

Human Rights Situation in Sri Lanka

March 2025



The Batalanda Commission report resurfaced after 25 years and tabled at the Sri Lankan Parliament as former President Ranil Wickremasinghe rejected its existence during an interview with Aljazeera. The Report presents credible evidence regarding Wickremasinghe's involvement with alleged human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and unlawful detentions in a housing scheme, located in Biyagama, in Gamapha District, Sri Lanka during 1988-1990 period. Photo Courtesy: Al Jazeera

INFORM

Human Rights Documentation Centre

www.inform.lk

Human Rights Situation in Sri Lanka in March 2025.

Published in May 2025.

© INFORM Human Rights Documentation Centre

Colombo, Sri Lanka

<https://www.inform.lk/>

INFORM was established in 1990 to monitor and document the 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 levels. INFORM also focused on working with other communities whose rights were frequently and systematically violated. Currently, INFORM focuses on election monitoring, freedom of 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.

Contents

1. Executive Summary	4
2. Freedom of Assembly	7
3. Legal Reforms and Repressive Laws	9
4. Post-war Reconciliation and Accountability	12
5. Forcibly Disappeared	15
6. Mass Graves	17
7. Batalanda Commission Report	19
8. Land Encroachment	21
9. Abuse of Power by Police	23
10. Labor Rights	25
11. Local Government Elections	27
12. Sanctions Imposed by the UK	29
13. Indigenous Rights	31
14. Disability Rights	32
References	33

1. Executive Summary

Freedom of Assembly: The Colombo Chief Magistrate's Court issued an order restricting a protest organised by members of the Unemployed Graduates' Association, following a request from the Officer-in-Charge of the Welikada Police.

A notice was issued banning a 'Satyagraha' campaign and protest led by the Unemployed Graduates' Association between March 17 and 21, targeting several key organisers. Participants were barred from engaging in any protest that blocked roads or inconvenienced the public.

Twenty-seven individuals, including the convener of the Inter-University Students Federation and the Secretary of the Allied Health Sciences Students' Union, were arrested for holding a protest in defiance of a court order in front of the Ministry of Health.

Meanwhile, in Jaffna, a peaceful protest by Allied Health Sciences students demanding solutions for unemployment was forcefully halted by police, who cited election regulations as justification for preventing the march, despite student claims that their rally was non-political. Further controversy erupted at the University of Jaffna, where Tamil students replaced the Sri Lankan flag with a black one on February 4, marking Sri Lanka's 77th Independence Day as a mourning day rather than a celebration. The University Grants Commission (UGC) demanded disciplinary action against the students and has sought a detailed report from the university authorities.

Legal Reforms, Amendments and Repressive Laws: The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the tabling in Parliament of the Personal Data Protection (Amendment) Bill, a proposal initiated by President Anura Kumara Dissanayake in his capacity as the Minister of Digital Economy.

The government attempts to advance women's reproductive rights by drafting legal provisions that would allow the termination of pregnancies in cases of fatal foetal abnormalities.

Deputy Minister of Digital Economy Eranga Weeraratne announced in Parliament that a new Cybersecurity Bill will be introduced, granting the Sri Lanka Computer Emergency Readiness Team (SLCERT) enhanced powers to enforce cybersecurity standards across websites.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake confirmed that amendments to Sections 41 and 42 of the Buddhist Temporalities Ordinance are in preparation to formalise the establishment of the Sangha Council.

The Opposition is preparing to push for a new Constitution. MP Ajith P. Perera announced an adjournment motion calling for immediate steps toward constitutional reform, in line with President Dissanayake's election manifesto pledge to abolish the Executive Presidency, re-establish a parliamentary system, and create a new electoral system.

The Supreme Court of Sri Lanka ruled in case No. SC FR 37/2020, that former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had no constitutional authority to issue detention orders under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) in early 2020, rendering such orders legally invalid. The Court found that Rajapaksa, who had signed a detention order on February 6, 2020, lacked the power to act as Minister of Defence at the time since the 20th Amendment, which would have permitted such dual authority, had not yet come into effect.

Forcibly Disappeared: Across the North-East, Tamil families of the forcibly disappeared continue to struggle for truth, justice, and accountability. This movement, led largely by women, has now spanned over 15 years since the end of the armed conflict in 2009, with families demanding to know the fate of their loved ones, many of whom vanished after surrendering to Sri Lankan armed forces during the final stages of the Mullivaikkal genocide.

Mass Graves: Concerns have been raised over the lack of protection and proper investigative protocols for mass graves discovered in the Northern Province, warning that neglecting these sites could lead to the destruction of crucial evidence and further injustices. These remarks were made concerning the discovery of human remains in Kokkuthoduvai, Mannar, and most recently at the Semmani site in Jaffna.

Land Encroachment: Tamil parliamentarians have raised urgent concerns over the ongoing encroachment, militarisation, and manipulation of land rights in the North and East, where Tamil communities remain locked in a struggle to reclaim their homes and heritage. The growing trend of using Buddha statues as tools of land appropriation, particularly in Tamil areas like Mullaitivu remains to be a concern.

The long-standing land dispute surrounding the construction of the Tissa Viharaya in Jaffna has intensified. Protests by local landowners, civil activists, and political representatives have been ongoing, particularly on Poya days, challenging what they assert is the illegal construction of this Buddhist temple on Tamil-owned private lands.

Batalanda Commission: The 'Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Establishment and Maintenance of Places of Unlawful Detention and Torture Chambers at the Batalanda Housing Scheme' was tabled in Parliament by the House and Transport Minister, Bimal Ratnayake. Minister Ratnayake emphasised that the government has made a policy decision to take necessary action based on the report's findings. As part of this process, the report has been forwarded to the Attorney General for legal review, and a Presidential Committee has been appointed to offer recommendations on future actions.

Abuse of Power by Police: Deshabandu Tennakoon, suspended Inspector General of Police (IGP), has found himself at the center of a high-profile legal controversy after being implicated in multiple serious charges. Tennakoon, who had been evading arrest for weeks, finally surrendered to the Matara Magistrate's Court, after a massive nationwide manhunt. Additional Solicitor General Dileepa Peiris strongly opposed bail, describing Tennakoon's abuse of power during his tenure as IGP and alleged that he used his position for personal gain.

The proposal submitted by the ruling party, National People's Power (NPP), Parliamentarians seeking the removal of suspended Inspector General of Police (IGP) Deshabandu Tennakoon from office has been included in the relevant supplement to the Order Book of Parliament. The motion, submitted to the Speaker on March 25, carries the signatures of 115 MPs and lists 27 charges against Tennakoon.

The Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the Weligama Police Station has been suspended due to his purported involvement in a shooting incident that occurred outside the W15 Hotel in Weligama, in 2023. The court mandated the arrest of eight individuals, including former officials from the Colombo Crimes Division (CCD) and the former Inspector General of Police, Deshabandu Tennakoon linked to the same incident.

Sanctions Imposed by the UK: The United Kingdom government has recently imposed sanctions on four individuals—three former Sri Lankan military commanders and one former LTTE leader—for their alleged roles in serious human rights violations during the country's civil war. The sanctions, which include travel bans and asset freezes, are part of the UK's broader strategy to promote international accountability and prevent impunity for grave abuses. The individuals named are Shavendra Silva, former Head of the Sri Lankan Armed Forces; Wasantha Karannagoda, former Navy Commander; Jagath Jayasuriya, former Army Commander; and Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan, also known as Karuna Amman—a former LTTE commander who later led the pro-government Karuna Group. These figures are alleged to have been involved in extrajudicial killings, torture, enforced disappearances, sexual violence, and the recruitment of child soldiers.

Labour Rights: Minister of Labour, Dr. Anil Jayantha, confirmed in Parliament that the government had already initiated discussions with the International Labour Organisation's country office and begun preliminary steps to examine the ratification process for Convention No. 190. Dr. Jayantha emphasised the government's anticipation of collective support from all stakeholders, underscoring the shared responsibility to eliminate workplace violence and harassment and to foster an inclusive and safe work environment for all individuals.

Local Government Elections: The Election Commission of Sri Lanka officially announced that the upcoming Local Government (LG) Elections will be held on May 6, 2025. The acceptance of nominations for 336 Local Government institutions began on March 17 and concluded on March 20.

2. Freedom of Assembly

On March 04, the Colombo Chief Magistrate's Court issued an order restricting a protest organised by members of the Unemployed Graduates' Association, following a request from the Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the Welikada Police. Authorities claimed the protest could block the main entry road to Parliament via the Polduwa Roundabout and Parliament Road, and ordered that the protestors must not obstruct roads, cause inconvenience to the public, or violate parliamentary privileges. The court further warned that if protestors failed to comply, the demonstration would be forcibly dispersed (Balasuriya, 2025). Despite the order, a tense situation arose when unemployed graduates demonstrated at Polduwa Junction, demanding government employment (Ada derna, 2025; Daily Mirror, 2025).



Figure 1: Police obstructing the protest organised by members of the Unemployed Graduates' Association, near the Polduwa Roundabout and Parliament Road. Courtesy: [Daily Mirror \[Youtube\]](#)

A notice was issued banning a 'Satyagraha' campaign and protest led by the Unemployed Graduates' Association between March 17 and 21, targeting several key organisers, including Dhammika Munasinghe, Rasika Prasad, Sumith Ratnayake, and S.M.L. Rangwala. Participants were barred from engaging in any protest that blocked roads or inconvenienced the public (Ada Derana, 2025).

In addition to protests by unemployed graduates, student activism has also been met with a forceful state response. Twenty-seven individuals, including the convener of the Inter-University Students Federation (IUSF) and the Secretary of the Allied Health Sciences Students' Union, were arrested for holding a protest in defiance of a court order in front of the Ministry of Health (Balasuriya, 2025).

Meanwhile, in Jaffna, a peaceful protest by Allied Health Sciences students demanding solutions for unemployment was forcefully halted by police, who cited election regulations as justification for preventing the march, despite student claims that their rally was non-political (Tamil Guardian, 2025). Similarly, Tamil schoolteacher Innasimuttu Sathiyaseelan was subjected to an eight-hour interrogation by the Terrorism Investigation Division (TID) for allegedly creating a sports meet prop resembling a Thuyilam Illam (LTTE cemetery) (Tamil Guardian, 2025).



Figure 2: Police obstructing the protest by Allied Health Sciences students demanding solutions for unemployment. Courtesy: Tamil Guardian

Further controversy erupted at the University of Jaffna, where Tamil students replaced the Sri Lankan flag with a black one on February 4, marking Sri Lanka's 77th Independence Day as a mourning day rather than a celebration. The University Grants Commission (UGC) demanded disciplinary action against the students and has sought a detailed report from the university authorities. Sinhala nationalist groups called for the arrest of the students involved, highlighting the intense ethno-political pressures faced by Tamil youth expressing dissent (Tamil Guardian, 2025).

3. Legal Reforms and Repressive Laws

Personal Data Protection (Amendment) Bill

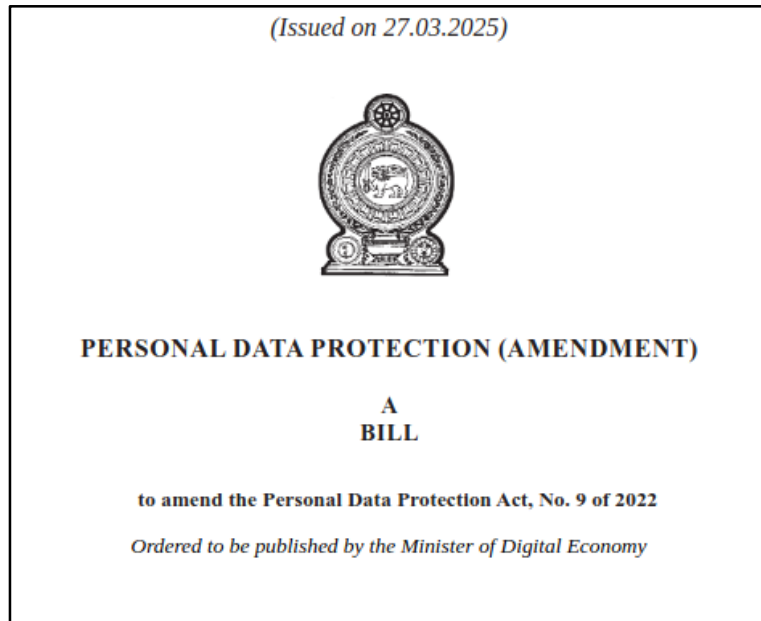


Figure 3: Personal Data Protection (AMENDMENT) Bill was gazetted on 27th March.

The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the tabling in Parliament of the Personal Data Protection (Amendment) Bill, a proposal initiated by President Anura Kumara Dissanayake in his capacity as the Minister of Digital Economy (Ada Derana, 2025; Jayawardhana, 2025; Newswire, 2025; The Island Online, 2025). The Ministry of Digital Economy elaborated that the amendments are essential before the Personal Data Protection Act is enforced, enabling both public and private sectors to adopt emerging digital strategies, including AI systems. The revisions reflect feedback from stakeholders, particularly on Draft Rules, Regulations, Directives, and Guidelines released by the Data Protection Authority (DPA). Meanwhile, the government has also acknowledged public concern over the Online Safety Act (OSA), which was introduced in 2024. Minister of Public Security Ananda Wijepala assured Parliament that a committee involving the Ministries of Public Security, Health, Media, and Justice has been appointed to draft the proposed amendments, which will be presented to the Cabinet soon. He also noted that no arrests or prosecutions have yet been made under the OSA and that public consultations involving journalists and civil society are planned as part of the amendment process (Ceylon Today, 2025; Jayawardana, 2025; Perera & Siriwardana, 2025).

Cybersecurity Bill

Furthermore, Deputy Minister of Digital Economy Eranga Weeraratne announced in Parliament that a new Cybersecurity Bill will be introduced, granting the Sri Lanka Computer Emergency Readiness Team (SLCERT) enhanced powers to enforce cybersecurity standards across websites. Alongside this, the government plans to issue electronic identity cards, giving citizens the choice between retaining their physical cards or adopting a digital version (Perera & Siriwardana, 2025).

Women's Reproductive Rights and the Termination of Pregnancies

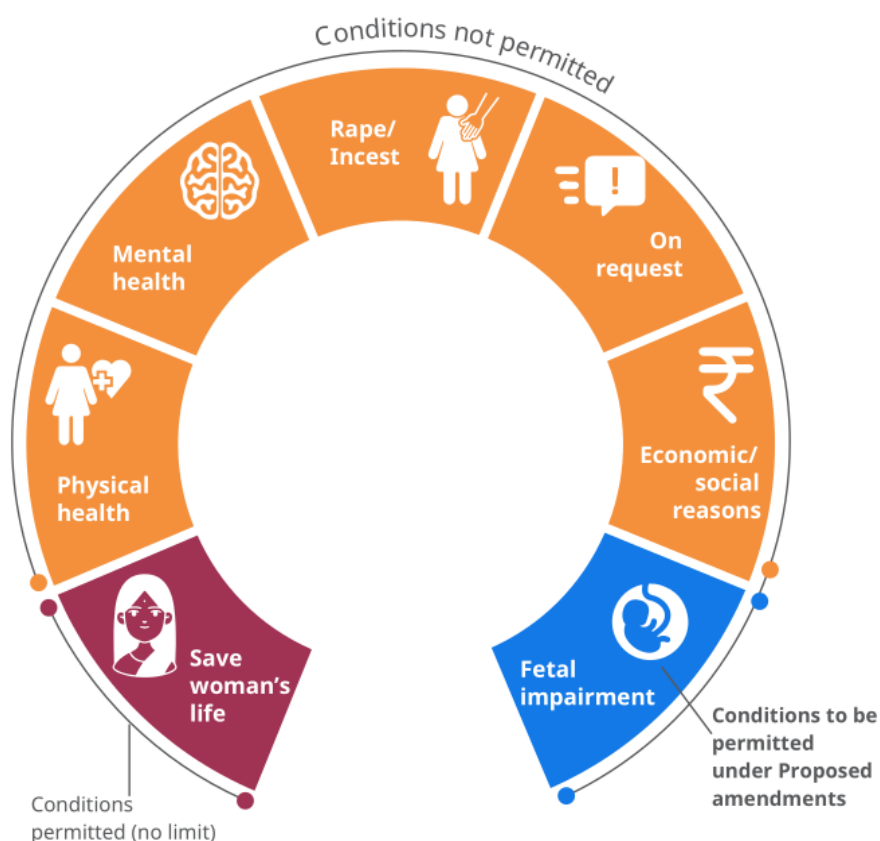


Figure 4: Conditions and gestation limit for which abortion is permitted in Sri Lanka. Graphic adapted from Fact Sheet on [Abortion policy landscape Sri Lanka](#). WHO

Additionally, the government has committed to advancing women's reproductive rights by drafting legal provisions that would allow the termination of pregnancies in cases of fatal foetal abnormalities. This proposed legislation, developed with input from the College of Community Physicians, the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians, and the Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, stipulates that two medical specialists must confirm the severity of the defect before termination can proceed at a state-run hospital (Jayammanne, 2025; Newswire, 2025).

“The restriction, under the Penal Code, on access to legal abortion to cases in which the life of the pregnant woman is at risk, which compels women and girls to resort to unsafe abortions... As a matter of priority, legalize and decriminalize abortion in all cases and, in the interim, remove requirements for judicial authorization, restrictive time limits and other barriers to access for women and girls to free, legal and safe abortion, in particular in cases of rape.”
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Concluding observations on the ninth periodic report of Sri Lanka
28 February 2025

Proposed legal reforms fail to address decriminalization of abortion, and many other concerns of women and girls including access for legal and safe abortion, in particular in cases of rape.

Amendments to the Buddhist Temporalities Ordinance

In parallel to legislative efforts, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake confirmed that amendments to Sections 41 and 42 of the Buddhist Temporalities Ordinance are in preparation to formalise the establishment of the Sangha Council. Discussions are also underway for a Buddhist Dialogue Act, signalling the administration's broader vision of fostering a compassionate, ethically sound society (Siriwardana, 2025).

Constitutional Reforms

Finally, the Opposition is preparing to push for a new Constitution. MP Ajith P. Perera announced an adjournment motion calling for immediate steps toward constitutional reform, in line with President Dissanayake's election manifesto pledge to abolish the Executive Presidency, re-establish a parliamentary system, and create a new electoral system. The motion urges establishing a Constitutional Drafting Assembly with multi-party representation and a one-year timeline for completion (Ceylon Today, 2025).

Prevention of Terrorism Act

The Supreme Court of Sri Lanka ruled in case No. SC FR 37/2020, that former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had no constitutional authority to issue detention orders under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) in early 2020, rendering such orders legally invalid. The Court found that Rajapaksa, who had signed a detention order on February 6, 2020, lacked the power to act as Minister of Defence at the time since the 20th Amendment, which would have permitted such dual authority, had not yet come into effect. The ruling was delivered in response to a fundamental rights petition filed by Kanchana Priyadarshani Madurapperuma, whom the Peliyagoda Special Investigation Unit had arrested on suspicion of heroin possession. The Court declared the PTA-based detention order unlawful, upheld her rights under Articles 12, 13(1), and 13(2) of the Constitution, and ordered the State to compensate her with LKR 100,000 (Abeynayake, 2025; Ada Derana, 2025; Lanka Files, 2025; Sooriyagoda, 2025).

Human rights lawyers immediately highlighted the judgment's wider significance, noting that similar arguments had been made in the case of Ahnaf Jazeem, a young Tamil Muslim poet detained under the PTA, whose legal team hopes this ruling will pave the way for the recognition of his prolonged detention as unlawful too (Jayasekera, 2025). The verdict comes amid increasing calls to repeal the PTA, a law widely criticised for facilitating arbitrary detention and disproportionately targeting Tamil and Muslim communities as well as political dissenters (Tamil Guardian, 2025).

Meanwhile, concerns over misuse of the PTA deepened following the arrest of a 20-year-old Muslim youth under the Act for allegedly pasting a sticker condemning Israeli military actions in Gaza inside a shopping mall in Slave Island. Protesters, including rights lawyer Hejaaz Hizbullah and Opposition MP Mujibur Rahman, condemned the arrest, questioning the criminalisation of peaceful solidarity and the use of counter-terror laws to stifle free expression. Hizbullah further reported that protest organiser Miflal Moulavi was questioned and his home searched by police following the protest (Newswire, 2025). Another 23-year-old man was arrested under the PTA in Slave Island for suspected involvement in activities perceived as threatening to Israeli citizens and for allegedly promoting communal disharmony, a case that the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) confirmed it was monitoring. Critics linked this arrest too to the pasting of anti-Israel stickers, while the police justified the detention by Citing broader security concerns about the youth's views and behavior (Alphonsus, 2025; Newswire, 2025; Wijesinghe, 2025).

4. Post-war Reconciliation and Accountability



Figure 5: A social media post published by UNHRC, referring to oral update delivered by Maarit Kohonen Sheriff, the Director of the Global Operations Division of OHCHR, regarding reconciliation and accountability efforts in Sri Lanka. Courtesy: [UNHRC](#)

New Resolution at the 59th session of the UNHRC

A new resolution aimed at fostering reconciliation, ensuring accountability, and advancing human rights in Sri Lanka will be presented by the co-sponsoring nations, spearheaded by Britain, during the 59th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council scheduled for September. This announcement was made by Ben Mellor, the Indo-Pacific Regional Director of the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, to President M.A. Sumanthiran, the Acting General Secretary and Media Spokesperson of the Sri Lanka Tamil Arasu Party (Tamilwin, 2025).

Sri Lanka Core Group at the 58th session of the UNHRC

The Core Group commended Sri Lanka for its "preliminary actions," which encompass "relinquishing land, removing roadblocks, and permitting communities in the North and East to honor their history and remember their deceased relatives" (Tamil Guardian, 2025).

The Core Group emphasised in its statement that Sri Lanka should guarantee that any forthcoming transitional justice mechanisms are autonomous, inclusive, significant, and fulfill the expectations of the impacted communities (Ada Derana, 2025; Tamil Guardian, 2025).

OHCHR on Intimidation of Civil Society Actors, Journalists, and activists in the North-East

During the 58th session of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), Maarit Kohonen Sheriff, the Director of the Global Operations Division of OHCHR, delivered an oral report regarding reconciliation and accountability efforts in Sri Lanka. Sheriff stated that their office continues to receive accounts of monitoring and coercion by security forces in the Northern and Eastern regions, underscoring the necessity for more comprehensive reforms in the security sector. She urged the newly formed government to remove superfluous regulations and limitations on civil society and independent media in order to rejuvenate the civic space. It was also emphasized that the government must be dedicated to tackling the significant violations that took place during the civil war and earlier insurgencies. These offenses require comprehensive investigation, justice for the victims, and accountability for the offenders (Tamil Guardian, 2025).

She stated that, “we also urge the new Government to reform and strengthen the Office of Missing Persons, including by appointing independent and credible members, to achieve meaningful progress in the thousands of cases of enforced disappearances” (Tamil Guardian, 2025).

Forthcoming United Nations Human Rights Council Report

The report, titled *Out of Sight: Human Rights Defenders Working in Isolated, Remote & Rural Contexts*, has been compiled by UN Special Rapporteur Mary Lawlor and will be presented before the UN Human Rights Council on 5 March 2025 (Tamil Guardian, 2025).

The report highlights the challenges faced by human rights defenders in the Tamil North-East, where activists endure excessive levels of persecution. It states,

“The Special Rapporteur has also received information that, in Sri Lanka, defenders working in the conflict-affected North and East face disproportionate violence, surveillance and labelling as terrorists, and that many women human rights defenders have been labelled as anti-State and have faced violence, stigmatisation, and attacks during peaceful protests.”

The report, presented under the agenda of the Promotion and Protection of All Human Rights—Civil, Political, Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, including the Right to Development, highlights how human rights defenders across the world continue to face state-backed intimidation, harassment, and violence (United Nations A/HRC/58/53, 2025).

Sri Lanka on UN Resolutions on Accountability

Addressing the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, the government of Sri Lanka rejected several UN resolutions on accountability, reaffirming its refusal to engage with international mechanisms investigating war crimes and human rights violations. Speaking at the 58th session of the UNHRC, Sri Lanka’s Permanent Representative to Geneva reiterated the government’s opposition to Resolutions 46/1, 51/1, and 57/1, which mandate an external evidence-gathering mechanism on Sri Lanka under the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). These resolutions were introduced to collect and preserve evidence of war crimes committed during the final stages of the armed conflict and the genocide of Tamils in 2009.



Figure 6: Himalee Arunatilaka, Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva sitting at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. Courtesy: [EconomyNext](#)

The government of Sri Lanka further stated, “The external evidence gathering mechanism on Sri Lanka within the OHCHR is an unprecedented and ad hoc expansion of the Council’s mandate, and contradicts its founding principles of impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity. No sovereign state can accept the superimposition of an external mechanism that runs contrary to its Constitution and which pre-judges the commitment of its domestic legal processes” (Tamil Guardian, 2025).

Allegations of Torture by Shavendra Silva

Brito Fernando, a human rights advocate and Chairman of Families of the Disappeared, alleged torture and mistreatment perpetrated by retired Sri Lankan Army Commander Major General Shavendra Silva while he served at the Matale Vijaya torture facility (Tamil Guardian, 2025).

Fernando provided an account of the testimony from a fellow detainee who had been incarcerated at the Matale facility and was absent during the incident. He claimed that Silva compelled his associate and another detainee to engage in a weapon duel (Tamil Guardian, 2025).

He emphasized the widespread apprehension experienced by survivors and witnesses, many of whom are hesitant to step forward due to previous trauma and intimidation (Tamil Guardian, 2025).

New Report by the International Truth and Justice Project

A new report by the International Truth and Justice Project (ITJP), titled Valvettithurai: Testimonies of a Massacre, has examined the Valvettithurai (VVT) massacre of 1989, one of the worst atrocities committed by the Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF) against Eelam Tamils. It presents damning evidence of mass killings, torture, and destruction inflicted upon Tamil civilians, calling for criminal accountability, reparations, and exhumations of mass graves (Tamil Guardian, 2025).

5. Forcibly Disappeared

Across the North-East, Tamil families of the forcibly disappeared continue to struggle for truth, justice, and accountability. This movement, led largely by women, has now spanned over 15 years since the end of the armed conflict in 2009, with families demanding to know the fate of their loved ones, many of whom vanished after surrendering to Sri Lankan armed forces during the final stages of the Mullivaikkal genocide. Protests recently held in Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Vavuniya, and Trincomalee highlight the enduring resistance against enforced disappearances and state impunity. Demonstrators, including mothers and wives, have reiterated at their core the state must reveal the truth about their relatives' fates, rather than offering hollow gestures or financial reparations designed to conceal murder and avoid criminal accountability (Tamil Guardian, 2025; Tamilwin, 2025).



Figure 7: Image: Jeyakumari Balendran wrote a letter to the President Dissanayake, to help her to find information on her son's disappearance at the government-run Ambepussa rehabilitation camp in 2009. Photo Courtesy: [Asianews](#)

Activist Balendran Jeyakumary's story embodies this struggle. She submitted a letter to the Presidential Secretariat seeking answers about her son Balendran Mahinthan, who disappeared in December 2008. Despite years of communication with organisations including the ICRC, the Human Rights Commission, and the Presidential Commission, Jeyakumary has received no answers (Tamil Guardian, 2025).



Figure 8: On International Women's Day, Tamil mothers held a protest demanding justice and accountability for their loved ones, who were forcibly disappeared during the last stages of Sri Lankan civil war. Courtesy: Tamil Guardian

On International Women's Day, Tamil families marked the occasion with mourning and protest. In Mullaitivu, families gathered near the Vattuvakal Bridge — where many Tamils last saw their relatives during mass surrenders in 2009 — and marched to demand international intervention. They also condemned the government's rejection of UN resolutions and repeated denial of state responsibility, denouncing the ongoing militarisation and Sinhalisation of Tamil lands (Tamil Guardian, 2025).

The Vavuniya District Association of Relatives of the Enforced Disappeared also joined the calls for global accountability, pointing to Britain's travel bans on Sri Lankan military commanders. They stressed that only an international judicial mechanism could break the cycle of denial and impunity, and condemned the Office for Missing Persons for what they described as publishing false reports and failing to act on the families' documented evidence (Tamilwin, 2025).

Political voices, too, have spoken up. Tamil National People's Front MP Gajendra Kumar Ponnambalam criticised the Sri Lankan government's allegedly evasive stance at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, noting that the foreign minister's refusal to even mention criminal justice reveals the state's deep-rooted unwillingness to hold perpetrators accountable (Tamilwin, 2025).

6. Mass Graves

Tamil National People's Front (TNPF) leader and Member of Parliament Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam has voiced serious concern over the lack of protection and proper investigative protocols for mass graves discovered in the Northern Province, warning that neglecting these sites could lead to the destruction of crucial evidence and further injustices. These remarks were made concerning the discovery of human remains in Kokkuthoduvai, Mannar, and most recently at the Semmani site in Jaffna. He criticised the authorities for failing to act promptly, noting that during his visit to the Semmani grave, police had not yet secured the site and courts had not been notified. He stressed that the absence of clear procedures, often justified by officials as a result of insufficient funds, had left these sensitive investigations at risk of compromise (Tamilwin, 2025).



Figure 9: Kokkuthoduvai mass grave site in September 2023. Photo courtesy: Tamil Guardian

Meanwhile, hearings continue regarding the mass grave discovered in Kokkuthoduvai, Mullaitivu, a site unearthed in June 2023. There have been troubling delays and allegations of state interference. Forensic Medical Officer Dr. K. Vasudeva submitted two preliminary reports to the court, one detailing garments recovered with the remains and another cataloguing identification markers — including clothing and other materials— that could help match the remains to missing persons if families come forward. The final forensic report promises to include detailed analyses of the victims' ages, causes of death, and physical conditions (Tamil Guardian, 2025; Tamilwin, 2025).

The discoveries have raised deep concern, as the remains are suspected to belong to members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) who were allegedly executed between 1994 and 1996 under military custody. Supporting these suspicions, identification tags and clothing fragments resembling LTTE uniforms were found among the bones. Forensic archaeologist Professor Raj Somadeva, who led the excavation, confirmed in earlier statements that the remains were consistent with mid-1990s burials and likely victims of

gunshot wounds. Attorney V. Niranjan, representing the families of the disappeared, has highlighted signs of physical abuse and torn clothing on the remains, suggesting serious human rights violations (Tamil Guardian, 2025).

These cases have further amplified accusations of state cover-ups and systemic obstruction of justice, a criticism long levelled by Tamil families and human rights groups. Many families argue that Sri Lankan authorities — particularly the Office of Missing Persons (OMP) — have failed to properly investigate disappearances, accusing the institution of pressuring relatives to accept death certificates instead of genuine investigations (Tamil Guardian).

At the Semmani Siddhupathi Hindu Cemetery in Jaffna, human remains were unearthed, prompting court proceedings. On April 4, the Jaffna Magistrate's Court, under Judge V. Anandaraja, accepted a request for members of the Siddhupathi Hindu Cemetery Development Committee to assist police in securing the site, a measure intended to protect evidence until proper investigations are complete (Tamilwin, 2025).

Alongside these cases, the ongoing struggle for justice was also highlighted at the release event for the report *Valvettithurai: Confessions of a Massacre*, published by the International Truth and Justice Project (ITJP). The report documents the atrocities committed by the Indian military in Jaffna, and its release was marked by a memorial service, torch-lighting, and speeches from survivors, human rights activists, and religious leaders at Vadamaratchi Media House in Jaffna. The event reinforced the broader demand for accountability and recognition for the victims of Sri Lanka's long history of conflict and enforced disappearances (Tamil Guardian, 2025).

7. Batalanda Commission Report



Figure 10: The Batalanda Commission report resurfaced after 25 years and tabled at the Parliament after former President Ranil Wickramasinghe rejected the existence of such a report during an interview with Aljazeera. Photo Courtesy: Al Jazeera

The 'Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Establishment and Maintenance of Places of Unlawful Detention and Torture Chambers at the Batalanda Housing Scheme' was tabled in Parliament on March 14 by the House and Transport Minister, Bimal Ratnayake (Daily News; The Morning; The Island). Minister Ratnayake emphasised that the government has made a policy decision under the guidance of President Anura Kumara Dissanayake to take necessary action based on the report's findings. As part of this process, the report has been forwarded to the Attorney General for legal review, and a Presidential Committee has been appointed to offer recommendations on future actions (Ada Derana, 2025; The Island Online, 2025).

The Batalanda Commission, originally appointed during President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga's administration, investigated alleged human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and unlawful detentions during Sri Lanka's turbulent 1988-1990 period, marked by the JVP insurgency. The report, which identifies significant state and law enforcement failures, proposes key reforms including enhanced judicial oversight and accountability mechanisms to prevent future violations (The Morning, 2025).

A key figure held accountable in the report, former President Ranil Wickremesinghe, has categorically rejected its conclusions, arguing that the report, which was initially published as a sessional paper in 2000, is being politically weaponised decades later. Wickremesinghe clarified in a special statement that the only reference to him in the report concerned his decision, at the request of then State Minister of Defence Ranjan Wijeratne, to allocate vacant houses to police and military personnel during the JVP insurrection, a move the Commission critiqued for bypassing the Inspector General of Police (The Island; News First). He further stressed that apart from this administrative oversight, he was neither directly accused nor implicated in any torture-related allegations, adding that the report also extensively covers the terrorist acts of the JVP during the 1988-1990 period (News First, 2025; The Island, 2025).

Tilvin Silva, General Secretary of Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), the main faction of the current alliance in power, announced that the party intends to pursue legal action based on the findings of the Commission (Farzan). MP Gnanamuthu Srinnesan stated that the issue of

the Batalanda torture camp, used to suppress the JVP during their 1988 uprising, has only come to light because the JVP is now in power. He pointed out that although an investigation was conducted during Chandrika Kumaratunga's presidency, the findings were buried, and now, 37 years later, the truth is emerging—allegedly implicating figures like former President Ranil Wickremesinghe. Srinesan emphasised that if the JVP had not come to power, the existence of this camp would have remained hidden. Drawing a broader comparison, he noted that similar legal and illegal camps, like the Sathurukondan camp in Batticaloa, were used in the North and East, primarily against Tamils. He questioned how justice for Tamils can ever be achieved if they are never in a position of power to expose such injustices.

8. Land Encroachment

Tamil parliamentarians have raised urgent concerns over the ongoing encroachment, militarisation, and manipulation of land rights in the North and East, where Tamil communities remain locked in a struggle to reclaim their homes and heritage. Vanni District MP Thurairasa Ravikaran has highlighted the growing trend of using Buddha statues not as symbols of faith, but as tools of land appropriation, particularly in Tamil areas like Mullaitivu. According to Ravikaran, Sinhala Buddhist monks — backed by political supporters — are spearheading these encroachments, turning religious icons into territorial markers to legitimise land grabs, a practice he condemned as rendering them "unfit to wear the saffron robe" (Tamil Guardian, 2025; Tamilwin, 2025).

Ravikaran warned that in Sri Lanka, Buddhism has too often been weaponised as a political tool rather than embraced as a philosophy of peace. Fellow MP Padmanathan Sathyalingham added his voice to the debate, demanding the release of Tamil-owned lands in Vavuniya that the Sri Lankan military has long occupied. He described how the Air Force had seized over 231 acres of civilian land for airstrip expansions as early as 1985, and pointed to other areas like Eechankulam, where military camps now stand on sites once home to Thuyilum Illams — cemeteries sacred to Tamil families, bulldozed after the war to erase traces of Tamil history (Tamil Guardian, 2025).

The issue extends beyond housing and ancestral property. During a recent sports event in Mullaitivu, Dr. Udayaseelan of the Mullaitivu District Cricket Association petitioned Northern Province Governor Vethanayagan to release a swimming pool, originally constructed by the LTTE and now under military control, for use as a sports training facility. Despite the local demand for proper sports infrastructure and the potential benefits for young athletes across the district, the military has continued to withhold the site, part of a wider pattern of militarised land retention that has slowed development and deepened grievances in the North-East (Tamil Guardian, 2025).

Tissa Viharaya

The long-standing land dispute surrounding the construction of the Tissa Viharaya in Jaffna has intensified. Protests by local landowners, civil activists, and political representatives have been ongoing, particularly on Poya days, challenging what they assert is the illegal construction of this Buddhist temple on privately owned Tamil land (Tamilwin, 2025).

The Northern Province People's Movement for Land Rights has also brought the issue to the attention by presenting title deeds dating back to 1921 that substantiate the ownership claims of 16 Tamil families, whose lands in Kankesanthurai were allegedly seized for the construction of the Tissa Viharaya. Despite legal ownership, these lands were forcibly occupied, and the issue was further discussed at a meeting with the Minister of Lands (Tamilwin, 2025). Additional controversy emerged when another illegal building within the Tissa Viharaya premises was opened on March 23 under heavy military protection, despite previous assurances from Buddhist Affairs Minister Sunil Senevi that field surveys would be conducted before any further development. This has deepened local frustration, especially as the military, allegedly involved in the construction, continues to deny the presence of illegal structures while facilitating religious services and handovers (Tamilwin, 2025).



Figure 11: Dec 2024. Police preventing protesters moving towards the Tissa Viharaya in Thaiyiddy, Jaffna, during a protest held by local residents against alleged illegal constructions and land grabbing by the temple. Photo Courtesy: Dinaseena Ratugamage/ The Island

In Parliament, MP Sivagnanam Sritharan further questioned the legality of the Tissa Raja Maha Viharaya's construction on these lands, stressing that owners of about 20 acres have long protested peacefully for the return of their property. Former MP Selvarasa Gajendran has directly accused President Anura Kumara Dissanayake of hypocrisy — claiming to oppose racism while allegedly allowing the expansion of Sinhala-Buddhist influence in Tamil areas under military protection (Tamilwin, 2025).

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka has also launched a delayed investigation into allegations of police threats against protesters involved in this land dispute. The inquiry began in April, after a one-and-a-half-year hiatus, following pressure from Tamil MPs like Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam (Tamilwin, 2025).

In a bid for resolution, the Northern Province People's Land Rights Movement met with Minister Bimal Ratnayake on March 20, presenting title deeds and demanding the return of the lands. The Minister expressed willingness to address the issue, but no concrete actions have yet been taken (Tamilwin, 2025). Amidst these developments, Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna MP Chanaka Sampath Madugoda dismissed the protesters' claims, alleging that some were using forged documents and accusing Tamil politicians of politicizing archaeological and religious heritage. He advocated for a government-appointed special committee to resolve the Tissa Viharaya dispute and emphasised the need to remove alleged illegal settlers from the area (Tamilwin, 2025).

Adding to the complexity, members of the Hindu nationalist organization Shiv Sena pledged to resolve the dispute within six months through dialogue with Buddhist monks and Tamil landowners. However, skepticism remains high among local communities, who suspect that such engagements are attempts to pacify opposition while allowing the Sinhalisation process to continue unabated, as similar efforts in other locations, such as Kurunthumalai, have failed to produce meaningful results (Tamil Guardian, 2025).

9. Abuse of Power by Police

Deshabandu Tennakoon

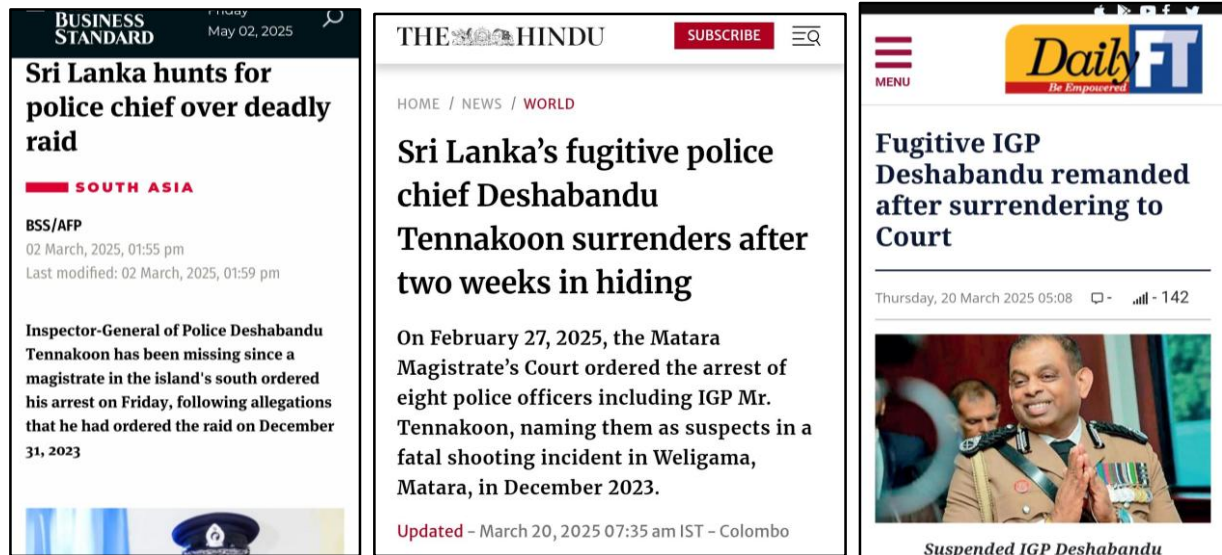


Figure 12: Images, Legal actions against former IGP made international and local headlines. Courtesy: Business Standard, The Hindu and Daily FT

Deshabandu Tennakoon, suspended Inspector General of Police (IGP), has found himself at the centre of a high-profile legal controversy after being implicated in multiple serious charges. Tennakoon's career as IGP, which started in 2023, had already been tainted by accusations of police brutality, including a ruling by the Sri Lankan Supreme Court that found him guilty of torturing a suspect. The situation escalated following the Weligama shooting incident on December 31, 2023, when officers from the Colombo Crimes Division (CCD) were involved in a violent confrontation that resulted in the death of a CCD officer. Investigations later suggested that Tennakoon had orchestrated the attack, allegedly using police officers for personal and criminal purposes. The Matara Magistrate's Court issued an arrest warrant for Tennakoon on February 28, and the Attorney General's Department sought to strip him of his assets.

He had been hiding behind political and religious networks, which included evading law enforcement for over 20 days. Finally surrendered to the Matara Magistrate's Court on March 19, arriving in a luxury vehicle dressed in a suit. His legal team, led by President's Counsel Shanaka Ranasinghe, argued that his client voluntarily appeared in court after his petition for relief was rejected by the Court of Appeal. However, Additional Solicitor General Dileepa Peiris strongly opposed bail. Peiris expressed disdain over his 'luxurious' surrender, accusing Tennakoon of attempting to bypass justice by hiding behind legal manoeuvres. Peiris also highlighted Tennakoon's failure to comply with court orders, noting that his attempt to delay his arrest was a clear attempt to obstruct justice (Farzan, 2025). Further added, that Tennakoon used his position for personal gain, detailed he owned eight houses, a large stockpile of foreign liquor, and luxury items, none of which were registered in his name. These findings painted a grim picture of the former IGP's alleged misconduct (Daily Mirror, 2025; Farzan, 2025; Peduruarachchi, 2025; Tamil Guardian, 2025).

The Matara Magistrate's Court ordered Tennakoon's remand until April 3, 2025, rejecting bail due to concerns that his release could jeopardise the ongoing investigation. Investigations

have revealed that Tennakoon faces nine charges, including conspiracy to commit murder, dereliction of duty, and causing the death of a police officer through negligence. The court's decision has sent a strong message about the rule of law, with Peiris urging that any individuals who aided Tennakoon in evading justice should also be held accountable (Daily FT, 2025; Peduruarachchi, 2025).

The proposal submitted by the ruling party, National People's Power (NPP), Parliamentarians seeking the removal of suspended Inspector General of Police (IGP) Deshabandu Tennakoon from office has been included in the relevant supplement to the Order Book of Parliament. The motion, submitted to the Speaker on March 25, carries the signatures of 115 MPs and lists 27 charges against Tennakoon, including allegations of abuse of power and misconduct, particularly regarding a 2023 shooting incident in Weligama. Cabinet Spokesman Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa clarified that the motion aims to remove Tennakoon from his position due to the severity of the allegations. The charges suggest that Tennakoon's actions have fallen short of the high standards expected of the IGP, rendering him unsuitable for the position, as stipulated in Section 3(d) of the Removal of Officers (Procedure) Act, No. 5 of 2002. The motion has already been entered into the Parliament Order Book and will proceed through the necessary legislative steps, including discussion in the Parliamentary Affairs Committee, parliamentary debate, and a final vote (Ada Derana, 2025; Daily FT, 2025; The Island, 2025; The Morning, 2025).

Weligama Shooting Incident

The Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the Weligama Police Station has been suspended due to his purported involvement in a shooting incident that occurred in 2023, according to the Police Media Division (Ada Derana, 2025).

On February 28, the court mandated the arrest of eight individuals, including former officials from the Colombo Crimes Division (CCD) and the former Inspector General of Police, Deshabandu Tennakoon, designating them as suspects in the shooting that occurred outside the W15 Hotel in the Pelena region of Weligama, Matara on December 31, 2023 (Ada Derana, 2025).

Police Brutality

A tense situation erupted in the Ammathanaveli area of Batticaloa district following the discovery of a young Tamil man's body on March 19th, found in a pit within a nearby rice field. This has incited public anger in Vaharai, as residents alleged that the police have engaged in brutality and misconduct. Local reports indicate that law enforcement attempted to detain two suspects the night before. One was successfully captured, while the other allegedly escaped. The body discovered the following day is thought to belong to the individual who managed to evade capture. According to police sources, the young man may have inadvertently fallen into a pit while attempting to flee, leading to his demise. The presiding judge who reached the location of the incident initiated an inquest and directed that the body be transported to the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital for a post-mortem examination. The police from the Batticaloa District Crime Scene Investigation Unit arrived at the scene and carried out investigations related to this matter (Tamil Guardian, 2025; Tamilwin, 2025).

10. Labor Rights



Figure 13: 19th March 2025. Women's organizations staged a peaceful protest in Colombo, demanding action against gender-based violence including ratification of the C190 ILO Convention. Courtesy: Kithsiri De Mel/ [Daily Mirror](#)

Minister of Labour, Dr. Anil Jayantha, confirmed in Parliament during a session marking International Women's Day, that the government had already initiated discussions with the International Labour Organisation's country office and begun preliminary steps to examine the ratification process for Convention No. 190. Responding to a motion by MP Rohini Kumari Wijerathna, a member of the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus, Dr. Jayantha emphasised the government's anticipation of collective support from all stakeholders, underscoring the shared responsibility to eliminate workplace violence and harassment and to foster an inclusive and safe work environment for all individuals (Ada Derana, 2025; The Morning, 2025).

Adopted on June 21, 2019, during the ILO's Centenary International Labour Conference, C190 represents the first global treaty to explicitly recognize the right to a world of work free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence. Once ratified, the convention compels member states to adopt and enforce robust legal frameworks, obliging employers to implement preventive measures, support systems, and fair complaint and dispute-resolution mechanisms to address violence and harassment in the workplace (Daily Mirror, 2025). Attorney-at-Law Shyamali Ranaraja, addressing the Women's Chamber of Industry and Commerce's Women's Leadership Forum, reinforced the urgency of ratifying C190 — especially in light of the public outrage sparked by the recent sexual assault of a female doctor at a government hospital. Ranaraja argued that the convention would not only help close existing gaps in Sri Lanka's legal system but also impose clear legal duties on both employers and the government to prevent workplace violence through policies, risk assessments, training, and victim support mechanisms. She further critiqued the weak enforcement, bureaucratic hurdles, and victim-blaming culture that currently discourage reporting and accountability, despite the existence of laws like Section 345 of the Penal Code and the Domestic Violence Act. Ranaraja also highlighted the wide-ranging scope of C190, which

covers all workers — including job seekers, apprentices, independent contractors, remote workers, and those active in digital spaces — extending protections beyond conventional permanent employment. The convention defines violence and harassment comprehensively, encompassing physical, psychological, sexual, and economic mistreatment, as well as bullying, intimidation, discrimination, and coercion (Kandaramage, 2025; Rizkiya, 2025).

11. Local Government Elections

The Election Commission of Sri Lanka officially announced that the upcoming Local Government (LG) Elections will be held on May 6, 2025 (Ada Derana, 2025; Newswire, 2025). The acceptance of nominations for 336 Local Government institutions began on March 17 and concluded on March 20. Earlier, the Election Commission had extended several key deadlines, with the official polling date set only after the nomination process was finalised (Ada Derana, 2025). According to the Election Commission, a total of 17,296,330 voters have been registered and are eligible to cast their votes in this year's Local Council polls (Newswire, 2025).



Figure 14: In July 2024, Committee to Protect Rights of Prisoners filed a petition at the Supreme Court seeking to ensure the right to vote for prisoners during the Presidential election held in September 2024. No mechanism is yet made available even though the third election since the petition filed scheduled to be held. Courtesy: [A5News](#)

The Attorney General's Department informed the Supreme Court that it is currently examining the feasibility of implementing a programme to allow eligible prisoners and remand inmates to exercise their right to vote in elections. Senior State Counsel Sajith Bandara, representing the Attorney General, made this statement during the hearing of a writ petition filed by former prisoner Sudesh Nandimal Silva, who is seeking judicial intervention to direct the Election Commission to establish appropriate guidelines that would enable eligible prisoners and remand inmates to vote in Presidential and Parliamentary elections, as well as referendums. The petition, heard before a three-judge bench, highlights that 66 countries have already granted voting rights to prisoners. Counsel appearing for the petitioner pointed out that the

Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka has also submitted recommendations supporting the extension of voting rights to inmates, while the Election Commission has not raised objections to the proposal (Nanayakkara, 2025; Sooriyagoda, 2025).

The petitioner argues that the absence of a voting mechanism within the prison system has deprived remand prisoners of their constitutionally guaranteed right to vote. He contends that the power to formulate the necessary guidelines lies with the Election Commission under Articles 103 and 104 B of the Constitution, and any failure to act on this responsibility would constitute a legal violation requiring judicial review (Sooriyagoda, 2025).

In response, Senior State Counsel Sajith Bandara acknowledged that both the Election Commission and the Department of Prisons are conducting parallel studies to assess the practical and logistical challenges of allowing prisoners to vote. He noted that while some countries permit voting rights for inmates, others have refrained due to difficulties in ensuring free and fair electoral procedures within prisons. He also highlighted that the proposed new election law currently under discussion includes suggestions for establishing special polling stations, including the possibility of setting up polling stations within prison premises (Nanayakkara, 2025).

After reviewing all submissions, the Supreme Court scheduled the petition for further hearing on August 28, 2025, and directed the Senior State Counsel to report on the progress of these deliberations at the next hearing (Nanayakkara, 2025; Sooriyagods, 2025).

12. Sanctions Imposed by the UK



Figure 15: The UK sanctioned four individuals —three former Sri Lankan military commanders and one former LTTE leader, responsible for serious human rights violations and abuses during the civil war in Sri Lanka. Courtesy: Ada Derana

The United Kingdom government has recently imposed sanctions on four individuals—three former Sri Lankan military commanders and one former LTTE leader—for their alleged roles in serious human rights violations during the country's civil war. The sanctions, which include travel bans and asset freezes, are part of the UK's broader strategy to promote international accountability and prevent impunity for grave abuses (UK FCDO, 2025). The individuals named are Shavendra Silva, former Head of the Sri Lankan Armed Forces; Wasantha Karannagoda, former Navy Commander; Jagath Jayasuriya, former Army Commander; and Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan, also known as Karuna Amman—a former LTTE commander who later led the pro-government Karuna Group. These figures are alleged to have been involved in extrajudicial killings, torture, enforced disappearances, sexual violence, and the recruitment of child soldiers (Human Rights Watch, 2025; UK FCDO, 2025).

UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy underscored the importance of accountability in post-conflict Sri Lanka, stating that these measures align with the UK's commitment to justice and reconciliation: "This decision ensures that those responsible for past human rights violations and abuses are held accountable" (UK FCDO, 2025). The UK, as part of the UN Human Rights Council Core Group on Sri Lanka, has long advocated for credible accountability mechanisms, especially as domestic efforts have often been criticised for lack of transparency and effectiveness (Human Rights Watch, 2025). However, the Sri Lankan government strongly opposed the UK's move, describing it as a "unilateral action" that complicates ongoing reconciliation and accountability efforts. Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath reaffirmed the government's position that such matters should be addressed through domestic mechanisms, which he claimed are being strengthened (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2025).

Those sanctioned also responded individually. Admiral Karannagoda criticised the sanctions as lacking in due process and being politically motivated, stating that the same Western nations now imposing penalties remained silent during the height of LTTE atrocities (Daily, 2025). Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka, a key figure during the war, offered a mixed view—defending Shavendra Silva but acknowledging serious allegations against Karannagoda and Jayasuriya, advocating for legal proceedings where evidence exists (Daily Mirror, 2025). Former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who led Sri Lanka during the war's final stages, categorically rejected the allegations, citing both the military's disciplined conduct and the threat posed by the LTTE. He referenced reports from UK Defence Attaché Lt. Col. Anton

Gash, claiming there was no evidence of a policy to kill civilians. Rajapaksa also argued that the UK's actions were driven by political motives tied to diaspora lobbying and vote-bank considerations (Podu Jana Peramuna, 2025). This view was echoed by Dilith Jayaweera, who criticised the Sri Lankan government's 'lackluster' response and urged a more robust defense of the military's legacy. He warned of the long-term consequences of failing to counter misinformation and uphold national dignity (Dilith Jayaweera, 2025).

Former Minister Sarath Weerasekara went further, calling the UK's action a violation of the Geneva Conventions and accusing Britain of harboring former LTTE operatives like Adele Balasingham. He framed the move as an insult to the armed forces who fought what he described as the "most ruthless terrorist organization in the world" (Weerasekara, 2025). Ali Sabry, too, raised concerns about the influence of separatist diaspora groups and warned against compromising national security under international pressure. He emphasised the importance of national unity and the defense of Sri Lanka's sovereignty in the face of growing external scrutiny (Ali Sabry, 2025). Meanwhile, opposition MP Namal Rajapaksa described the sanctions as a demoralising attack on Sri Lanka's "war heroes" and a threat to reconciliation efforts. He accused certain NGOs and Tamil politicians of exploiting international platforms to fuel division, asserting that the war was waged against terrorism, not any ethnic group (Namal Rajapaksa, 2025). Despite the diverging views, the sanctions have reignited long-standing debates over justice, memory, and post-war identity in Sri Lanka. While the UK and its allies emphasise international legal standards and victim-centered justice, many in Sri Lanka perceive these actions as selective and politically motivated, further deepening the tension between external accountability and internal reconciliation.

13. Indigenous Rights



Figure 16: Vedda Chief Uruwarige Vannila Aththo (on the left), and two youtubers who made the controversial comedy video (on the right). Courtesy: [Asian Mirror](#)

The Vedda community, Sri Lanka's indigenous people, face serious challenges in preserving their cultural identity, land rights, and traditional way of life due to modernisation, displacement, and cultural misrepresentation. A recent controversy involving a YouTube content that allegedly distorted their language and customs has sparked legal action by their leader, highlighting the need for greater cultural sensitivity and legal protection. The Vedda, like other indigenous groups, have fundamental rights to land, cultural expression, and self-determination, but a lack of legal recognition and political support has left them vulnerable to marginalisation. Although Sri Lanka has not ratified ILO 169, it can still align national policies with these global standards. Currently, the Veddas lack explicit legal recognition under Sri Lankan law, and there are no targeted measures to support their unique identity and rights. To ensure their survival and dignity, Sri Lanka must implement reforms such as land restitution, cultural preservation initiatives, legal recognition, and inclusion in decision-making processes (Galappaththige, 2025; Thilakarathna, 2025).

14. Disability Rights



Figure 17: Sugath Wasantha De Silva, Chair of the Parliamentary Caucus for Persons with Disabilities (on the left), is the first visually impaired person, and disability Rights advocate to represent Sri Lankan parliament. Courtesy: Newswire

At the inaugural meeting of the Parliamentary Caucus for Persons with Disabilities, MP Sugath Wasantha de Silva was elected as the Chair of the Caucus. MPs Gayantha Karunathilleka and Dr. Pathmanathan Sathyalingam were appointed as Co-Chairpersons. Addressing the gathering, the Speaker underscored the importance of the Caucus as a collective step towards promoting equality, justice, and inclusion for persons with disabilities.

Chairperson Sugath Wasantha de Silva noted the urgent need to amend the existing 28-year-old legislation and revise the national policy to meet contemporary and future needs. Furthermore, he highlighted that a court ruling requiring public institutions to provide accessibility facilities has remained largely unenforced for the past 14 years. The Chair affirmed that the Caucus would take steps to ensure the proper implementation of this ruling (Ceylon Today, 2025).

References

- முல்லைத்தீவில் மகளிர் தின போராட்டத்திற்கு அழைப்பு. (2025, March 2). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/international-womens-day-protest-mullaitivu-1740926638>
- யாழ். செம்மணி மனிதப் புதைகுழிக்குப் பாதுகாப்பு அவசியம் : வலியுறுத்தும் கஜேந்திரகுமார் எம்.பி. (2025, March 2). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/chemmani-human-grave-need-protection-gajendrakumar-1740885148>
- காணாமல் போன உறவுகளை தேடி தேடியே உயிர் போகும் காணாமல் போன உறவுகள் விவகாரம்! (2025, March 3). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/missing-persons-issue-in-sri-lanka-1740947225>
- செம்மணி மயானத்தில் கண்டுபிடிக்கப்பட்ட மனித எச்சங்கள் குறித்து கலந்துரையாடல்! (2025, March 4). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/discussion-on-human-remains-found-in-semmani-1741090154>
- வன்னி மனித புதைகுழியில் இருந்து மீட்கப்பட்ட பொருட்கள் தொடர்பான அறிக்கை நீதிமன்றில். (2025, March 6). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/report-on-recovered-vanni-human-burial-in-court-1741270656>
- தையிட்டி விவகாரம்: அமைச்சருக்கு கால அவகாசம் வழங்கிய சிறீதரன். (2025, March 6). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/sriharan-grants-time-to-the-minister-1741240856>
- பிள்ளைகளை தேடி நீதியின்றி மரணிக்கும் மகளிருக்காக நாடாளுமன்றில் ஒலிக்கும் குரல். (2025, March 8). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/mp-speaks-on-women-s-unjust-deaths-1741432214>
- அநுர அரசை வலியுறுத்தி யாழில் கையெழுத்து போராட்டம்! (2025, March 11). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/signature-struggle-in-jaffna-1741682401>
- தொடரும் தையிட்டி போராட்டம். (2025, March 13). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/thaiyiddy-protest-will-continue-1741870436>

இசைப்பிரியா பெண் இல்லையா..!! நாடாளுமன்றில் சாணக்கியனின் ஆவேசப் பேச்சு. (2025, March 15). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/who-is-responsible-for-isaiapriya-death-1742019823>

பட்டலந்த விவகாரம்: தமிழர்களுக்கு இழைக்கப்பட்ட அநீதியை எவ்வாறு கண்டறிவது என சிறிநேசன் கேள்வி. (2025, March 17). <https://tamilwin.com/article/patalanta-commission-report-1742210048>

வடக்கில் நில ஆக்கிரமிப்பின் எல்லைக்கற்களாக புத்தர் சிலைகள்: சபையில் ரவிகரன் எம்.பி ஆவேசம். (2025, March 17). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/ravikaran-mp-statement-at-parliament-1742214329>

தையிட்டி போராட்டக்காரர்களிடம் போலியான ஆவணங்களா! உண்மை என்ன.. (2025, March 18). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/slpp-accusation-against-the-people-of-tahiti-1742278879>

பிரேமாவதி மனம்பேரி - இசைப்பிரியா படுகொலைகள்: சபையில் நீதி கோரிய சிறீதரன். (2025, March 19). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/premavati-manamperi-issue-sritharan-speech-1742365701>

வடக்கு கிழக்கு மக்களின் காணி பிரச்சினை தொடர்பில் தென்னிலங்கை ஊடகங்களிடம் ஆதாரத்துடன் முன்வைப்பு. (2025, March 20). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/land-problem-of-the-people-of-north-and-east-1742479829>

தையிட்டி விகாரை தொடர்பில் பிமல் ரத்னாயக்கவை சந்தித்த காணிக்கான மக்கள் உரிமை இயக்கம். (2025, March 20). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/talks-on-thaayiddi-vihara-land-rights-issue-1742509604>

ஒன்றரை வருடங்களுக்குப் பின்னர் தையிட்டி தொடர்பில் விசாரணை ஆரம்பம். (2025, March 21). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/police-brutality-against-protesters-in-tahiti-1742590387>

விகாரைக்காக காணி கொள்ளையடிக்கப்பட்டதை சிங்களத்தில் விளக்கிய தமிழர்கள். (2025, March 22). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/land-grabbing-for-a-temple-1742650972>

வலிந்து காணாமல் ஆக்கப்பட்டவர்களின் உறவினர்களால் யாழில் போராட்டம் முன்னெடுப்பு. (2025, March 23). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/protest-in-jaffna-1742719458>

தையிட்டியில் திறந்து வைக்கப்பட்டுள்ள மற்றொரு சட்டவிரோதக் கட்டடம்: போராட்டத்தில் பொதுமக்கள். (2025, March 23). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/protest-against-new-building-in-thayiddy-1742716317>

இரட்டை வேடம் போடுகின்றார் ஜனாதிபதி! தையிட்டி போராட்டக் களத்தில் கஜேந்திரன். (2025, March 24). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/gajendran-on-battlefield-tahiti-jaffna-struggle-1742780104>

ஐ.நா.வின் செப்டெம்பர் கூட்டத் தொடரில் இலங்கைக்கு எதிராகப் புதிய பிரேரணை. (2025, March 25). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/uk-warns-sri-lanka-at-unhrc-september-meet-1742878403>

பட்டலந்தவை போல் மேலும் பல வதைமுகாம்கள்..! நீதி கோரும் தமிழர்கள். (2025, March 27). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/ambepussa-issue-ma-shakthivel-request-1743034724>

வடக்கு மாகாணத்தில் காணாமல் ஆக்கப்பட்டவர்களின் உறவினர்களால் போராட்டம் முன்னெடுப்பு. (2025, March 30). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/protest-in-kilinochchi-relatives-of-missing-person-1743321068>

Accountability issues: Gajendrakumar's party irked by Geneva Core Group's failure. (2025, March 11). *the island*. <https://island.lk/accountability-issues-gajendrakumars-party-irked-by-geneva-core-groups-failure/>

Anti-Deshabandu resolution in Order Book. (2025, March 27). *the morning*. <https://www.themorning.lk/articles/lb2D9ND3dsbF890VeljO>

Balasuriya, D. S. (2025, March 4). Court issues order on scheduled protest near Parliament. *Daily Mirror*. <https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Court-issues-order-on-scheduled-protest-near-Parliament/108-303606>

'Batalanda' commission report submitted to parliament. (2025, March 14). *'Batalanda' commission report submitted to parliament*. <https://www.themorning.lk/articles/Xym2v2RpxHZnZPlvzy9A>

Batalanda Commission Report Tabled in Parliament. (2025, March 14). Daily News. <https://www.dailynews.lk/2025/03/14/admin-catagories/breaking-news/741946/batalanda-commission-report-tabled-in-parliament/>

'Batalanda' Commission report tabled in Parliament: calls for justice, accountability. (2025, March 14). Ada Derana. <https://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=106565>

Batalanda report tabled in parliament, forwarded to AG. (2025, March 16). *the island*. <https://island.lk/batalanda-report-tabled-in-parliament-forwarded-to-ag/>

'Beheaded and forced to drink blood' – Shocking allegations of torture by Shavendra Silva. (2025, March 26). Tamil guardian. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/ex-sri-lankan-army-commander-shavendra-silva-committed-horrific-crimes-torture-chamber>

Buddha statues being used for land grabs in the North, warns Tamil MP. (2025, March 18). Tamil Guardian. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/ravikaran-mp-alleges-use-buddha-statues-land-grabs-northern-province>

Cabinet approves the submission of amendments for the Personal Data Protection Act No. 9 of 2022. (2025, March 18). *the island*. <https://island.lk/cabinet-approves-the-submission-of-amendments-for-the-personal-data-protection-act-no-9-of-2022/>

Cabinet nod for Personal Data Protection Amendment Bill to be presented in Parliament. (n.d.). Data Protection Authority. [https://www.dpa.gov.lk/newministry.php#:~:text=The%20Cabinet%20of%20Ministers%2C%20on,9%20of%202022%20\(PDPA\)](https://www.dpa.gov.lk/newministry.php#:~:text=The%20Cabinet%20of%20Ministers%2C%20on,9%20of%202022%20(PDPA))

Calls to release former LTTE swimming pool from military occupation. (2025, March 13). Tamil Guardian. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/reviving-legacy-proposal-transform-ltte-era-pool-sports-development>

Core Group welcomes Sri Lanka's empty gestures at United Nations. (2025, March 3). Tamil Guardian. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/core-group-welcomes-sri-lankas-empty-gestures-united-nations>

Court issues notice against unemployed graduates' 'Satyagraha' campaign. (2025, March 17). Ada Derana. <https://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=106636>

Court order issued against unemployed graduates' protest. (2025, March 4). Ada Derana. <https://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=106278>

Court orders security measures after discovery of human skeletal remains. (2025, March 10). Tamil Guardian. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/court-appoints-oversight-committee-security-ariyalai-cemetery>

Deshabandu is more dangerous than Harak Kata: ASG Dileepa Peeris. (20, March 20). *Daily Mirror*. <https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Deshabandu-is-more-dangerous-than-Harak-Kata-ASG-Dileepa-Peeris/108-304764>

Experts stress ILO C190 ratification to combat workplace violence. (2025, March 13). *Daily Mirror*. <https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Experts-stress-ILO-C190-ratification-to-combat-workplace-violence/108-304263>

Farzan, Z. (2025, March 17). *Batalanda Report: JVP to Pursue Legal Action*. Newsfirst. <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2025/03/17/batalanda-report-jvp-to-pursue-legal-action>

Farzan, Z. (2025, March 20). *Deshabandu Faces 9 Serious Charges: Full Story Inside!* Newsfirst. <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2025/03/20/deshabandu-faces-9-serious-charges-full-story-inside>

Farzan, Z. (2025, March 20). *Sri Lanka's Suspended Police Chief Deshabandu Remanded*. News First. <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2025/03/20/breaking-sri-lanka-s-suspended-police-chief-deshabandu-remanded-until-april>

Ganguly, M. (2025, March 26). *UK Imposes Sanctions on Four Sri Lankans for Alleged War Crimes*. HRW. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/03/26/uk-imposes-sanctions-four-sri-lankans-alleged-war-crimes>

IGP Deshabandu remanded. (2025, March 20). *Daily News*. <https://www.dailynews.lk/2025/03/20/lawnorder/745643/igp-deshabandu-remanded/>

Indrajith, S. (2025, March 17). *Batalanda debate begins on April 10*. *the island*. <https://island.lk/batalanda-debate-begins-on-april-10/>

ITJP report calls for accountability over Valvettithurai massacre by IPKF. (2025, March 4). Tamil Guardian. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/release-valvettithurai-testimonies-massacre-report>

Jayammanne, D. (2025, March 4). *Laws to Allow Abortions for Fatal Birth Defects Soon?* *Ceylon Today*. <https://ceylontoday.lk/2025/03/04/laws-to-allow-abortions-for-fatal-birth-defects-soon/>

Jayasekara, S. (2025, March 27). *Justice for the victims: The dark chapter of Batalanda*. *the morning*. <https://www.themorning.lk/articles/ySXHIz970RL0vLWUOt04>

Jayawardena, M. (2025, March 5). Govt. to amend Online Safety Act. *Ceylon Today*.
<https://ceylontoday.lk/2025/03/05/govt-to-amend-online-safety-act/>

Jayawardena, M. (2025, March 5). Sajith slams Govt. on Online Safety Act, IT sector tax. *Ceylon Today*.
<https://ceylontoday.lk/2025/03/05/sajith-slams-govt-on-online-safety-act-it-sector-tax/>

Jayawardena, M. (2025, March 17). Govt. to take legal action over Batalanda Report. *Ceylon Today*.
<https://ceylontoday.lk/2025/03/17/govt-to-take-legal-action-over-batalanda-report/>

Jayawardena, M. (2025, March 20). Cabinet approves Personal Data Protection (Amendment) Bill. *Ceylon Today*.
<https://ceylontoday.lk/2025/03/20/cabinet-approves-personal-data-protection-amendment-bill/>

Jayaweera, D. (2025, March 25). X. https://x.com/Dilith_J/status/1904474999983075781

Kokkuthoduvai mass grave hearings continue as families await answers. (2025, March 10). Tamil Guardian. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/kokkuthoduvai-mass-grave>

Leader of the Opposition demands clarity on amendments to OSA. (2025, March 4). *The morning*.
<https://www.themorning.lk/articles/OgNB14oa4RzkZjvxE94M>

Matara Magistrate's Court orders to remand Deshabandu till 3 April. (2025, March 21). *Daily Ft*.
<https://www.ft.lk/front-page/Matara-Magistrate-s-Court-orders-to-remand-Deshabandu-till-3-April/44-774529>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (2025, March 26). *UK FCDO Press Release entitled "UK Sanctions for Human Rights Violations and Abuses during the Sri Lankan Civil War"*. Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
<https://mfa.gov.lk/en/uk-fcdo-press-release-entitled-uk-sanctions-for-human-rights-violations-and-abuses-during-the-sri-lankan-civil-war/>

Mother of disappeared Tamil youth submits appeal after spotting son in photograph. (2025, March 26). Tamil Guardian. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/mother-disappeared-tamil-youth-submits-appeal-after-spotting-son-photograph>

Motion to appoint parliamentary committee to remove IGP Tennakoon enters Order Book. (2025, March 28). *the island*. <https://island.lk/motion-to-appoint-parliamentary-committee-to-remove-igp-tennakoon-enters-order-book/>

MP calls for release of military occupied LTTE cemetery in Vavuniya. (2025, March 13). Tamil Guardian. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/mp-padmanathan-sathyalingam-demands-release-military-acquired-lands-vavuniya>

MPs' motion to oust IGP Deshabandu added to Parliament's Order Book. (2025, March 26). Ada Derana. <https://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=106878>

Nanayakkara, H. (2025, March 6). Prisoner voting rights under review. *Ceylon Today*. <https://ceylontoday.lk/2025/03/06/prisoner-voting-rights-under-review/>

Opposition to hold adjournment debate on new Constitution. (2025, March 18). Ceylon Today. <https://ceylontoday.lk/2025/03/18/opposition-to-hold-adjournment-debate-on-new-constitution/>

Parliamentary Debate on Batalanda Commission Report to Begin on April 8. (2025, April 8). Newsfirst. <https://newsfirst.lk/2025/03/16/parliamentary-debate-on-batalanda-commission-report-to-begin-on-april-8>

Parliament to debate 'Batalanda' Commission report on April 10. (2025, April 10). Ada Derana. <https://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=106607>

Parliament to vote on Deshabandu's removal in April. (2025, March 27). *Daily Ft*. <https://www.ft.lk/news/Parliament-to-vote-on-Deshabandu-s-removal-in-April/56-774833>

Perera, Y. (2025, March 16). *Ranil rejects Batalanda Commission report.* Daily Mirror. <https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Ranil-rejects-Batalanda-Commission-report/108-304472>

Perera, Y., & Siriwardana, A. (2025, March 4). Online Safety Act to be amended soon: Minister. *Daily Mirror*. <https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Online-Safety-Act-to-be-amended-soon-Minister/108-303579>

Perera, Y., & Siriwardana, A. (2025, March 11). Government to introduce Cyber Security Bill. *Daily Mirror*. <https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Government-to-introduce-Cyber-Security-Bill/108-304142>

Perera, Y., & Siriwardana, A. (2025, March 16). Debate on Batalanda commission report on April 10. *Daily Mirror*. <https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Debate-on-Batalanda-commission-report-on-April-10/108-304471>

Personal Data Protection (Amendment) Bill to be presented in Parliament. (2025, March 18). Newswire. <https://www.newswire.lk/2025/03/18/personal-data-protection-amendment-bill-to-be-presented-in-parliament/>

Personal Data Protection (Amendment) Bill to be tabled in Parliament. (2025, March 18). Ada Derana. <https://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=106665>

Rajapaksa, N. (2025, March 25). X. <https://x.com/RajapaksaNamal/status/1904370744978747548>

Ranaraja, S., & Kandaramage, J. (2025, March 25). Sri Lanka must ratify ILO Convention 190 to combat workplace harassment. *Daily Ft.* <https://www.ft.lk/opinion/Sri-Lanka-must-ratify-ILO-Convention-190-to-combat-workplace-harassment-Shyamali-Ranaraja/14-774707>

Ranil rejects Batalanda report wholesale. (2025, March 17). *the island.* <https://island.lk/ranil-rejects-batalanda-report-wholesale/>

Ranil Wickremesinghe Rejects Batalanda Commission Report, Dismisses Allegations as Irrelevant. (2025, March 16). News First. <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2025/03/16/ranil-wickremesinghe-rejects-batalanda-commission-report-dismisses-allegations-as-irrelevant>

Rights defenders in North-East labelled as terrorists - UN Special Rapporteur. (2025, March 4). Tamil Guardian. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/silenced-and-stigmatized-struggles-human-rights-defenders-sri-lanka>

Sabry, M. A. (2025, March 24). X. <https://x.com/alisabrypc/status/1904209006471655666>

Shiv Sena calls for 'six months' to end vihara dispute in Jaffna. (2025, March 4). Tamil Guardian. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/sivasena-pledges-resolve-thaiyiddy-vihara-dispute-six-months>

Siriwardana, A. (2025, March 10). *Buddhist Temporalities Ordinance will be amended soon: President.* Daily Mirror. <https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Buddhist-Temporalities-Ordinance-will-be-amended-soon-President/108-304053>

Siriwardana, A. (2025, March 16). *Too late for Ranil to talk about Batalanda now: Nalinda.* Daily Mirror. <https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Too-late-for-Ranil-to-talk-about-Batalanda-now-Nalinda/108-304474>

Sooriyagoda, L. (2025, March 6). Authorities considering voting rights for prison inmates - AG tells SC. *Daily Mirror.* <https://www.dailymirror.lk/front-page/Authorities-considering-voting-rights-for-prison-inmates-AG-tells-SC/238-303773>

Sri Lanka defends sovereignty at UNHRC, rejects external human rights mechanisms. (2025, March 4). Ada Derana. <https://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=106265>

Sri Lanka Local Council Election date announced. (2025, March 20). Newswire. <https://www.newswire.lk/2025/03/20/sri-lanka-local-council-election-date-announced/>

Sri Lanka moves to ratify ILO convention No. 190 on workplace harassment. (2025, March 10). *the morning.* <https://www.themorning.lk/articles/grj1JSEHHfSj0JuxVEU>

Sri Lankan police block student protest over unemployment in Jaffna. (2025, March 28). Tamil Guardian. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/student-demonstration-employment-stopped-sri-lankan-police-jaffna>

Sri Lanka reiterates rejection of international justice for war crimes. (2025, March 17). Tamil Guardian. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/sri-lanka-reiterates-rejection-international-justice-war-crimes>

Sri Lanka rejects UN resolutions on accountability for war crimes. (2025, March 3). Tamil Guardian. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/sri-lankas-rejects-un-resolutions-accountability-war-crimes-again>

Sri Lanka's Attorney General compares fugitive IGP to Prabhakaran, as he finally surrenders. (2025, March 19). Tamil Guardian. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/after-days-witch-hunt-suspended-igp-deshabandu-tennagoon-finally-arrested>

Sri Lanka's LG Election scheduled for May 06. (2025, March 20). Ada Derana. <https://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=106716>

Sri Lanka to ratify ILO convention on workplace violence. (2025, March 10). Ada Derana. <https://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=106442>

Tamil families of the disappeared brave intimidation to mark International Women's Day. (2025, March 8). Tamil Guardian. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/families-disappeared-mark-international-womens-day-mourning-and-protest-mullaithivu>

Tamil families of the disappeared protest in Jaffna. (2025, March 26). Tamil Guardian. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/tamil-families-protest-jaffna-demanding-truth-and-justice-disappeared>

Tamil schoolteacher interrogated for eight hours as Sri Lanka's crackdown continues. (2025, March 5). Tamil Guardian. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/tamil-schoolteacher-interrogated-eight-hours-sri-lankas-crackdown-continues>

Tense situation at Polduwa junction. (2025, March 21). Daily Mirror. <https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Tense-situation-at-Polduwa-junction/108-304885>

Thilakarathna, A., & Galappaththige, T. (2025, March 27). the Vedda community: Protecting cultural distinctiveness. *the morning*. <https://www.themorning.lk/articles/u0Ch7hOQxUoqCxew7Pdh>

TNPF calls for Sri Lanka to be referred to the ICC in letter to Core Group. (2025, March 6). Tamil Guardian. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/tnpf-calls-sri-lanka-be-referred-icc>

27 arrested for protesting in violation of court order in Colombo. (2025, March 28). Daily Mirror.

<https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/27-arrested-for-protesting-in-violation-of-court-order-in-Colombo/108-305420>

2009 சரணடைதல் விவகாரத்தில் பொன்சேகாவின் பதற்றம்! அம்பலமாகப்போகும் முக்கிய இரகசியம். (2025, March 29). Tamilwin. <https://tamilwin.com/article/fonseka-s-anxiety-over-the-2009-surrender-issue-1743237675>

UGC targets Jaffna University students over Black Flag protest. (2025, March 28). Tamil Guardian. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/ugc-targets-jaffna-university-students-over-black-flag-protest>

UK Government. (2025, March 24). UK sanctions for human rights violations and abuses during the Sri Lankan civil war. GOV.UK. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-sanctions-for-human-rights-violations-and-abuses-during-the-sri-lankan-civil-war>

UK Sanctions - MR Statement. (2025, March 26). Scribd. https://www.scribd.com/document/843289531/UK-Sanctions-MR-Statement#from_embed

UK sanctions: Sarath Fonseka defends Shavendra Silva. (2025, March 31). Daily Mirror. <https://www.dailymirror.lk/print/breaking-news/UK-sanctions-Sarath-Fonseka-defends-Shavendra-Silva/108-305620>

UN calls on Sri Lanka to end intimidation in North-East and deliver justice. (2025, March 3). Tamil Guardian. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/un-calls-sri-lanka-end-intimidation-and-deliver-justice>

UNHRC: Core Group on Sri Lanka urges new govt for action on human rights. (2025, March 4). Ada Derana. <https://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=106272>

Weerasekara, S. (2025, March 25). X. <https://x.com/ReAdSarath/status/1904470382809412043>

What can the government do with the Batalanda report? (2025, March 22). Daily Mirror. <https://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/What-can-the-government-do-with-the-Batalanda-report/172-304935>