</sup> [Freelance journalist Keerthi Rathnayake remanded till January 5 - Breaking News | Daily Mirror](#) Published 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2022.



## **4. Summary of incidents**

### **4.1 Repression of journalists, Mass Media and Social Media**

**Legal and policy:** The Media Minister told the media that the Cabinet has approved a proposal to appoint a committee to amend existing laws applicable to journalists and media organisations and to formulate a national media policy that will cover, among other things, media ethics. These laws include the controversial Press Council Law No. 5 of 1973 - a repressive law that has been used against journalists for decades, but currently not being implemented. The Presidential task force one country, one law chairman Ganasara Thero requested a report on the criteria used in the preparation of radio programs and the recommendations used in selecting the resource persons for those programs, claiming that extremist thoughts are spread through the radio programmes. Gnanasara Thero having a track record for spreading anti-minority sentiments, INFORM believes seeking such information could be used to screen and restrict dissenting opinions and dissenters at radio programmes.

**Physical attacks:** Viswalingam Viswachandran freelance journalist was physically assaulted by military personnel for allegedly taking photographs of Mullivaikkal road sign board. The journalist suffered serious injuries. Number of local and international media organizations condemned the incident. In a different case, at least three journalists were assaulted by a group of people while reporting a ferry accident in Batticaloa. Thinakaran reporter Mohammad Yasim's mobile phone was taken away from him by the assaulted group.



*Injuries caused by the Military personnel to the Journalist Vishwalingam Viswachandra. Photo Courtesy: Tamil Guardian.*

**Verbal threats:** Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the Point Pedro Police Station has allegedly made death threats to the Uthayan newspaper Journalist Jayachandran Sulakshan, when he had visited the Police station to inform them about the misconduct of certain Police officers who have allegedly demanded bribery from some boutique shops. Saheer Ahmed, a Muslim journalist who works for a major television channel based in Ampara has also received death threats from a Police officer from the Akkaraipattu station who has demanded him to withdraw the complaints he had filed at the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka.

**Arrests:** Journalist Siyath Mendis working for New Citizen website was arrested following a complaint by Kotte Municipal Council officials for allegedly trespassing the cemetery land, while he was actually reporting on removal of monuments in the Nawala Cemetery.

**Summons:** Editor of Sunday Aruna newspaper, Mahinda Ileperuma was summoned to the CID to provide a statement regarding the lead news item published by the newspaper on 24th October. He was summoned based on a directive issued by the President's Secretary P.B. Jayasundara to the Inspector General of Police (IGP), as the newspaper carried out an article saying that Jayasundara has influenced to make a 290 million payment through a personal bank account. In a separate incident, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Police summoned three journalists who had reported on a proposal by the Dambulla Municipal Council to impose a tax on domestic pet dogs. Tamil Guardian reported that Terrorism Investigation Division of Sri Lanka Police has summoned Tamil journalist U.L.Mabruk, a *BBC Tamil* journalist, to appear before the TID office in Colombo on 8th November. Navarathnam Kapilanath, a Tamil journalist from Vavuniya has also been called by the Terrorism Prevention Division for an investigation on 26th October. Kapilanath has been summoned for an interrogation reportedly regarding an inquiry into a Vavuniya-based social welfare organisation that supports people in poverty.

**Restriction of media:** The journalists were not allowed to enter the Puttalam High court premises when the court case on the arrest and detention of prominent human rights lawyer Hejaaz Hizbullah was being heard at the court, citing Covid19 as the reason. The media was not allowed to enter court premises of Chavakachcheri magistrate court in Jaffna when a top army official Major General Duminda Keppetiwala was appearing as a suspect of a well-known case on disappearance of 24 youth in Navatkuli camp in the year 1996. The journalists were restricted from entering Baddegama local council meeting premises on an order made by the President of the local council citing Covid-19 situation. The Budget statement of the local council was presented on the day.

**Online surveillance and regulation:** Lasantha Ruhunage, prominent journalist and media rights activist reported that he had been continuously receiving missed calls from the phone number 077 3037462 in a suspicious manner. He claimed that he suspects that his movements are being monitored using his mobile phone signals. Tamil Guardian reported that Instagram has disabled the Tamil Guardian account, without any notification or prior warning. Referring to previous requests made by CID of Sri Lanka Police to take down Tamil Guardian Twitter account in the previous year, Tamil Guardian believes this disabling of social media account was based on a request made by Sri Lankan authorities. Meanwhile various fake news were published in social media accusing that Sri Lankan Muslim journalists have not reported on Sri Lankan who was killed in a blasphemy attack in Pakistan. These posts sought to incite ethnonationalist prejudice towards the Muslim journalists in Sri Lanka. Prominent journalist and former BBC reporter Azaam Ameen who has sometimes published news that are critical of government was targeted in this discrediting campaign, despite him having reported the incident and condemned it.

**Other:** The journalists and guests who attended an opening ceremony of the Mullaitivu Press Club office have been subjected to surveillance by military, Police and state officials. Daily Mirror journalist Nirmala Kannangara has received a letter of demand from Litro Gas company, asking for one billion rupees of compensation for publishing a news report regarding the gas explosions.



## 4.2 Repression of Freedom of assembly

**Court orders:** In early October, a farmers' protest in Medamulana in Hambantota was stopped on a Court order issued by the Walasmulla Magistrate court. On 4th November, Mawanella Pradeshiya Sabha Deputy Chairman K.G. Piyatissa and a group of his supporters assaulted a group of teachers and parents who had been demonstrating support to the ongoing teachers' labour strike and protest on wage anomalies. In December, another court order was issued banning the human rights day event on prisoners' rights organized by the Human rights office of Kandy (HROK) under the alleged accusation of "causing disunity among ethnic groups".



*Police barriers on the Puttalam-Anuradhapura main road, Kala Oya Bridge while Police attempted to block and turn away the SJB political supporters who were travelling to join the mass rally in Colombo. Photo Courtesy: Sri Lanka Brief*

On 16th November, Chief Opposition Party Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) organized a mass protest in Colombo against ongoing socio-economic problems in the country. In several areas of the country, the protestors attending the protest were blocked and turned away by the Police. On 11<sup>th</sup> November the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) in the area revoked the previously given permission to have the meeting on Hyde Park Ground, citing Covid19 as the reason. The Police have obtained multiple court orders against a protest rally scheduled to be staged by the chief opposition political party Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) on the following day. Court orders have been obtained against the protest from the Hulftsdorp Magistrate's Court, Mahara Magistrate's Court, Kaduwela Magistrate's Court and the Homagama Magistrate's Court, while the Maligakanda Magistrate's Court, the Gangodawila Magistrate's Court and the Colombo Chief Magistrate have refused to issue court orders banning the protest. Police claimed that the protest could not be held without the approval of the Director General of Health Services due to covid19 pandemic. Later, the Public Security Minister Sarath Weerasekara stated about their plans to take legal actions against the protestors who participated at the mass rally organized by Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB). He said that protestors who took part would be identified from the videos published in the media.

**Interrogation of protest participants:** In mid December, Kanagalingam Srimathan Former Secretary to the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) MP Sivasakthi Anandan was interrogated by Terrorism Investigation Department (TID) about the protest held in Vavuniya in the previous week, organized by families of disappeared marking the international Human rights day.

**Repression of memorialization:** A number of events were reported in relation to the repression of Maaveerar-Naal, the great heroes' day in which Tamil rebels and others who died during the last phase are remembered.



*Armed and uniformed soldiers blocked Tamil people from entering the remains of a destroyed LTTE cemetery located in Chatty, in Jaffna. Photo Courtesy: Tamil Guardian.*

**Disruption to religious events:** On 19th November, Police requested Mannar magistrate court to impose a blanket ban on religious services from 20th November to 27th November, at the St Sebastian Cathedral as well as other temples and churches. Police justified the request claiming that LTTE cadres could be remembered at these events, while the court rejected the request for such a ban. On 26th November, Sri Lankan military disrupted religious services at the St Joseph Church in Koolamurippu, blocking entry to the shrine and telling worshippers and the priests to move the service to another day as it could not be held on the day since it was the day before Maaveerar Naal (Great heroes day) in which Tamil people remember the fallen Tamil rebels. The religious services were held with a one hour delay, after Police was contacted and clarified that there was no such a ban. Around 19th November, a Mahaveerar-Naal monument (a lamp) built to pay tribute to the lost Tamil rebels was destroyed by an unknown group in Manthai-West Divisional secretariat area in Mannar.

**Other Court orders:** On 17th November, Mankulam magistrate court in Mullaitivu issued an order banning the commemoration of Maaveerar Naal. On 19th November, multiple Police stations in Mullaitivu requested the Mullaitivu magistrate's court to impose a ban on the celebration of the Maaveerar Naal. Though the court initially imposed a ban, they later amended the judgment on 24th November allowing the events to happen, saying that remembering the dead is human nature. On 21st November, Batticaloa Magistrate Court issued an order banning seven individuals, including Tamil MPs from participating in any commemoration events to mark Maaveerar Naal from November 20th to the 27th November, following a request from Kokkdaichcholai police. Around 22nd November, the



Chavakachcheri Magistrate Court, Mallakam Magistrate Court, Point Pedro Magistrate Court and Jaffna magistrate court in Jaffna dismissed applications filed by Sri Lankan police seeking bans on the Maaveerar Naal events within their respective jurisdictions. Police attempted to use both the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) and current Covid-19 regulations to justify their request. On 18th November, a court in Vavuniya banned 8 Tamil civil society members from attending commemorations events for Maaveerar Naal, following a request from Sri Lankan security forces. The court order states the named individuals must stop any commemorative activities related to Maaveerar Naal between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November and have been ordered to appear in the court on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December.



*Police officers manhandled and arrested ITAK youth member Peter Illancheliyan. Photo Courtesy: Tamil Guardian.*

**Arrests:** In late November, Special Task Force (STF) troops allegedly arrested a Tamil youth in Mannar for posting a photo relating to Maaveerar Naal on his Facebook page. The post allegedly pays tribute to fallen Tamil rebels. On 26th November, Illankai Tamil Arasu Kachchi (ITAK) Political party member Peter Illancheliyan was arrested by the police while attempting to commemorate the Maaveerar Naal in Mullaitivu beach.

**Photographing as intimidation:** On 26th November, participants who took part in the protest in which ITAK member Peter Illancheliyan was arrested were photographed. Photographing is a means of intimidation as such photographs have been used to identify and arrest persons who took part at protests and events. Around 25th November, the Sri Lankan military allegedly harassed and photographed Tamil National People's Front (TNPf) members who had been preparing the Maaveerar Naal site in Point Pedro. The military have written down vehicle numbers and threatened TNPf members despite, Point Pedro Magistrate Court dismissing applications filed by police seeking a ban on Maaveerar Naal events. TNPf members also reported that as they returned to their respective vehicles, soldiers on motorcycles threatened to follow their cars.



*Military Officers took photographs of TNPf members preparing the Maaveerar Naal site. Photo Courtesy: Tamil Guardian.*

**Other incidents relating to Maaveerar Naal:** Mallakam District Court has summoned Valikamam East Pradeshiya Sabha chairman Thiyagaraja Nirosh and deputy chairman Kapilan over Maaveerar Naal commemorations. Sri Lankan military set up the checkpoints across the North-Eastern provinces in an attempt to intimidate and restrict those who organize events to remember fallen Tamil rebels during Maaveerar Naal celebrations. Number of these new checkpoints increased a lot near Mullivaikkal where the last phase of Sri Lanka civil war occurred killing thousands of civilians.

### 4.3 Repression of State officials

**Control of opinions expressed in Social media:** Public servants have received a gag-order from the State Ministry of Home Affairs ordering them to refrain from criticising the Government and its policies through social media platforms. They have been warned of disciplinary action if they violate the directive.

**Termination from official positions:** Around 23rd of October, the Ministry of Agriculture in a statement said that Professor Buddhi Marambe has been removed from all the posts he held in the Ministry of Agriculture for being critical of the organic fertilizer policy of the Government based on instructions from the Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage. On 24th December, Prof. Uditha K. Jayasinghe secretary, Ministry of Agriculture was also reported to have been sacked from his position after he made the controversial statement on imminent food shortage in Sri Lanka due to unplanned inorganic fertilizer import restrictions.

**Interrogation:** On 22nd November, Former Executive Director of the Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA) Thushan Gunawardena was summoned and interrogated again at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) regarding the massive garlic scam in the state owned enterprise, Lanka Sathosa. He was summoned in connection with a complaint lodged by the Trade Minister Bandula Gunawardna.



*Prof. Buddhi Marambe was sacked from the positions he held at the Ministry of agriculture after criticizing the government's organic fertilizer policy. Video: [Sirasa Newsfirst](#). 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021.*

**Attacks on Police officers during duty:** On 3rd October, in Matara, an Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Defense allegedly obstructed a police officer on duty in the southern expressway Aparakka entrance. When the Police officer had asked for the license of the Additional Secretary, he had assaulted the police officer. Also the police officer has been transferred immediately after the incident, as a further reprisal for his action. In Colombo, around 30th October, two Police sergeants were assaulted by a mob, when they attempted to control a clash between two parties. Both officers have been hospitalized after the assault, while one Police Sergeant has been in critical condition. Around 7th November, Police officers who had been carrying out an alleged drug raid were assaulted at kahatagasdigiliya, Thurukkagama area in Anuradhapura.

**Other incidents:** On 17th November, Ampitiye Sumanarathana, a Buddhist monk who visited the Divisional Secretariat (DS) office in Manmunai South West, Paddipalai in Batticaloa, threatened the officers including the Divisional secretary. He had visited the DS office regarding a land dispute.



#### 4.4 Repression of dissent through legal and policy actions

Gazettes calling on the armed forces to maintain public order were reissued in October, November and December. The gazettes provided the military with additional powers to intervene in civilian affairs. At the end of October, a long list of work was declared as essential services by the President. These include services related to Port Authority, supply and distribution of all fuels, public transport, work at District and Divisional Secretariats, state banking and insurance services, Waste management services, supply, storage and distribution activities of food, beverages, all offices under Provincial Councils, all work related to health services, and postal services. Declaring government services as essential services has been a known tactic to stop protests and trade union actions in the government sector in Sri Lanka.

On 27th October, the controversial monk Galagodatte Ganasara thero, the General Secretary of ultra-nationalist Buddhist organization Bodu Bala Sena was appointed as the chairperson of the Presidential Task force One Country, One Law - a committee appointed by the Sri Lankan President Rajapaksa. The Task Force plans to draft a new act titled “one country one law” and while also reviewing existing laws. As gazetted, the task force works with a focus on fair administration of justice, its implementation and protection under the law, ensuring non-discrimination. Apparently Task Force works with view of abolishing special laws concerning ethnic and religious minorities such as Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act. Taking his track record into consideration, his appointment seems as a conscious attempt to create laws and policies that are hostile Muslims and other minorities. As mentioned in the section on other incidents, one person who made a representation at the Task Force consultation held in Mullaitivu presenting a dissenting opinion was later interrogated by the Terrorism Investigation Division of the Police.



*In 2018 Galagodaththe Gnasara Thero was sentenced 6 years in jail for the contempt of court, after threatening a HRD and a victim inside the court premises. Photo Courtesy: Colombo Gazette.*

After the meeting of the special committee for Covid19 president's media division issued a press release on 10th November about increasing the number of the corona positive cases and revealed their plans to make vaccine cards mandatory to access into public places. In the absence of a central public database on vaccination, this could be misused to repress protests against the government.

#### 4.5 Other incidents

**Legal actions taken against alleged false statements:** In late October, the Director of the State Intelligence Service (SIS), Major General Suresh Sallay has filed a complaint with the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) alleging that leading Catholic priest, Reverend Father Cyril Gamini had made a false accusation against Sri Lanka's Intelligence Units for allegedly providing financial and other forms of assistance to Zaharan Hashim, the suicide bomber of the Easter Sunday bomb attack. On 15th November, the CID recorded a statement from Rev. Fr. Cyril Gamini over some comments he made at an online event, following the complaint made by the Director of the State Intelligence Service (SIS), Major General Suresh Sallay. Reportedly, he was questioned for approximately 7 hours. On 2nd November, Sri Lanka Telecom- the government owned Telecommunication Company filed a legal case against Samgi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) Member of Parliament (MP) Manusha Nanyakkara regarding a statement he made regarding the deletion of database belonging to the National Medicines and Regulatory Authorities (NMRA) hosted by Sri Lanka Telecom (SLT). SLT affirmed that MP's statement brought damage and irreparable loss to the company. Based on a complaint made by SLT, CID of Sri Lanka Police has initiated an investigation and recorded a statement from the MP.



*Fr. Cyril Gamini at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Police. Photo Courtesy: The Island.*

**Justice and accountability:** On 9th December, Former Admiral of the fleet Wasantha Karannagoda was appointed as the governor of the North Western Province. He was a suspect in the case of abduction and disappearance of 11 Tamil youths. On 13th October, the Attorney General informed Colombo of a permanent high court trial at the bar to withdraw the indictment against former Navy Admiral of Fleet Wasantha Karannagoda. On 1st December, Former President Maithreepala Sirisena filed a motion to dismiss the case of compensation to Easter attack victims' families and injured people. The massacre occurred at the time of his presidency.

**Repression of Politicians who express dissenting views:** Opposition Parliament Minister Manusha Nanayakkara was assaulted by Minister of Public Security Sarath Weerasekara in the lobby of the parliament. This incident occurred after MP Nanayakkara had made a statement in the parliament accusing MP Wijesekara of his involvement with a corruption case to remove two containers illegally from the port. A local politician in Maskeliya local council was assaulted by another politician for speaking about illegal constructions in the area. In late October, Former Minister of Parliament Patali Champika Ranawaka said in the parliament that his mobile phone was tapped and his whatsapp phone conversations were also tapped during 2018 - 2019 by the CID of Sri Lanka Police. He got to know of these incidents after CID questioned him based on information in his Whatsapp conversations. MP Ranawaka further pointed out that his mobile service providers gave information to the CID without a court order. Parliamentarian Minister Tissa Kuttiarachchi verbally abused leading opposition party Parliament Minister Rohini Kaviratna, and the wife of leader of the Opposition party with sexist rhetoric during a parliament debate.


**Repression of Civil Society and activists:** The Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksha in his Budget proposal speech in the parliament has made a statement labelling the social activists as foreign forces that are detrimental to the country. For a long time, respective governments, politicians and government media have made similar statements othering and inciting hostile attitude towards NGOs and civil society by labelling them as foreign agents that should not be trusted.

Head of student discipline of the Ruhuna University Mangala Chathura de Silva addressing a group of University students has said that state intelligence officers have been secretly employed as spies among the students and university community to gather information. This comment seemed to have been made in order to discourage students from engaging in student activism.

**Threatening victims and complainants:** Pararajasingam Sujeevan, a student at the University of Jaffna and journalist, has been summoned by the Sri Lankan Terrorism Investigation Department (TID) for an interrogation to be held on 17th December. He has been summoned for making a complaint to the Human Rights Commission in Jaffna regarding a press briefing conducted by a Buddhist monk in June in which he accused a Tamil journalist of attempting to revive the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Former combatant who made a representation at the Presidential Task Force on One Country One Law when it held its consultation in Mullaitivu said that he has been summoned and interrogated at the Terrorism Investigation Division due to the statement he made at the consultation. He has spoken about the Public's right to memorialize those who lost. In late October, in Negambo area in Gampaha district, a victim of a rape case was threatened with death by the perpetrator. He had visited her house with a machete and threatened her with death.

**Other incidents:** Two brothers aged 19 years (about to sit for AL) & 21 years have been subjected to police inquiry as the phrase "maaveerar Karnan" referring to a character in the Mahabharata epic had been painted on the trishaw. Possibly the term has been mistaken for Maaveerar Naal (the great heroes day) in which fallen Tamil rebels are remembered. Arrested persons have been held in police custody for 24 hours. After HRCSL and the media intervened, they have been fined for a traffic offense and released. Police had reportedly said that military and intelligence had informed them phrase could incite racial tension and encourages terrorism.


## 5. List of incidents

	Date	District	Description	Source
			<b>Repression of Journalists and media</b>	
1	23 Oct	Colombo	Editor of Sunday Aruna newspaper, Mahinda Ileperuma was summoned to the CID to provide a statement regarding the lead news item published by the newspaper on 24th October following a directive issued by President's Secretary, Dr. P. B. Jayasundera to the Inspector General of Police (IGP). The Sunday Aruna newspaper published an article titled "290 million to pay for Indian fertilizers in a personal bank account – President's Secretary P.B. Jayasundera has influenced" for which Jayasundera denied all allegations through a media release by the President's Media Division (PMD).	<p><a href="#">Nano-fertilizer controversy: Sunday Aruna Editor gives statement to CID.</a> The Morning. Published 24<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last accessed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022</p> <p><a href="#">Stern legal action against false propaganda.</a> President Secretariat Press Release. Published 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2021. Last Accessed 02<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022</p>
2	23 Nov	Batticaloa	<p>While covering the ferry topple accident by the journalists, A. S. Mohammed Yasim, provincial reporter of Thinakaran (lake House), H S m Haladeen, Shakthi/News First reporter, A L M Rafaideen, Thinakaran staff reporter, had been assaulted by a group of people who were there with the enraged public. These people obstructed the journalist and chased them away from the incident area. Thinakaran reporter Mohammad Yasim's mobile phone was taken away from him by the assaulted group. That mobile phone contained all the information and interviews which were taken from the incident area. He lodged the complaint for this in Kinniya police.</p>  <p><i>Kinniya ferry Topple. Photo Courtesy: Ada Derana.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Assaulted three journalists while they were reporting Kinniya ferry Toppel.</a> Times Online. Published 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022</p>
3	12 Nov	Colombo	The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has summoned three journalists who had reported on a proposal by the Dambulla Municipal Council to impose a tax on domestic pet dogs. A similar tax had been imposed during the colonial period. Journalists Mahinda Udayasiri, Sarath Eraminigammana and Lakshitha Wijesekara were summoned on a complaint lodged by Dambulla Mayor Jaliya Opatha on 10th September 2021. They have been instructed to provide verbal statements to the CID on 12th of November.	<p><a href="#">Journalists in Dambulla, summoned to the CID over revelation about the dog tax.</a> Athithaya.lk Published 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. last accessed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">බල බද්ද ගැන හෙලිදරව් කළ මාධ්‍යවේදීන් රහස්</a> <a href="#">පොලීසියට Youtube/ News Lanka.</a> Published 12th November 2021. last accessed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">දඹුල්ලේ බල බදු යෝජනාව වාර්තා කළ මාධ්‍යවේදීන් CID යට.</a> Aruna newspaper. Published 11th November 2021. last accessed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022</p>

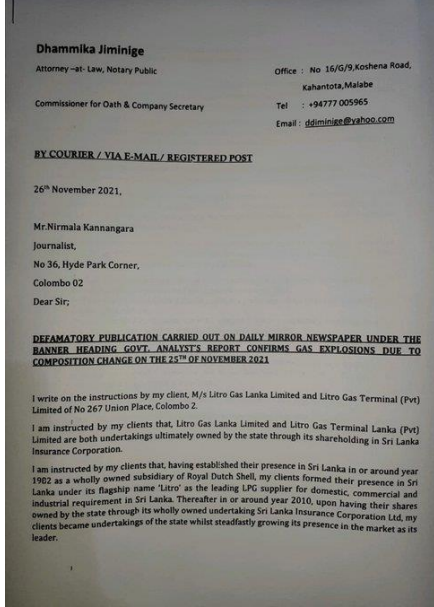


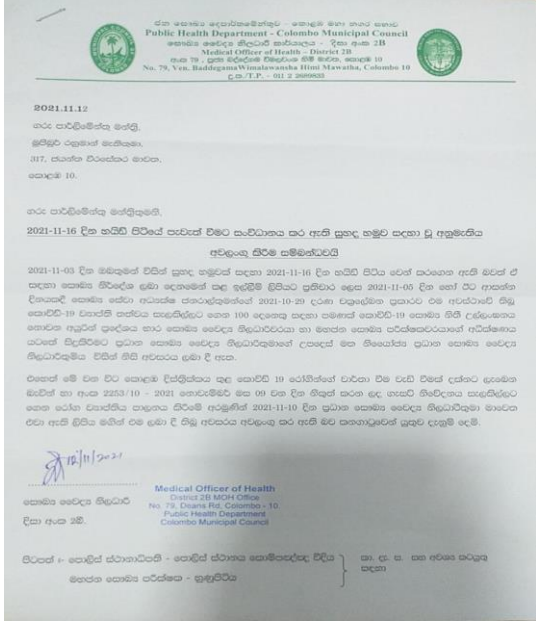

4	24 Nov	Colombo	The Media Minister told the media that the Cabinet has approved a proposal to appoint a committee to amend existing laws applicable to journalists and media organisations and to formulate a national media policy that will cover, among other things, media ethics. These laws include the controversial Press Council Law No. 5 of 1973 - repressive law that has been used against journalists for decades, but currently not being implemented. The journalists and rights activists demand the repeal of the Press Council rather than amending it. In this context, also taking recent and past trends into consideration, INFORM believes the proposed media law reforming process could negatively impact on the freedom of journalists.	<p><a href="#">Laws applicable to journalists and media to be amended.</a> Colombo Gazette. Published 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022</p> <p><a href="#">Any arrest of accredited journalists must be reported to Govt. Info Dept - Dullas.</a> Newsfirst. 1st October 2021. Last accessed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021.</p> <p><a href="#">Sri Lanka to amend media laws, ethics, formulate national media policy.</a> Economy Next. Published 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022</p>
5	27 Nov	Mullaitivu	Viswalingam Viswachandran freelance journalist was physically assaulted by military personnel for taking photographs of Mullivaikkal road sign board. The journalist suffered serious injuries in his stomach, arms and legs. Also members of security forces seized his mobile phone and video camera and damaged his motorcycle. On 28th November, Mullaitivu Press Club organized a protest condemning this incident.	<p><a href="#">Mullaitivu Press Club condemns alleged assault.</a> The Morning. Published 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">Mullaitivu Press Club condemns brutal assault and torture of Tamil journalist.</a> Tamil Guardian. Published 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022.</p>
6	3 Dec	Jaffna	Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the Point Pedro Police Station has allegedly made death threats to the Uthayan newspaper Journalist Jayachandran Sulakshan, when he had visited the Police station to inform them about the misconduct of certain Police officers. The journalist had been informed by a small shop owner near Point Pedro court that some Police officers have been forcibly obtaining mobile phone data cards without paying for them, and the journalist has visited the Police station to make a complaint on the incident. Following an argument on the incident, he had been threatened with death by the Police OIC.	<p><a href="#">උතුරේ පොලීස් ලොක්කෙක් මාධ්‍යවේදියකුට පිස්තෝල එල්ල කරයි.</a> Ceylon News. Published 3rd Dec 2021. Last accessed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">Police OIC issues death threats to a journalist.</a> The leader. Published 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2022.</p>
7	12 Nov	Colombo	The Presidential task force one country, one law chairman Ganasara Thero requested a report on the criteria used in the preparation of radio programs and the recommendations used in selecting the resource persons for those programs, claiming that extremist thoughts are spread through the radio programmes. Reportedly, the Secretary of the Task Force has forwarded the request to the Secretary to the Ministry of Mass Media and Information Jagath P. Wijeweera has forwarded the request to all radio stations requesting them to provide a response before 8th of December. In the context that Ganasara Thero himself is known for his extremist views, requesting such a report from the radio stations does not seem to be a means of monitoring or regulating extremist content, but dissent against such views.	<p><a href="#">Gnanasara Committee calls for report on radio channels!.</a> Sri Lanka Mirror. Published 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022.</p>
8	10 Nov	Colombo	Journalist Siyath Mendis working for New Citizen website was arrested following a complaint by Kotte Municipal Council officials. He was arrested while reporting on removing monuments in the Nawala Cemetery for construction. Municipal officials lodged the complaint claiming that the journalist had entered the cemetery illegally. The arrested journalist was granted bail after being presented before the Colombo Fort magistrate.	<p><a href="#">Arrested New Citizen Journalist Siyath Mendis for a complaint on Officers of Kotte Municipal Council.</a> Media Freedom Rights Monitoring Report. Published Nov 2021. Last accessed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">වෙබ් මාධ්‍යවේදියා අත්අඩංගුවට.</a> New Citizen YouTube Channel. Published 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022.</p>




9	Early December	Online	Various fake news were published in social media accusing that Sri Lankan Muslim journalists have not reported on Sri Lankan who was killed in a blasphemy attack in Pakistan. These posts sought to incite ethnonationalist prejudice towards the journalists. Prominent journalist and former BBC reporter Azaam Ameen was targeted in this discrediting campaign, despite him having reported the incident and condemned it.	<a href="#">Posts falsely claim Muslim journalist in Sri Lanka 'kept silent' on Pakistan blasphemy killing.</a> AFP fact check Published 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar 2022.
10	14th Dec and 15th Dec 2021	Jaffna	The media was not allowed to enter court premises when Major General Duminda Keppetiwala, the Director General of Sri Lanka Infantry appeared at a court hearing in the Chavakachcheri Magistrate Court as a suspect of the disappearance of 24 youth who had been held in detention in Navatkuli army camp in Jaffna in 1996, which had then operated under the commandship of Keppetiwala. Sri Lanka Brief reported that “the Northern media institutions both print and electronic have been strictly controlled and prevented by the army, police and intelligence from reporting the case and nobody allowed to the location as well.”	<a href="#">Sri Lanka: Case against a Major General re disappearance of 24 Navatkuli youth in 1996; journalists barred, media intimidated.</a> Sri Lanka Brief. Published 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar 2022.
11	Around 20th Dec	Ampara	Saheer Ahmed, a Muslim journalist who works for a major television channel based in Ampara has received death threats from a Police officer from the Akkaraipattu station who has demanded him to withdraw the complaints he had filed at the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka. While threatening Ahmed, the Police officer has allegedly said that 'your name will appear on the disappeared persons list.' In Sri Lanka, a number of journalists and tens of thousands of civilians have disappeared during the civil and after.  <i>Journalist Saheer Ahmed. Photo Courtesy : Tamil Guardian.</i>	<a href="#">Your name will appear on the disappeared persons list' - Sri Lankan police warn Muslim journalist.</a> Tamil Guardian. Published 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar 2022.  <a href="#">Tweet   JDS Lanka.</a> Published 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar 2022.
12	Oct - Nov	Ampara	Tamil Guardian reported that Terrorism Investigation Division of Sri Lanka Police has summoned Tamil journalist U.L.Mabruk, a <i>BBC Tamil</i> journalist, to appear before the TID office in Colombo on 8th November. While reasons for the summoning have not been specifically mentioned in the report, the incident seems to be a part of the regular trend in surveillance and harassment of journalists in the North-Eastern provinces.	<a href="#">Sri Lanka's Terrorism Investigation Division summons BBC journalist for investigation.</a> Tamil Guardian. Published 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2021. Last accessed 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 2022.

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17	8th Oct	Puttalam	The journalists were not allowed to enter the Puttalam High court premises when the court case on the arrest and detention of prominent human rights lawyer Hejaaz Hizbullah was being heard at the court, citing Covid19 as the reason. However the journalists have been allowed to enter the court premises of other courts.	<a href="#">හිජාස්ගේ නඩුව නැවතත් මාධ්‍යවේදීන්ට දොර වසා විහාග වේ.</a> News19. Published 8th October 2021. Last accessed 22nd Feb 2022.
18	26th November	Colombo	 <p><i>Letter of Demanding from the Litro Gas to Journalist Nirmala Kannangara. Photo Courtesy: Sadun Arosha</i></p> <p>Daily Mirror journalist Nirmala Kannangara received a letter of demand from Litro Gas company, asking for one billion rupees of compensation for publishing a news report regarding the gas explosions.</p>	<a href="#">Tweet   Sandun Arosha F'do</a> Published 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Mar 2022.
19	Around 28th October	Online	Tamil Guardian reported that Instagram has disabled the Tamil Guardian account, without any notification or prior warning. Referring to previous requests made by CID of Sri Lanka Police to take down Tamil Guardian Twitter account, Tamil Guardian believes this disabling was based on a request made by Sri Lankan authorities.	<a href="#">How Sri Lanka's CID tried to take down Tamil Guardian's Twitter.</a> Tamil Guardian. Published 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Mar 2022.

			Repression of Freedom of Assembly	
20	11th Novem ber	N/A	<p>Chief Opposition Party Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) organized a mass protest in Colombo against ongoing socio-economic problems in the country. In several areas of the country, the protestors attending the protest were blocked and turned away by the Police. On 11<sup>th</sup> November the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) in the area revoked the previously given permission to have the meeting on Hyde Park Ground, citing Covid19 as the reason.</p>  <p><i>Permission revoked letter from MOH office district 2b. Photo courtesy: News Wire.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Concerns raised over snap checkpoints around the island.</a> Colombo Gazette. Published 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">WATCH: Tense situation in several areas after Police turn away SJB protesters</a> News Wire.. Published 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">Permission given for SJB protest meeting revoked.</a> News Wire. Published 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022.</p>
21	15 Nov	Colombo	<p>The Police have obtained multiple court orders against a protest rally scheduled to be staged by the chief opposition political party Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) on the following day. Court orders have been obtained against the protest from the Hulftsdorp Magistrate's Court, Mahara Magistrate's Court, Kaduwela Magistrate's Court and the Homagama Magistrate's Court, while the Maligakanda Magistrate's Court, the Gangodawila Magistrate's Court and the Colombo Chief Magistrate have refused to issue court orders banning the protest. Police claimed that the protest could not be held without the approval of the Director General of Health Services due to covid19 pandemic.</p>  <p><i>A mass protest held despite of court bans and other restrictions. Photo courtesy: readphotos</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Gatherings, activity or events not permitted without prior approval.</a> Colombo Gazette. Published 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last Accessed 01 Feb 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, EXTRAORDINARY.</a> No: 2253/10. Published 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last Accessed 01 Feb 2022.</p>



22	17 Nov	Colombo	<p>Public Security Minister Sarath Weerasekera stated about their plans to take legal actions against the protestors who participated at a mass rally organized by Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB). On 16th November, SJB organized a mass protest highlighting fertilizer shortage and other socio-economic problems in the country. As seen in the photographs published in the media, the protestors wore face masks, however social distancing was not maintained most of the time. In this context, the Minister Weerasekera stated that actions would be taken against protestors after identifying them from the videos published in the media. "We have videos of the event. We will take actions accordingly because this has put the public health at great risk and also our pandemic control strategies" he has said according to Daily News.</p>	<p><a href="#">Legal action against SJB gatherings - Minister</a> Daily News. Published 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">SJB protest leads to chaos in Colombo</a> Colombo Gazette. Published 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022.</p>
23	4 Nov	Kegalle	<p>Mawanella Pradeshiya Sabha Deputy Chairman K.G. Piyatissa and a group of his supporters assaulted a group of teachers and parents who had been demonstrating support to the ongoing teachers labour strike and protest on wage anomalies. The Ceylon Teachers' Union filed a police complaint and demanded action against the perpetrators. On 10th November, Police arrested the Deputy Chairman and two other councillors and they were granted bail on the same day.</p>  <p><i>Politicians threatening the protestors. Photo courtesy: Newswire</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Mawanella politico arrested, given bail</a>. The Morning. Published 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">යළිත් පාසල් වසයිද? ගුරුවරු මාවතැල්ල පොලීසිය දෙවනත් කරයි.. Mawanella   School Teachers</a>. NewsFirst Youtube. Published 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">Ruling party PS chief assaults protester provoking teachers</a>. Sri Lanka Brief. Published 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2022.</p>
24	10 Oct	Hambantota	<p>Farmers' protest in Medamulana was stopped on a Court order issued by the Walasmulla Magistrate court. For the past several months farmers faced a number of difficulties after the government restricted importing chemical fertilizers from 6th May 2021. The decision resulted in a huge drop in the harvest and rapid increase in the food prices among many other problems.</p>	<p><a href="#">Farmers protest in Medamulana</a>. Daily Mirror Online. Published 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last accessed on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">Gazette canceling fertilizer import ban signed by Finance Minister</a>. News First. Published 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last accessed on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">The Extraordinary Gazette of GoSL</a> No:2226/48. Published 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Last accessed on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2022.</p>
25	10 Dec	Kandy	<p>A court has banned the human rights day celebrations conducted by the Human rights office of Kandy (HROK) under the alleged accusation of "causing disunity among ethnic groups". Celebrating International Human Rights Day on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021, HROK organized the event on the theme "Ensure the Prisoners their Dignity and Rights to Human Conditions" with the participation of ex-prisoners, families of prisoners, religious clergy, lawyers, UN staff, police officers and prison officials. On 9<sup>th</sup> December, the court order was issued by the Additional Magistrate of Kandy, citing 106 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure Act. A significant part of the event was to honour 22 Human Rights Defenders</p>	<p><a href="#">Human Rights Day celebrations banned in Kandy</a> Asia News.. Published 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2022.</p> <p>Statement issued by the Human Rights office Kandy: <a href="#">"Court order prohibiting Human Rights Day event in Kandy"</a>. Aithiya. Published on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.</p>




			from families of prisoners for their long years of struggles in contributing to advocate for fair trials and rule of law. On 10th morning, HROK met with a Senior Deputy Inspector General (SDIG) of Police to discuss possibilities to hold the event. They were informed that they may organize the event on a different date without presenting tokens of appreciation to the LTTE related suspects or prisoners. HROK filed a motion against the magistrate's decision on the same day. However, the magistrate did not change the previous order, as the Police were absent for the court hearing.	
26	15 Dec	Vavuniya	Kanagalingam Srimathan Former Secretary to the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) MP Sivasakthi Anandan was interrogated by Terrorism Investigation Department (TID) when he was on the way to home. TID mainly questioned him about the protest held in Vavuniya in the previous week, organized by families of disappeared marking the international Human rights day.	<a href="#">Sri Lanka's TID interrogates former TNA MP's staffer over Tamil protest</a> Tamil Guardian. Published 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed on 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb 2022.
27	19 Nov	Mannar	Unknown group of persons have destroyed a Mahaveerar-Naal monument (a lamp) at night at Aadkattiveli Thuyilum Illam – or <i>Resting Place</i> - in Manthai-West Divisional secretariat area. Organizing committee of the event has strongly condemned the act of sabotage. Former secretary of the Illankai Tamil Arasu Kachchi (ITAK) youth wing and activist V.S. Sivakaran who visited the area has accused the military for destroying the monument.  <i>Destroyed monument at Atakatteliya, Mannar. Photo Courtesy: Sri Lanka Brief</i>	<a href="#">දෙමළ අණුස්මරණ ස්මාරකයක් මත රැකබා විද දමයි</a> , Sri Lanka Brief. Published 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed on 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb 2022. <a href="#">The lantern of the Maha Viru celebration in Mannar is broken</a> , The Colombo Post 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed on 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb 2022. <a href="#">Flame pillar at LTTE cemetery destroyed as crackdown continues</a> , Tamil Guardian. Published 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2022.
28	27 Nov	Mannar	Special Task Force (STF) troops have allegedly arrested a Tamil youth in Mannar for posting a photo relating to Maaveerar Naal on his Facebook page. The post allegedly pays tribute to fallen Tamil rebels.	<a href="#">Sri Lankan STF arrest Tamil youth for posting photo related to Maaveerar Naal on social media</a> , Tamil Guardian. Published 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2022.
29	26 Nov	Mullaitivu	Sri Lankan military have disrupted religious services at the St Joseph Church in Koolamurippu, blocking entry to the shrine and telling worshippers and the priests to move the service to another day as it could not be held on the day. The following day was the Maaveerar Naal (Great heroes day) in which Tamil people remember the fallen Tamil rebels. Though military soldiers initially claimed to have a court order, they were unable to provide any such document. The religious services were held with a one hour delay, after Police was contacted and clarified that there was no such a ban.	<a href="#">Tensions as Sri Lankan army disrupts services at Mullaitivu church</a> , Tamil Guardian. Published 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2022.

30	17th Nov	Mullaitivu	Mankulam magistrate court in Mullaitivu has issued an order banning the commemoration of Maaveerar Naal, based on a case filed by Police seeking an injunction against the holding of Maaveerar Naal events in areas under their jurisdiction. Magistrate R. Saravanaraja complied with the police request, which named 12 activists and politicians from across Tamil parties, and has barred any commemorative events from taking place. The 12 people that the police identified included the head of the Association of Relatives of Disappeared Persons in Mullaitivu Mariyasuresh Esuary, Tamil National People's Front MPs Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam and Selvarasa Kajendran, former Northern Provincial Council members Thurairasa Ravikaran and M. K. Shivajilingam, former Tamil National Alliance (TNA) MP Sivapragasam Sivamohan and Ilankai Tamil Arasu Katchi (ITAK) activist Peter Ilancheliam among others.	<a href="#">Sri Lankan court bans Maaveerar Naal commemorations in Mullaitivu.</a> Tamil Guardian. Published 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2022.
31	19th Nov-26th November	Mullaitivu	Multiple Police stations in Mullaitivu requested the Mullaitivu magistrate's court to impose a ban on the celebration of the Maaveerar Naal. On 19th November, Mullaitivu Magistrate Court banned 47 activists and politicians from participating in Maaveerar Naal events, following a request from the Sri Lankan security forces. On 24th November, the Magistrate T. Saravanabavan amended the court's earlier judgment which had granted Mullaitivu police's applications for bans on commemorations, and 72 individual injunctions against politicians, activists and community leaders, stating that remembering the dead was a fact of human nature. On the following day, seven Mullaitivu police stations filed an appeal against the revocation, but their appeal was rejected on 26th November.	<a href="#">Maaveerar Naal bans revoked and injunctions dismissed in Northern courts.</a> Tamil Guardian. Published 26th Nov 2021. Last accessed 24th February 2022.  <a href="#">Sri Lankan court bans 47 Tamil activists and politicians from commemorating Maaveerar Naal.</a> Tamil Guardian. Published 19th Nov 2021. Last accessed 24th February 2022.
32	21 November	Batticaloa	Batticaloa Magistrate Court issued an order banning seven individuals, including Tamil MPs from participating in any commemoration events to mark Maaveerar Naal from November 20th to the 27th, following a request from Kokkdaichchola police. Former Tamil National Alliance (TNA) MP Ariyenthiran and TNA MP Shanakiyan Rasamanickam are amongst those included in the court order.	<a href="#">Batticaloa court bans seven individuals from participating in Maaveerar Naal commemorations.</a> Tamil Guardian. Published 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2022.
33	Around 22nd Nov	Jaffna	The Chavakachcheri Magistrate Court dismissed applications filed by Sri Lankan police seeking bans on the Maaveerar Naal events within their respective jurisdictions. Police attempted to use both the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) and current Covid-19 regulations to justify their request. Their applications also named several individuals for injunctions including representatives of political parties, members of parliament, members of local councils and other members of civil society. The applications were submitted by the officers in charge of 2 police stations within the boundaries of Chavakachcheri Magistrate Court.	<a href="#">Blow to Sri Lankan police as 3 Jaffna courts dismiss petitions to ban Maaveerar Naal.</a> Tamil Guardian. Published 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2022.

34	Around 22nd Nov	Jaffna	Mallakam Magistrate Court dismissed applications filed by Sri Lankan police seeking bans on the Maaveerar Naal events within their respective jurisdictions. Police attempted to use both the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) and current Covid-19 regulations to justify their request. Their applications also named several individuals for injunctions including representatives of political parties, members of parliament, members of local councils and other members of civil society. The applications were submitted by the officers in charge of 8 stations within the boundaries of Mallakam Magistrate Court.	<a href="#">Blow to Sri Lankan police as 3 Jaffna courts dismiss petitions to ban Maaveerar Naal</a> . Tamil Guardian. Published 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2022.
35	Around 22nd Nov	Jaffna	Point Pedro Magistrate Court dismissed applications filed by Sri Lankan police seeking bans on the Maaveerar Naal events within their respective jurisdictions. Police attempted to use both the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) and current Covid-19 regulations to justify their request. Their applications also named several individuals for injunctions including representatives of political parties, members of parliament, members of local councils and other members of civil society. The applications were submitted by the officers in charge of 3 stations within the boundaries of Point Pedro Magistrate Court.	<a href="#">Blow to Sri Lankan police as 3 Jaffna courts dismiss petitions to ban Maaveerar Naal</a> . Tamil Guardian. Published 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2022.
36	19th November	Jaffna	The Jaffna Magistrate Court has issued an order banning the commemorations from 21st to the 28th November. This bans the week-long celebration to remember fallen heroes of Tamil struggle. Despite the ban imposed, the students in the University of Jaffna organized a small commemoration event.	<a href="#">Jaffna University students pay tribute to Maaveerar despite court ban</a> . Tamil Guardian. Published 25th Nov 2021. Last accessed 24th February 2022.  <a href="#">Sri Lankan police use PTA to petition Maaveerar Naal ban in Jaffna</a> . Tamil Guardian. Published 19th Nov 2021. Last accessed 24th February 2022.
37	Around 25th Nov	Jaffna	The Sri Lankan military have allegedly harassed and photographed Tamil National People's Front (TNPF) members who have been preparing the Maaveerar Naal site in Point Pedro. The military have written down vehicle numbers and threatened TNPF members despite, Point Pedro Magistrate Court dismissing applications filed by police seeking a ban on Maaveerar Naal events. TNPF members reported that as they returned to their respective vehicles, soldiers on motorcycles threatened to follow their cars.	<a href="#">Sri Lankan army threaten TNPF members in Point Pedro as they prepare for Maaveerar Naal</a> . Tamil Guardian. Published 25th Nov 2021. Last accessed 24th February 2022.
38	22nd Nov	Jaffna	Mallakam District Court has summoned Valikamam East Pradeshiya Sabha chairman Thiyagaraja Nirosh and deputy chairman Kapilan over Maaveerar Naal commemorations. The Valikamam East Pradeshiya Sabha chairman and his deputy have been ordered to appear in court on Monday 22nd November after the police sought a court order to ban any memorial events from taking place.	<a href="#">Mallakam court summons local council chairman over Maaveerar Naal commemoration</a> . Tamil Guardian. Published 22nd Nov 2021. Last accessed 24th February 2022.

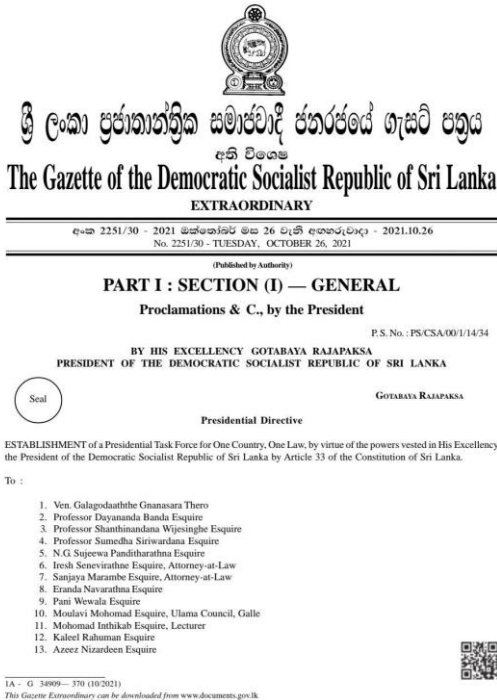
39	18th Nov	Vavuniya	A court in Vavuniya has banned 8 Tamil civil society members from attending commemorations events for Maaveerar Naal, following a request from Sri Lankan security forces. The ban restricted the individuals from attending events between the 20-29 of November, following an injunction case filed by the Vavuniya Chief of Police. Former MPs Sivashakthi Ananthan and S.Sivamohan, Secretary of the Vavuniya families of the disappeared K.Rajkumar, former provincial councillors P.Sathiyalingham, Kayendrakumar, S.Thavapalsingam and S. Aravindan are some of the individuals listed on the court order. The court order states the named individuals must stop any commemorative activities related to Maaveerar Naal between the 20 and 29 and have been told to appear in court on the 6th of December.	<a href="#">Sri Lankan court bans Maaveerar Naal commemorations in Vavuniya.</a> Tamil Guardian. Published 18th November 2021.
40	November	Mullaitivu	Sri Lankan military set up the checkpoints across the North-Eastern provinces in an attempt to intimidate and restrict those who organize events to remember fallen Tamil rebels during Maaveerar Naal celebrations. Number of these new checkpoints increased a lot near Mullivaikkal where the last phase of Sri Lanka civil war occurred killing thousands of civilians. Usually many remembrance events are organized in Mullivaikkal, a village located in Mullaitivu district.	<a href="#">More checkpoints and road blocks in Mullaitivu ahead of Maaveerar Naal.</a> Tamil Guardian Published 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Mar 2022. <a href="#">New checkpoints set up in the run up to Maaveerar Naal</a> Tamil Guardian. Published 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Mar 2022.
41	19th Nov	Mannar	Police requested Mannar magistrate court to impose a blanket ban on religious services during 20th November to 27th November, at the St Sebastian Cathedral as well as other temples and churches claiming that LTTE cadres could be remembered at these events. This special application was made under Section 106 of the criminal code and jointly filed by officers-in-charge of stations coming under the purview of the Mannar Magistrate court area, including Silavathurai, Murunkan and Iluppaikadavai. The magistrate rejected the application and stated that religious services could be conducted as usually following the covid19 health guidelines and also stated that LTTE symbols could not be used in such services.	<a href="#">Maaveerar Naal crackdown: Sri Lankan police seek blanket ban on religious services in Mannar</a> Tamil Guardian Published 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Mar 2022.
42	26 Nov	Mullaitivu	Illankai Tamil Arasu Kachchi (ITAK) Political party member Peter Ilancheliyan was arrested by the police while attempting to commemorate the Maaveerar Naal in Mullaitivu beach. Armed soldiers have continued to patrol the area on motorbikes, whilst other military members have photographed around 100 persons who had gathered there to mark Maaveerar Naal. Photographing is a means of intimidation as such photographs have been used to identify and arrest persons who took part at protests and events.	<a href="#">Arrested ITAK youth member Peter Ilancheliyan.</a> Tamil Guardian Published 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Mar 2022. <a href="#">Sri Lankan security forces arrest ITAK youth member in Mullaitivu on Maaveerar Naal.</a> Tamil Guardian YouTube Channel. Published 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Mar 2022.



			Repression of State Officials	
43	23 Oct	Colombo	<p>The Agriculture Ministry in a statement said that Professor Buddhi Marambe has been removed from all the posts he held in the Ministry of Agriculture for being critical of the organic fertilizer policy of the Government. Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage has instructed the Secretary to the Ministry, Professor Udith Jayasinghe to remove Professor Marambe from all the posts in the Ministry, including from the post of Chairman of the Policy Planning Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture.</p>  <p>කෘෂිකර්ම අමාත්‍යාංශය கமத்தொழில் அமைச்சு Ministry of Agriculture 80/5, "සමගීතා මාවත", රත්නපුරය පළාත, සබරගමුව 80/5 "Sangatha Mawatha", Ratnapuram, Sabaragamuwa 80/5, "Gangana Mawatha", Ratnapuram, Sabaragamuwa Tel / Fax : 011 2888804 / 011 2872094 E-mail : agribusinessmedia@gmail.com</p> <p>ප්‍රවෘත්ති නිවේදනය பத்திரிகை வெளியீடு PRESS RELEASE</p> <p>මහාචාර්ය මාරම් කෘෂිකර්ම අමාත්‍යාංශයේ දැරූ සියලු තනතුරු අහිමි වෙයි.</p> <p>ජාතික කෘෂිකර්ම ප්‍රතිපත්ති සම්පාදන කමිටුවේ සාමාජික ධුරයෙන් ද, කෘෂි නව්‍යකරණ ව්‍යාපෘතියේ මෙහෙයුම් කමිටුවේ සාමාජික ධුරයෙන් හා කුඩා ව්‍යාපාර කෘෂි සහභාගීත්ව වැඩසටහනේ උපදේශක ධුරයෙන් යන සියලු තනතුරුවලින් ජේරාදෙණිය විශ්ව විද්‍යාලයේ කෘෂි විද්‍යා පීඨයේ මහාචාර්ය බුද්ධි මාරම් මහතා වහාම ක්‍රියාත්මක වන පරිදි ඉවත් කිරීමට කෘෂිකර්ම අමාත්‍ය මහින්දානන්ද අලුත්ගමගේ මහතා කෘෂිකර්ම අමාත්‍යාංශයේ ලේකම් ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ මහාචාර්ය උදීන් ජයසිංහ මහතාට උපදෙස් ලබා දී තිබේ. මහාචාර්ය මාරම් මහතා රසායනික පොහොර ආනයනය කරන සමාගමක් වන CIC හෝල්ඩින් සමාගමේ අධ්‍යක්ෂවරයෙකු ලෙස වසර හයකටත්ත් කටයුතු කර ඇති අතර, ඉකුත් රජය හිලයිපෝස්ට් ආනයනය නතර කිරීමට එරෙහිව නායකත්වය ගෙන විවිධ වැඩසටහන් ක්‍රියාත්මක කළ බවට ද වෝද්‍යා එල්ල වී තිබුණි.</p> <p>මේ අතර වත්මන් රජය ප්‍රතිපත්තිමය තීන්දුවක් මත ක්‍රියාත්මක කරන පරිසර හිතකාමී කෘෂිකර්මාන්තය විවේචනය කරමින්, ඊට එරෙහිව විශ්ව විද්‍යාල ප්‍රජාව, ප්‍රජා සංවිධාන හා සාමාන්‍ය ජනතාව පෙළ ගැස්වෙන ආකාරයේ ප්‍රකාශන සිදු කිරීම සම්බන්ධයෙන් ද මාරම් මහතාට එරෙහිව වෝද්‍යා එල්ල වී ඇත. මීට අමතරව රාජ්‍ය අමාත්‍යාංශ කිහිපයක විවිධ තනතුරු දරමින් රජයේ ප්‍රතිපත්ති විවේචනය කිරීම සම්බන්ධයෙන් ද රජයේ අවධානය යොමු වී තිබුණි. මේ අනුව කෘෂිකර්ම අමාත්‍යාංශය හා ඒ යටතේ ඇති ආයතනවල මාරම් මහතා දරන තනතුරු සියල්ලෙන් සිහුව ඉවත් කිරීමට කෘෂිකර්ම අමාත්‍යවරයා පියවර ගෙන ඇත. මීට අදාළ අමාත්‍යවරයාගේ ලිපිය අද කෘෂිකර්ම අමාත්‍යාංශයේ ලේකම්වරයාට යවා ඇත.</p> <p>ජයසූරිය උඩුකුඹුර ගරු අමාත්‍යතුමාගේ මාධ්‍ය ලේකම්</p> <p><i>Letter of removing Prof. Buddhi Marambe from all the positions he held at the Ministry of Agriculture. Photo Courtesy: Newswire</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Agriculture Minister sacks Professor Buddhi Marambe</a> Colombo Gazette. Published 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last Accessed 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">Prof. Marambe breaks silence on Mahindananda's decision to strip him of posts.</a> The Morning Published 27<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last Accessed 01 Feb 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">Marambe in President's delegation at UN Climate Change Conference despite 'sacking'.</a> The Island. Published 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2021. Last Accessed 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2022.</p>
44	24 Dec	Colombo	<p>Prof. Uditha K. Jayasinghe secretary, Agriculture Ministry was sacked from his position after he made the controversial statement on imminent food shortage in Sri Lanka. Further he stated that he was not informed fromaly about his removal of the position. He was informed about it via a phone call.</p>	<p><a href="#">Former Agri. The Secretary expresses disappointment over dismissal.</a> The Morning. Published 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last Accessed 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2022</p>
45	30 Oct	Colombo	<p>Two Police sergeants have been assaulted by a mob, when they attempted to control a clash between two parties. Both officers have been hospitalized after the assault, while one Police Sergeant has been in Critical condition. 18 suspects have been arrested and produced before Moratuwa acting Magistrate. While 15 suspects have been remanded and others have been released on the day.</p>	<p><a href="#">Eighteen suspects arrested for assaulting cops in Moratuwa.</a> Colombo Gazette. Published 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last Accessed 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">18 Arrested for assaulting police officers.</a> Daily Mirror Online. Published 1<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last Accessed 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2022.</p>


46	7 Nov	Anuradhapur a	Police officers who have been carrying out an alleged drug raid have been assaulted at kahatagasdigiliya, Thurukkagama area. Police have been trying to arrest an 18 year old suspect. Then a group of villagers have allegedly assaulted the Police officers.	<a href="#">9 suspects including 6 women arrested for assaulting Police officers (Video)</a> . News Wire. Published 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last Accessed 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb 2022. <a href="#">පොලීසියේ පිරිසකට ජරහායක්, ගමක් යකා නටයි</a> . Newsfirst. Published 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last Accessed 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb 2022
47	3 Oct	Matara	An additional secretary of the Ministry of Defense has allegedly obstructed a police officer on duty in the southern expressway Aparakka entrance. When the Police officer had asked for the license of the Additional Secretary, he had assaulted the police officer. Also the police officer has been transferred immediately after the incident, as a further reprisal for his action.	<a href="#">අමාත්‍යාංශ දේකමගේ ලයිසන් එක ඉල්ලුවම රාළහාමිට මාරුවක්</a> . Lankadeepa. Published 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct 2021. Last Accessed 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb 2022
48	17 Nov	Batticaloa	Ampitiye Sumanarathana, a Buddhist monk who has visited the Divisional Secretariat (DS) office in Manmunai South West, Paddipalai has threatened the officers including the Divisional secretary. He had visited the DS office regarding a land dispute.	<a href="#">Racist Sinhala Buddhist monk threatens officials as police watch on</a> . Tamil Guardian. Published 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last Accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022 <a href="#">Racist Sinhala Buddhist monk threatens officials as police watch on</a> Tamil Guardian/ YouTube. Published 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last Accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022
49	21 Nov	colombo	Public servants have received a gag-order from the State Ministry of Home Affairs ordering them to refrain from criticising the Government and its policies through social media platforms. They have been warned of disciplinary action if they violate the directive. In a circular issued in November, the Ministry Secretary stated that the action was taken after it had received complaints claiming that Divisional Secretaries, Grama Sevaka Niladharis, Development officers among others have been using social media to criticise the Government and its policies. The circular quotes the Establishment Code and points out that severe penalties could be imposed on public sector employees for criticising the Government and its policies as it would bring disrepute to the state sector.	<a href="#">Public servants gagged: Cannot criticise Govt. on social media</a> The Sunday Times. Published 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last Accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022 <a href="#">Public servants in Sri Lanka ordered not to criticise Govt. on social media</a> Sri Lanka Brief. Published 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov 2021. Last Accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022 <a href="#">Public servants are not allowed to criticize the government!</a> Aithiya. Published 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov 2021. Last Accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022
50	22 Nov	Colombo	Former Executive Director of the Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA) Thushan Gunawardena has been summoned and interrogated again at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) regarding the massive garlic scam in the state owned enterprise, Lanka Sathosa. He was summoned in connection with a complaint lodged by the Trade Minister Bandula Gunawardna.	<a href="#">Ex-CAA Director questions rationale in probe on Bandula complaint</a> . The Island. Published 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov 2021. Last Accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022

			<b>Legal &amp; Policy actions repress dissent</b>	
51	Oct, Nov, Dec	N/A	Gazettes calling on the armed forces to maintain public order were reissued in October, November and December, providing the military with additional powers to intervene in civilian affairs. Human rights defenders, families of victims, and survivors of violations fear that this may lead to more intimidation and surveillance of them, and restrictions on activities that may be perceived as dissent.	Extraordinary Gazettes. The Public Security Ordinance, Call Out with effect all the members of the Armed Forces. Gazette Nos. <a href="#">250/7 Gazette</a> dated 18th Oct 2021. <a href="#">2254/43 Gazette</a> dated 19th Nov 2021, <a href="#">2259/02 Gazette</a> dated 20th Dec 2021. Presidential Secretariat. Last accessed 24th Feb 2022.
52	29 Oct	Colombo	Long list of work was declared as essential services by the President. These include services related to Port Authority, supply and distribution of all fuels, public transport, work at District and Divisional Secretariats, state banking and insurance services, Waste management services, supply, storage and distribution activities of food, beverages, all offices under Provincial Councils, all work related to health services, and postal services. Declaring government services as essential services has been a known tactic to stop protests and trade union actions in the government sector in Sri Lanka. This tactic has been used historically by different Presidents since 1978. Soon after this gazette was issued trade unions issued a letter condemning the decision. In the following month, gazettes were issued further extending the same gazette and also declaring services related to health and services related to postal services as essential.	<a href="#">The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, EXTRAORDINARY.</a> No:2251/64. Published 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last Accessed 01 Feb 2022
53	10 Dec	Colombo	After the meeting of the special committee for Covid19 president's media division issued a press release about increasing the number of the corona positive cases and also mandatory vaccine cards in public places. In that press release the president has advised the committee to take relevant legal advice on mandating vaccine cards in public places. We believe if the vaccine card would be mandatory by law could be used to repress the upcoming protest against the government.	<a href="#">Vaccination card mandatory when visiting public places in Sri Lanka.</a> News Wire. Published 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last Accessed 01 Feb 2022
54	21 Dec	Colombo	The Health Minister stated that from January 1st of 2022 they are mandating the vaccination card for entering public places due to the increasing number of covid19 cases. In a context, Covid19 regulations are used to repress dissent, INFORM believes this might be used disproportionately against public gatherings organized by the civil society.	<a href="#">Tweet   Keheliya Rambukwella</a> Published 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2021. Last Accessed 01 Feb 2022 <a href="#">Sri Lanka to make COVID vaccine card must to enter public places.</a> Aljazeera, Published 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last Accessed 01 Feb 2022
55	27 Oct	Colombo	The controversial monk Galagodatte Ganasara thero, the General Secretary of ultra-nationalist Buddhist organization Bodu Bala Sena was appointed as the chairperson of the Presidential Task force One Country, One Law - a committee appointed by the Sri Lankan President Rajapaksa. The Task Force plans to draft a new act titled "one country one law" and while also reviewing existing laws. As gazetted, the task force works with a focus on fair administration of justice, its implementation and protection under the law, ensuring non-discrimination. Apparently Task Force works with view of abolishing special laws concerning ethnic and religious minorities such as Muslim Marriage and	<a href="#">Gnanasara Thero to head Task Force on 'One Country, One Law'.</a> Colombo Gazette, Published 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last Accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022 <a href="#">The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, EXTRAORDINARY.</a> <a href="#">Bodu Bala Sena's Gnanasara Thero To Be Arrested</a> No:2251/30 Published 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2017. Last Accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022

			<p>Divorce Act. Taking his track record into consideration, his appointment seems as a conscious attempt to create laws and policies that are hostile Muslims and other minorities.</p>  <p><i>Appointment gazette of Galagodaaththe Gnasarsa Thero. Photo Courtesy: Daily Mirror</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Following President Sirisena's Directive To Law And Order Minister Sagala Ratnayake.</a> DBSJeyaraj.com. Published 27<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Last Accessed 02<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022</p>
56	16 Oct	Colombo	<p>Two police officers got injured in a stabbing while attempting to question a suspect in relation to a drug related offense. Two police officers were injured and admitted to the hospital. The suspect was arrested.</p>	<p><a href="#">Two police constables stabbed.</a> News Wire, Published 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last Accessed 02<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022</p>



			<b>Other Incidents</b>	
57	23 Oct	Colombo	The Director of the State Intelligence Service (SIS), Major General Suresh Sallay has filed a complaint with the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) alleging that leading Catholic priest, Reverend Father Cyril Gamini had made a false accusation that Sri Lanka's Intelligence Units had provided financial and other forms of assistance to Zaharan Hashim, the suicide bomber of the Easter Sunday bomb attack on 21st April 2019. Suresh Sallay informed the CID that Reverend Father Cyril Gamini Fernando had described him (Suresh Sallay), who was a Brigadier at the time of bomb attack to have been actively involved in nurturing Zaharan Hashim and his followers. Major General Sallay strongly denied the allegations saying it has been made with the intention of discrediting him.	<a href="#">State intelligence chief files complaint on allegations by Catholic priest</a> , Colombo Gazette, Published 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last Accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022
58	15 Nov	Colombo	The Criminal Investigations Department (CID) recorded a statement from Catholic priest, Reverend Father Cyril Gamini over some comments he made at an online event, following the complaint made by the Director of the State Intelligence Service (SIS), Major General Suresh Sallay. Reportedly, he was questioned for approximately 7 hours.	<a href="#">CID records statement from Reverend Father Cyril Gamini</a> , Colombo Gazette, Published 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last Accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022 <a href="#">Rev. Father Cyril Gamini questioned for 7 hours by CID</a> , News Wire, Published 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last Accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022 <a href="#">Hundreds of religious leaders protest as Father Cyril's SC case taken up</a> , News Wire, Published 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last Accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022
59	2 Nov	Colombo	Sri Lanka Telecom- the government owned telecommunication company filed a legal case against Samgi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) Member of Parliament (MP) Manusha Nanyakkara regarding a statement he made regarding the deletion of database belonging to the National Medicines and Regulatory Authorities (NMRA) hosted by Sri Lanka Telecom (SLT). SLT affirmed that MP's statement brought damage and irreparable loss to the company. Based on a complaint made by SLT, CID of Sri Lanka Police has initiated an investigation and recorded a statement from the MP.	<a href="#">SLT files legal action against MP Manusha Nanayakkara</a> , Colombo Gazette, Published 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov 2021. Last Accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022
60	22 Oct	Colombo	Former Minister of Parliament Patali Champika Ranawaka said in the parliament that his mobile phone was tapped and his whatsapp phone conversations were also tapped during 2018 - 2019 by the CID of Sri Lanka Police. He got to know of these incidents after CID questioned him based on information in his Whatsapp conversations. MP Ranawaka further pointed out that his mobile service providers gave information to the CID without a court order.	<a href="#">Former Minister accuses CID of listening to Whatsapp calls. Parliamentary Debates (Hansard)</a> , News Wire, Published 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct 2021. Last Accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022
61	13 Oct	Colombo	The Attorney General has informed Colombo of a permanent high court trial at the bar that withdrew the indictment against former navy admiral of fleet Wasantha Karannagoda. Case was filed due to connection of abduction and disappear 11 youths. he was a suspect of that case	<a href="#">Office on Missing Persons comes under fire</a> , The Morning, Published 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last Accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022 <a href="#">Disappearance of 11 persons: AG withdraws indictment against Karannagoda. Appeals Court to hear the petition against</a> , The Morning, Published 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last Accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022 <a href="#">AG's decision regarding Wasantha Karannagoda on Oct 29</a> , The Morning, Published 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last Accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022
62	22 Oct	Kandy	Police officers who went to stop a party which was not conducted under health guidelines were assaulted by the group of people who were there.	<a href="#">සාදයක් වැටලූ පොලීසියට ප්රහාරයක්</a> , Lankadeepa, Published 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct 2021. Last accessed 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

63	20 Nov	Colombo	<p>Parliamentarian Minister Tissa Kuttirachchi has insulted leading opposition party Parliament Minister Rhohini Kaviratna by using abusive language in the parliament debate. Also MP Kuttirachchi assaulted opposition party Samagi Jana Balawegaya leader, Sajith Premadasa's wife too. "On 19 November, Kavirathna shamelessly asked us whether we went to the market recently and how much brinjals, elephant-ear tree (<i>habarala</i>), and green leaves cost. She is asking us if we bought brinjals, <i>habarala</i>, and green leaves? Go and ask that from Sajith Premadasa's wife. Why are you asking us that?," stated Kuttirachchi.</p>	<p><a href="#">Heated argument in Parliament over MP Tissa Kuttirachchi's conduct   Daily Mirror</a> Published 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.</p>
64	1 Dec	Colombo	<p>Former President Mithreepala Sirisena has filed a motion to dismiss the case of compensation to Easter attack victims' families and injured people. The massacre occurred at the time of his presidency.</p>	<p><a href="#">ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජනපති සිරිසේන පාස්කු වින්දිතයින්ගේ වන්දි නඩු නිෂ්පරාක් කරන ලෙස අධිකරණයෙන් ඉල්ලයි.</a> Gossip Lanka. Published 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.</p>
65	9 Dec	North Western Province	<p>Former Admiral of the fleet Wasantha Karannagoda appointed as the governor of the North Western Province. he was a suspect in the case of abduction and disappearance of 11 tamil youths. This incident occurred during his service period. This case was withdrawn by the attorney general on 13th of October this year.</p>  <p><i>Appointment letter given by the president to the Former Admiral of the fleet Wasantha Karannagoda. Photo Courtesy: Hiru News</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Wasantha Karannagoda appointed North Western Province Governor.</a> Daily Mirror. Published 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.</p>
66	3 Dec	Colombo	<p>Opposition Parliament Minister Manusha Nanayakkara was assaulted by Minister of Public Security Sarath Weerasekara in the lobby of the parliament. This incident occurred after MP Nanayakkara had made a statement in the parliament accusing MP Wijesekara of stealing two containers from the ports. For this issue all the MP's of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) have boycotted the budget debate and also protested regarding ensuring the security of the opposition MP's.</p>	<p><a href="#">SJB walks out of Chamber: Boycotting budget debate?</a> The Morning. Published 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.</p>
67	12 Nov	Colombo	<p>The Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksha has stated in his Budget proposal speech in the parliament that the social activists as foreign forces that are detrimental to the country. In several times government news papers has criticized the Non-Governmental Organizations as terrorists.</p>	<p><a href="#">Parliament Debates (Hansard).</a> Published 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2021. Last accessed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022.</p>
68	October	Galle	<p>Head of student discipline of the Ruhuna University Mangala Chathura de Silva addressing a group of University students has said that state intelligence officers have been secretly employed as spies among the students to gather information. As reported by the WSW website, several similar claims have been previously made by University administrators and the Secretary of Defence. Both this statement and the action of employing intelligence officers seem as actions to repress student activism among university students.</p>	<p><a href="#">විශ්ව විද්‍යාල තුළ යොදවා ඇති පොලිස් ඔත්තුකරුවන්ගේ අන්‍යෝන්‍ය හෙළිකොට ඔවුන් වහාම ඉවත් කරනු!</a> World Socialist Website. Published 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2021. Last accessed 02<sup>nd</sup> Mar 2022.</p>

69	17 Dec	Jaffna	Pararajasingam Sujeewan, a student at the University of Jaffna and journalist, has been summoned by the Sri Lankan Terrorism Investigation Department (TID) for an interrogation to be held on 17th December. He has been summoned for making a complaint to the Human Rights Commission in Jaffna regarding a press briefing conducted by a Buddhist monk in June in which he accused a Tamil journalist of attempting to revive the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Officials from the Kilinochchi Crime Prevention Department of Sri Lanka Police have arrived at his residence and delivered the summons issued by the TID from Colombo.	<a href="#">Jaffna University student to be interrogated by TID for 'giving information to Human Rights Commission'</a> . Tamil Guardian. Published 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Mar 2022.
70	7 Dec	Mullaitivu	Former combatant who made representation to the Presidential Task Force on One Country One Law when it held its consultation in Mullaitivu said that he has been summoned and interrogated at the Terrorism Investigation Division due to the statement he made at the consultation. He has spoken about the Public need to memorialize the dead.	<a href="#">Tweet   Ambika Sathkunanathan</a> Published 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Mar 2022.
71	26 Oct or before	Gampaha	A victim of a rape case has been threatened with death by the perpetrator. While he had once threatened her stopping the trishaw she was traveling, on the second time he had visited her house with a machete and threatened her.	<a href="#">නඩුවක පැමිණිලිකාරියට තර්ජනය කළ විත්තිකරු රක්ෂිත බන්ධනාගාරයට</a> . Mawbima. Published 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021. Last accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Mar 2022.
72	13 Dec	Nuwaraeliya	A local politician in Maskeliya local council has been assaulted by another politician for speaking about illegal constructions in the area. The Deputy Chairman and the area organizer for Sri Lanka Freedom party Periyasamy Pradeepan has been hospitalized after he had been assaulted with glass by another councillor and a member of the same party S. Dissanayake.	<a href="#">මස්කෙළිය ප්‍රථමා රැස්වීමේදී උප සභාපතිට වීදුරුවකින් පහර දීම</a> . Mawbima Published 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 02 <sup>nd</sup> Mar 2022.
73	11 Dec	Mullaitivu	Two brothers aged 19 years (about to sit for AL) & 21 years have been subjected to police inquiry as the phrase “maaveerar Karnan” referring to a character in the Mahabharata epic had been painted on the trishaw. The Police had advised them to remove the phrase from the trishaw, which they refused to do. They demanded to know whether the word “maaveerar” is banned in SL. Arrested persons have been held in police custody for 24 hours. After HRCSL and the media intervened, they were fined for a traffic offense and released. Police had reportedly told that military and intelligence had informed them phrase could incite racial tension and encourages terrorism.	<p><a href="#">Tweet   Ambika Sathkunanathan</a> Published 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 02<sup>nd</sup> Mar 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">Tweet   Ambika Sathkunanathan</a> Published 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 02<sup>nd</sup> Mar 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">Tweet   Ambika Sathkunanathan</a> Published 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 02<sup>nd</sup> Mar 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">"மாவீரன் கர்ணன்" என்ற வாசகத்தை காட்சிப்படுத்திய முச்சக்கர வண்டி சாரதி மீது முல்லைத்தீவு பொலிஸார் விசாரணை</a> Virakesari Published 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Last accessed 02<sup>nd</sup> Mar 2022.</p>



The phrase “maaveerar Karnan” painted on the trishaw. Photo courtesy: Virakesari