Sri Lanka: Human Rights
Sri Lanka: 3Kingdoms-Jaffna/ Kotte/ Kandyan
Independence from British in 1948

• Majority Sinhalese took power
• No safe guards for minorities on the Island – Tamils/ Burgers/ Muslims
• Laws passed to discriminate

  Sinhala the official language of the Island
  Buddhism the Religion of the Island
  Indian origin Tamils disenfranchised – made stateless
  University Entrance prioritised for Sinhala Students-no longer merit based
  Sinhala only exam – Tamils in government service to sit Sinhala exam
  Colonisation programmes
Tamil Peaceful Protest

• Tamils worked politically to be recognised and have equality
• Peaceful protest met by State aided violence
• Younger generation frustrated
  - denied their language and religion
  - denied University Entrance
  - denied equal opportunity for jobs
1983 Anti Tamil Riots

• LTTE ambush and kill 13 Sri Lankan Soldiers
• Sinhala mobs aided by the State launch widespread violence throughout the island
• Killing Tamil Civilians
• Destroying Tamil Homes and Businesses
• Tamils Flee to the North and East to their Homeland or flee abroad for safety
The Tamil Armed Struggle

• For 26 years the Tamils under the LTTE fought for Independence of the Tamil Homeland for peace, equality and development that is not achieved under successive Sinhala governments, its armed forces and police
Human Rights Violations
State Aided Terrorism

• Arrest/ Torture/ Rape/ Disappearances and Killings of Tamils
• Destruction of Tamil homes
• Bombings of Hospitals/ Churches/ Temples and schools and orphanages by the Sri Lankan Government and its armed forces
• Sinhala Colonisation of Tamil Homelands with armed home guards
GENOCIDE: 2009

- Sri Lankan State and its armed forces with the assistance of International governments aim to capture the LTTE strong holds in the North and East of the Island
- 70,000 Killed through indiscriminate bombings
- Surrendered LTTE Cadres extra judicially killed
- 20,000 Disappeared
- Bombings of homes, hospitals, schools, temples and churches
- No fire zones purposely targeted
Tamils Flee from the Island if they can

- Tamils flee the Island in fear of their lives
  - Arrest/ Torture/ Rape
  - Disappearances
  - Killings
  - Harassment from Police and armed forces
GENOCIDE: The Evidence

No fire Zones targeted by Sri Lankan Armed Forces

70,000 Tamils Civilians Killed

Hospitals Targeted
On 14 August 2006, 53 schoolgirls and three teachers in Mullaitivu were killed by the Sri Lankan air force who bombed the Sencholai school in Vallipunam.
Extra-judicial Killings
Rape of Tamil Women
Protestors held photographs of the Tamil children and babies who had disappeared when their families surrendered to the Sri Lankan army in May 2009.
Sri Lankan court acquits soldiers over gang rape of Tamil woman

- 11 October 2019
- A Sri Lankan court has acquitted four soldiers over the gang rape of a Tamil woman, after they had been found guilty and sentenced for the crime in 2015.
- The four soldiers from Sri Lanka’s 572 Brigade, identified by The Island as P. I. Sunasinghe, D. Dhammika Pushpakumara, Priyantha Kumara and one other soldier, had initially been found guilty of raping the 27-year old Tamil mother of two in Kilinochchi in 2010, by the Jaffna High Court in 2015. They had been sentenced to at least 25 years imprisonment.
- However, Sri Lanka’s Court of Appeal acquitted the four men, according to The Island.
- In 2015, then Judge M Elancheliyan said the crime was “unbearable and unforgivable since the victim’s dignity was damaged by them after the end of the war”.
- A report by Yasmin Sooka, The Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales (BHRC) and The International Truth & Justice Project (ITJP) previously detailed the incident, which involved the soldiers sexually abusing another Tamil woman. The report said:
- "When the victim, who could identify the alleged perpetrators, reported the crime to the local military camp, she was told to have a bath first. Then she was offered money by the military to go away but she insisted on lodging a complaint with the police. A judicial medical report confirmed sexual assault. At a court hearing in which the victim identified her attackers, there were reportedly a hundred military men present to intimidate the victim. The accused were arrested but released on bail after five months. Since then, one has been absconding from the hearings, while the victim has been repeatedly harassed and threatened by military and police, most recently in February and March 2014."
Journalists Murdered

19 Journalists Killed between 1992-2019

-Committee to protect journalists
Intimidation of Tamils Abroad
MILITARISATION of North East
Tamil families of the disappeared in Vavuniya continued their protest for the 981st day
Soldiers intimidate Keppapulavu families demanding release of land

The report highlighted several killings that have taken place in Sri Lanka, including that of a Tamil man in Ariyalai in 2017 and two Jaffna University students in 2016. “There were reports that the government or its agents committed arbitrary or unlawful killings,” it said.

“There were reports of harassment and intimidation of journalists when covering sensitive issues,” the report noted, highlighting the Tamil Guardian journalist Uthayarasa Shalin, who faced months of harassment and targeting, including the summoning and questioning of his friends and family members purportedly based on his coverage of a Hindu temple festival where a map of the Tamil homeland was displayed.
TID Arrest Senior Tamil Doctor –
Kilinochchi 18th August 2019
Former NPC member summoned by Sri Lanka terrorism division
Human Skeletal remains uncovered in Mullaitivu Oct 2019
Refugees

- Tamils have fled the Island since 1983 to all parts of the world
- When returned are arrested at Colombo airport and presented to Negombo Court
- Monthly reporting to local police station
- Harrassed and at risk of torture, sexual violence and disappearance
British Tamils Rally against Deportation to Sri Lanka
Sri Lanka remains unsafe for Tamils
Information Source:

- International Truth and Justice Project
- Pearl
- Tamil guardian
- Amnesty International
- Human Rights Watch
- US State Department Reports
- Sri Lanka Campaign for Peace and Justice
- Asylum research consultancy