

Violations of International Conventions by Sri Lanka (2015- present)

Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

1. Torture and sexual violence - Torture in Sri Lanka is widespread and very common in the North and East (Tamil homeland) part of Sri Lanka. The Latest UN report classifies torture in Sri Lanka as “common practise”¹. The International Truth and Justice Project (ITJP) documented 36 victims of abduction and torture during 2015 and 2016, and submitted to the UN Committee Against Torture (CAT)². Also Tamils returned and deported from western countries to Sri Lanka were tortured³. ‘Rehabilitated’ former LTTE under severe surveillance by ‘security forces’ reported several incidents of arrests⁴ and harassments⁵, including harassment to family members of ex-LTTE members⁶, in recent months. UN Special Rapporteur found women being used in military camps as sex slaves⁷. Latest report from International Truth and Justice Project (ITJP) documented rape camps in Sri Lanka⁸.

“Violations which continue to be perpetrated under the Sirisena administration (current regime) include ongoing harassment and intimidation, “white van” abductions and torture including sexual violence of Tamils suspected of even low level association with the LTTE or involvement in legitimate democratic political activity”

International Truth and Justice Project (ITJP)⁹

“The Working Group is extremely concerned about detailed allegations that Criminal Investigation Department personnel have engaged in sexual harassment and violence

¹ Torture Is ‘Common Practice’ in Sri Lanka, U.N. Panel Finds - Dec 2016

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/07/world/asia/sri-lanka-torture.html>

UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment
Apr-May 2016

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=19943&LangID=E#sthash.ReYaBNBN.dpuf>

² Submission to UN committee against torture - Nov 2016

<http://www.itjpsl.com/reports/submission-to-un-committee-against-torture>

³ Briton ‘tortured’ in Sri Lanka returns to UK - July 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jul/10/briton-says-tortured-sri-lanka-velauthapillai-renukaruban-returns-to-uk>

⁴ Colombo resumes abduction-styled arrests of former LTTE members - Jan 2017

<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=38559>

Re-arrest Of Ex LTTE Cadres Opens Pandora’s Box - May 2016

<http://www.thesundayleader.lk/2016/05/08/re-arrest-of-ex-ltte-cadres-opens-pandoras-box/>

Former LTTE cadre arrested by TID - Jan 2017

<http://www.tamilguardian.com/content/former-ltte-cadre-arrested-tid>

⁵ Sri Lanka security forces must stop harassing former LTTE cadres - CM - Jan 2017

<http://tamilguardian.com/content/sri-lanka-security-forces-must-stop-harassing-former-ltte-cadres-cm>

⁶ Families associated with LTTE in past face constant threats from Colombo’s Intel squads - Dec 2016

<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=38506>

⁷ Report of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on its mission to Sri Lanka (note 43) - July 2016

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G16/146/63/PDF/G1614663.pdf?OpenElement>

⁸ Rape camps documented in Sri Lanka (points 2.1)

<http://www.itjpsl.com/assets/Part-1-ITJP-Public-Submission-to-CEDAW-2017.pdf> - Feb 2017

⁹ ITJP Submission to the Committee Against Torture - Oct 2016

<http://www.itjpsl.com/assets/ITJP-Submission-to-the-Committee-Against-Torture.pdf> page 4

against mothers or wives of disappeared persons, including in exchange for providing information on their relatives' cases”

United Nations - Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances¹⁰

International Convention for the Protection of all persons from Enforced Disappearances

2. Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) - PTA is widely used against Tamils pre and post 2009 era. Even after numerous promises, Sri Lankan government continue to use PTA against Tamil human rights/political activists¹¹. Tamils taken by the military after the 2009 war (prisoners of war) and the people forcefully disappeared, remain missing. The government shows no serious signs of addressing this issue. Relatives of forcefully disappeared and missing people's families staged various demonstrations¹². Even in 2017¹³, Sri Lanka continues to use PTA¹⁴ and 'White Vans' abductions on Tamils¹⁵, despite international calls for its abrogation.

“Disappearances did not come to an end with the end of war. A considerable amount of disappearances have been reported since 2009, in what had become a common tool in post war Sri Lanka. Some recent cases concerning the so-called “white van” abductions confirm the persistence of the phenomenon of abductions. Enforced disappearances are not criminalized in in the national law¹⁶”

¹⁰ Report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on its mission to Sri Lanka (point number 55) July 2016

http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/33/51/Add.2

¹¹ Anti terror laws used to arrest Tamils engaging in political activity - Nov 2016

<http://www.jdslanka.org/index.php/news-features/human-rights/644-anti-terror-laws-used-to-arrest-tamils-engaging-in-political-activity>

¹² Families of the disappeared protest over lack of consultation for Sri Lanka's Office of Missing Persons - Jun 2016

<http://www.tamilguardian.com/content/families-disappeared-protest-over-lack-consultation-sri-lankas-office-missing-persons>

Demonstrations across North-East demand international justice for enforced disappearances - Aug 2016

<http://www.tamilguardian.com/content/demonstrations-across-north-east-demand-international-justice-enforced-disappearances>

¹³ Stop arresting former militants need acknowledgement live -NPC chief minister insists eu reps - Jan 2017

<http://tamildiplomat.com/stop-arresting-former-militants-need-acknowledgement-live-npc-cm-insists-eu-reps/>

¹⁴ Continuing abuse under PTA: Abductions, Arbitrary Arrests, Unlawful Detentions and Torture - July 2016

<https://rukiiiiiii.wordpress.com/2016/07/06/continuing-abuse-under-pta-abductions-arbitrary-arrests-unlawful-detentions-and-torture/>

¹⁵ UN committee has been told that 'white van' abductions continued in Sri Lanka - Nov 2016

<http://colombogazette.com/2016/11/15/un-committee-told-white-van-abductions-continue/>

Colombo resumes abduction-styled arrests of former LTTE members - Jan 2017

<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=38559>

¹⁶ Written statement submitted to thirty third Human Rights Council Session by the International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism - Aug 2016

http://imadr.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Written-Statement_HRC33_item3_Enforced-and-Involuntary-Disappearances-in-Sri-Lanka.pdf

Sri Lanka is aiming to replace the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) with the Counter Terrorism Act (CTA). According to a recently leaked draft version, the proposed act is no different than the current version. Community activists and organisations released a statement opposing the proposal and also raised concerns on the lack of consultation with the public, few lines from the statement follows¹⁷

“The proposed framework (CTA) does not appear to address these fundamental concerns attached to the PTA. Proposed law will have a chilling effect on all forms of dissent, including legitimate democratic political activity”

3. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

Northern Provincial Council (NPC) has documented and passed a resolution on genocide of Tamils¹⁸ and demanded international investigation¹⁹. Also Permanent People’s Tribunal (PPT) found Sri Lanka state guilty of committing genocide against the Tamil people²⁰.

4. Accountability - Current government (good governance) rejects international judges in the accountability process²¹. This raises the question on the credibility of the government and its promises given to the United Nations. The Government has repeatedly promises the Sinhala masses, the Sri Lankan soldiers accused of genocidal crimes will be protected²². Individuals accused of torture have been sent to the United Nations (UN) on Sri Lanka’s delegation to UN²³.

“Owing to the lack of a comprehensive, transparent and effective mechanism to find missing and disappeared persons, many families continue to experience great emotional distress.

While many families have attempted to come forward and seek remedies from the authorities or from the different ad hoc mechanisms set up by the Government, most of them have been unable to obtain accurate information regarding their disappeared relatives. In many cases, these families and activists have been subject to harassment and intimidation as a result of their truth-seeking activities.”

¹⁷ Opposition to proposed counter-terror law - Nov 2016

<http://www.ceylonews.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Letter-to-Govt-opposing-proposed-CT-law-11-Nov-2016-.pdf>

¹⁸ Lanka’s Northern Council Passes Damning Resolution on Genocide - Feb 2015

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2015/feb/10/Lanka%E2%80%99s-Northern-Council-Passes-Damning-Resolution-on-Genocide-715855.html>

¹⁹ NPC passes resolution asking UN to investigate genocide of Tamils by Sri Lanka state - Feb 2015

<http://www.tamilguardian.com/content/npc-passes-resolution-asking-un-investigate-genocide-tamils-sri-lanka-state?articleid=13726>

²⁰ Permanent Peoples Tribunal Verdict: Sri Lanka Commits Genocide against Tamils - Jan 2014

<http://dissidentvoice.org/2014/01/permanent-peoples-tribunal-verdict-sri-lanka-commits-genocide-against-tamils/>

²¹ Sri Lankan President Rejects International Judges Claiming 'Cries For Probe Have Cease' - Dec 2016
<https://www.ictj.org/news/sri-lankan-president-rejects-international-judges-claiming-cries-probe-have-cess>

²² Some media, NGOs are traitors says Sri Lankan president - Oct 2016

<http://www.tamilguardian.com/content/some-media-ngos-are-traitors-says-sri-lankan-president>

²³ UN Committee demands probe on Sisira Mendis - Dec 2016

<http://colombogazette.com/2016/12/07/un-committee-demands-probe-on-sisira-mendis/>

United Nations - Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances²⁴

5. Justice mechanisms and lack of political will - As Sri Lanka declined UN Human Rights Commissioners and Constitutional Task Force (CTF) recommendations on Hybrid mechanism and involvement of foreign judges²⁵. Sri Lanka government promised an impartial investigation on 'war crimes' but Sarath Fonseka, Commander of the Sri Lankan Army during 2009 genocidal war was given a top ministerial position²⁶. Former UN Secretary General²⁷ and Human Rights Commissioner questioned Sri Lanka's political will to uphold justice. UN working group describe the ongoing impunity as "Victims seek more accountability as many believe that the majority of the perpetrators have escaped justice so far. Families (of missing persons & forcefully disappeared) expressing their strong mistrust in the administration of justice in Sri Lanka, including the courts, the investigative bodies and the Attorney General's Department"²⁸

"The Government has in various statements by the President and Prime Minister indicated that it will not initiate any criminal prosecutions that target the Sri Lankan Armed Forces. As a result we are skeptical that the delay in the Government releasing a coherent policy is merely part of the sequencing the Transitional Justice mechanisms. We are afraid that the strategy is to undermine the need for tackling impunity through criminal prosecutions."

Letter handed over to UN Secretary General by Tamil activists and organisations²⁹

International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights

6. Militarisation - Sri Lanka army continuously militarises the North and East of the island (Tamil homeland). The UN working group describes the situation as "particularly disturbed at the extensive and continuing military occupation of private land, particularly in the Northern and Eastern Provinces"³⁰. The Military is encouraged to get involved with civil activities, in

²⁴ Report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on its mission to Sri Lanka - July 2016

http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/33/51/Add.2

²⁵ Sri Lanka president reject foreign judges - Jan 2017

<http://srilankabrief.org/2017/01/sri-lanka-president-rejects-foreign-judges/>

Statement by Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights- Jun 2016

<http://www.ohchr.org/SP/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20218&LangID=E#sthash.AIaZW2py.dpuf>

²⁶ Sarath Fonseka sworn in as Cabinet Minister - Feb 2016

<http://www.sundaytimes.lk/96562/sarath-fonseka-sworn-in-as-cabinet-minister>

²⁷ Sri Lanka 'lacks political will to establish transitional justice' - Sep 2016

<http://www.jdslanka.org/index.php/news-features/human-rights/627-sri-lanka-lacks-political-will-to-establish-transitional-justice>

²⁸ Report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on its mission to Sri Lanka (parg. 47 & 45) July 2016

http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/33/51/Add.2

²⁹ Letter handed over to UN Secretary General by Tamil activists and organisation - Sep 2016

http://www.jdslanka.org/images/documents/02_09_2016_letter_to_unsg.pdf

³⁰ Report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on its mission to Sri Lanka (point number 67) July 2016

http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/33/51/Add.2

some places the military gets involved in day to day school activities³¹. The military also engage in economical activities from harvesting to running holiday resorts. The previous and current government used the military against the Tamil population “The military’s intervention into civilian life has undoubtedly continued under the new government, which has shown no indication of wanting to decrease troop levels³²”.

“I assure you that the government would not remove any Army formations in the peninsula (part of Tamil Homeland), nor does the government plan to scale down security arrangements”

Minister of Defence, Ruwan Wijewardene

7. Land grabs - Sri Lanka released few acres of land³³, but continues to take land in Tamil areas illegally for military³⁴ and Sinhala settlements³⁵. Research reports find no difference between previous and present government on land grab issue³⁶. There are Tamils living in ‘Internally Displaced Persons Camps’ for more than two decades, Sri Lankan government shows no concern on displaced Tamils but concentrate excessively on building Buddhist temples in predominantly non-Buddhist areas³⁷ and setting up Sinhala colonies in the Tamil homeland³⁸.

“Construction of Buddhist temples, shrines and statues, at what is described as an alarming pace, in areas that were traditionally non-Buddhist is met with animosity”

United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues³⁹

³¹ Sri Lanka military enrol pre-school Tamil children in Vanni - May 2016

<http://www.tamilguardian.com/content/sri-lanka-military-enrol-pre-school-tamil-children-vanni>

³² Militarization in Sri Lanka Continues - Feb 2016

<http://thediplomat.com/2016/02/militarization-in-sri-lanka-continues/>

³³ Wigneswaran says only 5.2 % of private lands belonging to Tamils have been returned - Dec 2016

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2016/dec/11/wigneswaran-says-only-52--of-private-lands-belonging-to-tamils-have-been-returned-1547997.html>

³⁴ Land Grab In Mullaitivu - Jan 2016

<http://www.thesundayleader.lk/2016/01/17/land-grab-in-mullaitivu/>

³⁵ Large-scale Sinhala housing project underway in Naavatkuli - Jan 2017

<http://tamilguardian.com/content/large-scale-sinhala-housing-project-underway-naavatkuli>

³⁶ Land Grab and Cultural Genocide of the Tamils’ Homeland on Sri Lanka - Jun 2016

<http://sangam.org/btf-land-grab-cultural-genocide-tamils-homeland-sri-lanka/>

³⁷ Sri Lanka to spend millions on hundred Buddhist Temples in Tamil areas - Nov 2016

<http://www.jdslanka.org/index.php/news-features/politics-a-current-affairs/640-sri-lanka-to-spend-millions-on-hundred-buddhist-temples-in-tamil-areas>

³⁸ Maithiripala regime (‘good governance regime’) steps up Sinhalicisation of Vavuniyaa North - Dec 2016

<http://tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=79&artid=38512>

³⁹ United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues - Oct 2016

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20709&LangID=E#sthash.00gfaMFb.dpuf>

[International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#)

[International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](#) [Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation](#)

8. [Criminalising political activities](#) - Looking at the long history of institutionalised anti-Tamil policies, political demands within Tamils varies from independent state for Tamils to unitary constitution. 6th Amendment to the Sri Lanka's constitution (1983) criminalises any kind of advocacy for an independent state⁴⁰, it clearly violates Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Any discussion on independent state is branded as terrorist activity.

Tamil political and human rights activists⁴¹ are intimidated and harassed by security forces, in some cases they are arrested under (PTA) or abducted in 'White Vans' and its on-going⁴². In a very recent case, security forces threaten activists against holding demonstrations on land grab⁴³.

[Institutionalised discrimination on Tamils -](#)

9. [State aided Sinhala settlements](#) - The Sri Lankan military⁴⁴ and government⁴⁵ systematically colonise the Tamil homeland with Sinhalese, while Tamils lands are occupied by the military and Internally Displaced Persons Camp (IDP) suffer in the camps for decades. State aided colonisation intends to distort the ethnic composition of the Tamil homeland, this will have a knock on effect on electoral representation.

10. [Employment and occupation](#) - Sri Lanka uses 'Sinhala only' policy on official documents. More than 90% of security officials in North East (Tamil Homeland) are ethnic Sinhalese, this creates lots of communication barriers and state fails to recruit enough Tamil

⁴⁰ Sixth Amendment to Sri Lanka Constitution - Aug 1983

<http://tamilnation.co/srilankalaws/83sixthamendment.htm>

⁴¹ Human rights activist/lawyer questioned by military - Jan 2017

<https://twitter.com/Aingkarank/status/822044719882477568>

⁴² 'White van' abduction, torture still ongoing in Sri Lanka - Jan 2016

<http://www.ceylonews.com/2016/01/white-van-abduction-torture-still-ongoing-in-sri-lanka-sooka/>

⁴³ Keppapilavu villagers threatened by Sri Lankan army ahead of presidential visit - Jan 2017

News published in local newspaper (tamil) <https://twitter.com/garikaalan/status/822354242514075648>

<http://www.tamilguardian.com/content/keppapilavu-villagers-threatened-sri-lankan-army-ahead-presidential-visit>

⁴⁴ Sri Lankan military helps settle Sinhalese fishermen in Tamil North-East - July 2016

<http://www.tamilguardian.com/content/sri-lankan-military-helps-settle-sinhalese-fishermen-tamil-north-east>

⁴⁵ State aided Sinhala Colonisation

<http://www.ptsrilanka.org/en/evidence/sri-lanka/colonisation/10-state-aided-sinhala-colonisation>

speaking people as security officials. United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues commented as⁴⁶

“Difficulties of not being able to use Tamil when dealing with state institutions including provincial and local authorities, the police and the hospitals...most state institutions across the country use only Sinhala in oral and written communications”

United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues

The unemployment rate in the Tamil homeland is high⁴⁷ when compared to the rest of the island even when students from the Northern province perform well in their education.

“Those from the north face a much more difficult time than those from elsewhere in the country. The high unemployment rate is in direct contrast to the extremely good performance by students from the north”⁴⁸

Government jobs in Northern and Eastern province demands fluency in Sinhala language. Despite high unemployment rate and good performance by students in northern province, Sinhalese from different province appointed for government jobs⁴⁹. UN Special Rapporteur describe as “Sinhala as the de facto sole language in these institutions and bodies”⁵⁰. In a recent case, petition sent by Jaffna students was replied in Sinhala by Northern Province governor⁵¹.

11. Internally displaced persons(uprooted) and ‘Plantation Tamils’ - Many Tamils live in camps or other temporary accommodations. “Those still displaced in Jaffna, Puttalam and Mannar, who together make up two thirds of all current IDPs, have been displaced for 25 years or more”⁵². Tamils living in hill country areas face high level of poverty and poor working conditions.

Tamils and minorities “continue to remain displaced and face challenging living conditions in camps and delays in reintegration into society. Once reintegrated, those communities also face challenges in access to basic services, employment and adequate housing”

United Nations - Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination⁵³

⁴⁶ United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues - Oct 2016

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20709&LangID=E#sthash.00gfaMFb.dpuf>

⁴⁷ Battle scars: Sri Lanka's north counts the cost of a 26-year war - Apr 2016

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/04/27/sri-lanka-northern-province-poorer-undeveloped-after-26-year-civil-war-with-tamil-tigers.html>

⁴⁸ Few jobs for university grads in the north - Jan 2014

<http://www.irisnews.org/report/99441/few-jobs-university-grads-north>

⁴⁹ Appointment of Sinhalese workers to local government office criticised by Kilinochchi locals - Jan 2017

<http://www.tamilguardian.com/content/appointment-sinhalese-workers-local-government-office-criticised-kilinochchi-locals>

⁵⁰ Statement of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Rita Izsák-Ndiaye, on the conclusion of her official visit to Sri Lanka, 10-20 October 2016

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20709&LangID=E>

⁵¹ Student Union sent back Governor's reply letter - Oct 2016

<http://www.ejaffna.com/2016/10/26/student-union-sent-back-governors-reply-letter/>

⁵² Sri Lanka IDP Figures Analysis Jul 2015

<http://www.internal-displacement.org/south-and-south-east-asia/sri-lanka/figures-analysis/>

⁵³ Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - Oct 2016

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CERD/C/LKA/CO/10-17&Lang=En

12. Good governance and lessons learnt

Only 3.6% of occupied Tamils Land were released⁵⁴ since Sirisena administration took power. Recently Tamils demonstrated demanding land release⁵⁵.

Since Maithripala Sirisena's expressed disappointment over the arrest of security officials, many suspects linked to security forces released. This includes Intelligence officer arrested over Sunday Leader Editor Lasantha Wickrematunge⁵⁶. Once again Sri Lanka justice system failed to deliver justice to Tamils, Nadaraja Raviraj (TNA MP, solicitor and human rights activist) murdered on daylight in Colombo (Capital of Sri Lanka) roads, all the suspect including intelligence officer released and appeal was rejected⁵⁷. UN Human Rights Commissioner worded the impunity in the Sri Lankan state structure as "State's security sector and justice system had been distorted and corrupted by decades of impunity".

Maithripala Sirisena in his own words witnessed Sri Lankan state unwillingness to provide justice to Tamils. Sri Lanka's bogus commissions and state -centred judiciary is not new to this world⁵⁸.

"The international community is so satisfied with my performance that they have completely changed their impression of the country. Now there is no threat of international courts, now we don't have to talk about electric chairs, there is no problem [of foreign judges investigating alleged violation of human rights]; I have told the international community that I cannot accept any proposal that allows foreign judges to probe our domestic matters. This is another great victory"

⁵⁴ Land Grab and Cultural Genocide of the Tamils' Homeland on Sri Lanka
<http://sangam.org/btf-land-grab-cultural-genocide-tamils-homeland-sri-lanka/>

⁵⁵ Demonstration in front of the Army Camp in Kepapulavu, saying that the Government Officials and the Army are cheating them and calling the Army to give a definite date for the release of their lands
<http://tamildiplomat.com/give-us-a-definite-date-for-release-of-our-lands-kepapulavu-and-pulavukudiyiru-ppu-people-in-demonstration/>

⁵⁶ Under pressure from Sirisena, army intelligence officer involved In Lasantha murder released on bail - Oct 2016
<https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/under-pressure-from-sirisena-army-intelligence-officer-involved-in-lasantha-murder-released-on-bail/>

⁵⁷ Independence of judiciary questioned after court acquits all suspects in Raviraj murder - Dec 2016
<https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/independence-of-judiciary-questioned-after-court-acquits-all-suspects-in-raviraj-murder/>

⁵⁸ Twenty years of make-believe. Sri Lanka's Commissions of Inquiry- June 2009
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ASA37/005/2009/en/>

No answers to political prisoners and prisoners of war. There are wives, children, fathers, mother.. who saw their family members been arrested/taken by the Sri Lanka security forces but now they are counted as missing. Good governance (Maithripala regime) didn't stop Arbitrary arrest and Enforced disappearance- it's ongoing⁵⁹. It's a tool used by previous Sinhala regimes to terrorise Tamils. Sirisena seems to be no different.

Political solution was promised by Sirisena and Ranil government in their election campaign and in United Nations, as it stands Sri Lanka once again rejected Tamils demand for federalism, even devolution of power cut short. Governments trumps about Northern Province Council, it again over seen by Sinhala/pro-government/military members. As usual bogus commissions set-up by the government runned and administrated by pro-government Sinhala persons. UN Special Rapporteur witnessed exclusion of Tamils and minorities in decision making and power structures⁶⁰. Tamils yet again in Sirisena's administration treated as second class citizens.

UN Special Rapporteur witnessed usual tactic of Sri Lanka's state "Unrestricted access to these detention facilities was granted to the Special Rapporteur. However, the Special Rapporteur notes with concern that a number of detainees reported that they had been warned not to speak to the delegation about their treatment in detention, and were reluctant to do so as a result⁶¹" This exactly happened during Mahinda Rajapaksa regime- they went after the victims who met former UN Human Rights Commissioner⁶².

⁵⁹ Armed abductors threaten trade union leader to give up strike action

<http://www.jdslanka.org/index.php/news-features/politics-a-current-affairs/662-armed-abductors-threaten-trade-union-leader-to-give-up-strike-action>

⁶⁰ Statement of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Rita Izsák-Ndiaye, on the conclusion of her official visit to Sri Lanka, 10-20 October 2016 (note no 2.1) -

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20709&LangID=E>

⁶¹ Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment on his mission to Sri Lanka - Dec 2016

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G16/440/12/PDF/G1644012.pdf?OpenElement>

⁶² Sri Lanka: Stop Harassing Victims, Activists Security Forces 'Visit' People Who Met UN Rights Chief - Sep 2013

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2013/09/03/sri-lanka-stop-harassing-victims-activists>