



SOCIETY FOR
THREATENED
PEOPLES



I Will Stay Here Until I Get an Answer!

PROTESTS OF THE TAMIL RELATIVES OF THE ENFORCED DISAPPEARED

Brief Report by the Society for Threatened Peoples, Switzerland (STP), August 2017

Introduction

Sri Lanka has experienced a bitter 26-year-long civil war. The struggle for a separate Tamil state in the north and east of the island was brutally defeated in 2009 by the Sri Lankan government forces. Tens of thousands of people died and millions were displaced as a result of the war.¹ Both sides are alleged to have committed crimes against humanity and war crimes.² In January 2015, the incumbent President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who led the country in an authoritarian direction associated with an alarming human rights situation, lost the election to Maithripala Sirisena.³ The new presidency broke with the previous government's authoritarian and repressive practices. However, it has not significantly ameliorated the human rights situation. Torture and ill-treatment of detainees, arbitrary arrest and detention, and surveillance and harassment of members of civil society and journalists are still common in Sri Lanka.⁴

Despite their promises to the international community, the new government does not seem to prioritize the reconciliation and transitional justice process.⁵ It has also made little progress in the investigation of cases of enforced disappearance.⁶ This is despite the fact that Sri Lanka has one of the highest rates of enforced disappearance in the world.⁷ According to estimates, since 1980 about 100,000 people have disappeared.⁸ Due to the inactivity of the state, Tamil women have been protesting in the streets since the spring of 2017, in several places

¹ Cf. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/27/un-step-sri-lanka-war-crimes-inquiry> (19.08.2017).

² Cf. Human Rights Council (HRC) 2015: Report of the OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka (OISL) (accessible at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/OISL.aspx> (08.08.2017)).

³ Cf. <https://www.news.lk/news/sri-lanka/item/5620-presidential-election-2015-final-results> (19.08.2017).

⁴ Cf. The International Truth & Justice Project Sri Lanka (ITJPSL) 2017: Unstopped: 2016/17 Torture in Sri Lanka / Oakland Institute 2016: Waiting to Return Home: Continued Plight of the IDPs in Post-War Sri Lanka / Society for Threatened Peoples (STP) 2016: Under Military's Shadow / HRC 2017: Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Sri Lanka / HRC 2017: Report of the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, on his Mission to Sri Lanka / International Crisis Group (ICG) 2017: Sri Lanka's Conflict-Affected Women: Dealing with the Legacy of War.

⁵ Cf. HRC 2017: Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Sri Lanka / HRC 2017: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, on her Mission to Sri Lanka.

⁶ Enforced Disappearance is, according to Article 2 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, defined as: "the arrest, detention, abduction or any other form of deprivation of liberty by agents of the State or by persons or groups of persons acting with the authorization, support or acquiescence of the State, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person, which place such a person outside the protection of the law." (see: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CED/Pages/ConventionCED.aspx> (19.08.2017)).

⁷ Cf. Human Rights Council (HRC) 2015: Report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

⁸ Cf. Amnesty International (AI) 2017: Only Justice Can Heal Our Wounds. Listening to the Demands of Families of the Disappeared in Sri Lanka.

in the north and east of Sri Lanka, demanding justice, truth and reparation.⁹ The increasing disappointment of the population with regard to their unfulfilled hopes is the reason for the STP to analyze the problem of enforced disappearances and to get international attention to the concerns of the affected people.

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to take a closer look at the reasons for the ongoing protests and the government's reactions to the protesters and to the issue of enforced disappearances. The statements are based on personal interviews with protesting Tamil women in Sri Lanka and also on desk research. The stories listed here are not simply individual tragedies, but testimonies of the culture of impunity still prevalent in Sri Lanka. To protect the informants, names have been anonymized.¹⁰

⁹ Continuous protests are taking place in Killinochchi, Vavuniya, Mullaithivu, Trincomalee and Maruthankerny.

¹⁰ STP knows the names.

Enforced Disappearance in Sri Lanka: A Long “Tradition”

In Sri Lanka, the enforced disappearance of government critics has a long “tradition”. In the 1970s and 1980s, at least 30,000, and possibly up to 60,000 Sinhalese students were either abducted or killed during government offensives against the Marxist movement Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP).¹¹ During the civil war between the Sri Lankan military and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), it was mostly Tamils with actual or suspected connections to the LTTE who disappeared, but also Sinhalese and Muslim regime critics.¹² The overwhelming majority of documented cases indicate the direct involvement of state security forces.¹³ There is no trace of many persons who surrendered to the Sri Lankan military at the end of the war. Thus, the fate of 146,679 persons at the end of the war remains unaccounted for.¹⁴

The practice of enforced disappearances did not end after the end of the war. It can be assumed that it is still used as a political instrument.¹⁵ Under the regime of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, countless political opponents, but also human rights activists, NGO employees, journalists and even civilians, disappeared.¹⁶ Until the change of government in 2015, abductions using unmarked vans were so widespread that the practice even led to the creation of a new word: white-vanning.¹⁷ Although Sirisena has made some selective improvements regarding human rights, there are still reports of abductions.¹⁸ The executive director of the International Truth and Justice Project, Yasmin Sooka, commented: “It is hardly surprising that Sri Lanka’s white-van abductions continue, as those in charge of past system crimes have been promoted and rewarded by

¹¹ Cf. AI 1990: Sri Lanka: Extrajudicial Executions, ‘Disappearances’ and Torture, 1987 to 1990 / Feizal Samath 2001: Sri Lanka, New Rulers Have Bloody Past (accessible at: <http://www.infolanka.com/ubb/Forum1/HTML/005444.html> (08.08.2017)).

¹² Cf. HRC 2015: Report of the OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka (OISL).

¹³ Cf. Ditto. / Human Rights Watch (HRW) 2008: Nightmare: State Responsibility for ‘Disappearances’ and Abductions in Sri Lanka / AI 2017: Only Justice Can Heal Our Wounds. Listening to the Demands of Families of the Disappeared in Sri Lanka.

¹⁴ Cf. Diocese of Mannar 2011: Submission by the Catholic Diocese of Mannar to the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission.

¹⁵ Cf. ITJPSL 2017: Unstopped: State Torture & Sexual Violence in 2016/17.

¹⁶ Cf. HRC 2015: Report of the OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka (OISL).

¹⁷ Cf. <https://www.nzz.ch/international/asien-und-pazifik/vergangenheitsbewaeltigung-in-sri-lanka-ein-schrittchen-hin-zur-aussoehnung-ld.110748> (19.08.2017).

¹⁸ Cf. HRC 2017: Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Sri Lanka.

this government, which reassures perpetrators that they will never be held accountable.”¹⁹ Furthermore, the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), which is also considered to be a driver for enforced disappearances, is still in force.²⁰ A draft of the Counter Terrorism Act (CTA), which should replace the PTA, raises the fear that this new legislation will also enable enforced disappearance and torture.²¹

Dealing with Enforced Disappearances

In August 2016, the parliament adopted a bill to establish an Office for Missing Persons (OMP) to deal with cases of enforced disappearance in Sri Lanka.²² The GoSL has established a long series of domestic commissions since 1991.²³ So far, all have failed to systematically investigate cases of missing persons, to bring responsible persons to justice and to ensure the right to truth and reparation for the affected persons. In 2013 the then President Rajapaksa established the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Complaints of Abductions and Disappearances (also known as the Paranagama Commission).²⁴ However, this commission did not make any real progress in the investigation of complaints or in the criminal prosecution of perpetrators, up until its dissolution in 2016. Rather, its structure was criticized for its lack of independence, failure to consult independent, international experts and representatives from the families of the disappeared, intimidation of witnesses and lack of interest in carrying out thorough investigations.²⁵ Despite these concerns, 24,000 relatives of the disappeared filed complaints with the Paranagama Commission.²⁶ The Office for National

¹⁹ Cf.: <http://www.tamilguardian.com/content/torture-tamils-sri-lanka-continues-2017-itjp> (10.8.2017).

²⁰ The Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) contributes to the practice of enforced disappearance by allowing suspected persons to be detained without a warrant and subsequently without prosecution or court proceedings for extended time periods. The PTA also allows secret detention without contact with family members and lawyer. (Cf. HRC 2015: OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka (OISL)).

²¹ Cf. <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/Draft-of-new-counter-terror-law-triggers-old-fears-in-Sri-Lanka/article16082401.ece> (19.08.2017).

²² Cf. <http://www.tamilguardian.com/content/president-sirisena-must-not-delay-upholding-his-promises-protesting-families-disappeared-any> (08.08.2017).

²³ Cf. AI 2009: Twenty Years of Make Believe. Sri Lanka’s Commissions of Inquiry.

²⁴ Cf. AI 2017: Only Justice Can Heal Our Wounds. Listening to the Demands of Families of the Disappeared in Sri Lanka.

²⁵ Cf. Centre for Policy Alternative (CPA) 2014: The Presidential Commission to Investigate into Complaints Regarding Missing Persons. Trends, Practices and Implications. A Critique.

²⁶ Cf. <https://www.srilankacampaign.org/paranagama-commission-done-great-damage-now-damage-must-repaired/> (14.8.2017).

Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR) has recorded more than 65,000 complaints since 1994.²⁷ The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has recorded 16,000 complaints.²⁸

In May 2016, Sri Lanka ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and in August 2016, the parliament adopted a bill to establish the OMP.²⁹ However, as of August 2017, no legal provisions had been adopted to define cases of enforced disappearance as a criminal offence in the national law.³⁰ The establishment of the OMP has meanwhile also been delayed. Only on 20th July 2017, almost a year after its adoption in parliament, did President Sirisena sign off on the act for the establishment of the OMP.³¹ Furthermore, the bill itself is subject to heavy criticism, since it was drafted without consultation with the families of the disappeared or with civil society in general. Ruki Fernando, a prominent Sri Lankan human rights activist, emphasizes that “the lack of information and documentation about the OMP...seriously hampers meaningful submissions, consultations and ultimately ownership and confidence in the OMP”.³²

In addition, various statements from government representatives indicate that there is no will to investigate all cases of enforced disappearances seriously. For example, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe denied the existence of secret detention facilities and stated that all missing persons were either dead or abroad.³³ The former Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera confirmed this statement and claimed that missing persons with connections to the LTTE had illegally left the country during the last phase of the civil war.³⁴ Minister of National Co-existence Dialogue and Official Languages Mano Ganesan, also believes that all the missing persons are dead and claims that it would surprise

²⁷ Cf. <http://in.reuters.com/article/sri-lanka-rights-idINKCN0YU277> (14.8.2017).

²⁸ Cf. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) 2016: Living with Uncertainty.

²⁹ Cf. Adayaalam Centre for Policy (ACPR) 2017: Issue Brief No. 2. Families of the Disappeared and the OMP: Is there a Path Forward? (accessible at: <http://www.adayaalam.org/2017/05/09/issue-brief-no-2-families-of-the-disappeared-and-the-omp-is-there-a-path-forward/> (07.08.2017)).

³⁰ Cf. CPA 2017: Basic Guide to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

³¹ Cf. <http://www.ft.lk/article/630214/Www.aquavista.lk> (14.8.2017).

³² Cf. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/taylor-dibbert/examining-sri-lankas-offi_b_10148336.html (10.8.2017).

³³ Cf. <http://www.ceylonews.com/2016/01/large-number-of-sri-lanka-missing-are-dead-ranil/> (07.08.2017) / <http://www.tamilguardian.com/content/missing-have-%E2%80%98left-country-illegally%E2%80%99-claims-sri-lankan-pm> (07.08.2017).

³⁴ Cf. <http://www.tamilguardian.com/content/missing-ltte-cadres-are-abroad-claims-foreign-minister> (07.08.2017).

him if secret detention facilities exist.³⁵ For more than 30 years, the Sri Lankan government has failed to conduct criminal investigations into complaints, to determine the whereabouts and fate of missing persons and to adequately protect witnesses.³⁶

³⁵ Cf. <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/articles/2017-05-18/on-the-8-year-anniversary-of-civil-wars-end-sri-lankas-political-fate-looks-grim> (10.8.2017).

³⁶ Cf. AI 2017: Only Justice Can Heal Our Wounds. Listening to the Demands of Families of the Disappeared in Sri Lanka.



Testimonies by Tamil Mothers of the Enforced Disappeared

Case A: "My daughter still lives!"

Female, forcibly disappeared on 4th March 2009, aged 17.

A. was walking with her mother, like thousands of others, away from the war zone in Mullivaikkal in the north to Matale in the central province. On the way, however, hundreds of children were loaded into trucks by unknown persons in uniform. Her mother said: "My daughter was also forced to climb into a truck. I gathered up all my courage and climbed with another woman into the truck where my daughter was. But, we were thrown out shortly afterwards in a remote area. Since then, I miss my daughter every day."

The mother filed a complaint with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the National Human Rights Commission. However, she never received a reply. In addition, she reported the disappearance at the Joseph Camp in 2012. Five days later, a police officer came to the mother's house and showed a picture of her daughter. He said that they were searching for the daughter.

"I am convinced that my daughter is still alive", says her 44-year-old mother, who discovered a photograph of her daughter's face printed on propaganda material, shortly before the presidential election in January 2015. She appears on the picture right next to President Maithripala Sirisena. The mother drew the attention of various persons, including government ministers, to this fact, without success. In August 2015, the mother met Sirisena in Jaffna, where she asked him about her daughter. He promised to take up the matter. However, nothing has happened since. Now, the mother leads the protest in Vavuniya and has already initiated a hunger strike in January 2017.

Case B: "I've tried everything. I can't go on any longer"

Female, forcibly disappeared on 23rd April 2009, aged 18.

Her relatives were told that B. fell ill during the last phase of the war, whereupon she was sent to a hospital in a Red Cross ship. A single and final sign of life reached her mother in the form of a letter, in September 2009. Her mother said: "She wrote that she is doing well and I should not worry. We will meet again soon. I have not heard of her since."

The mother filed a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission, the Paranagama Commission and the ICRC. Nevertheless, the mother's questions remained unanswered. In view of the lack of answers, the mother must not only face the pain, but also the ongoing uncertainty about what happened to her daughter. "Now I'm tired. I've tried everything. I can't go on any longer", says the 65-year-old mother. Nevertheless, she is participating in the protest in Mullaithivu.

Case C: "I will stay here day and night until I finally get an answer"

Male, forcibly disappeared on 20th April 2009, aged 16.

After shelling by the Sri Lankan army during the last phase of the war, C. lost his family. The family was taken to a camp in Pulmudai by the Sri Lankan military. His mother says: "Friends told me my son was looking for me. However, he was afraid to come to us. Since then I have not heard from him."

The mother filed a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission, the Paranagama Commission and the ICRC. However, she received no response to the complaints, which is why she decided to participate in the protests in Mullaithivu. "I want to find my son. I'll stay here day and night until I finally get an answer", says the 44-year-old mother.

Case D: “When I called back, my son was on the other line”

Male, forcibly disappeared on 6th May 2009, aged 23.

D. and his family left Mullivaikkal at the end of the war and were taken to a camp. When they were leaving the war zone, he and his family lost each other during shelling. His mother says: “Since then we have never seen him again. Three months later, after we could leave the camp, we were looking for him everywhere.” His mother filed a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission, the Paranagama Commission and the ICRC. In addition, she reported the disappearance of her son at the Joseph camp in 2012.

“In the daily newspaper *Uthayan* I announced the disappearance of my son and my telephone number”, says the 63-year-old mother. On 2nd or 3rd July, someone called her number and spoke in Sinhalese. However, the call was cut off. “When I called back, my son was on the other line. He said, ‘I do not know where I am. My hands are tied. They give me injections’ ”, says the mother. To find out if he was really her son, she asked where his sister was.

He said that she had died during the tsunami and started crying. Then the phone line was again interrupted. His mother could no longer reach anyone on this phone number. In March 2017, she started the protest in Marunthankerny with three other women, attempting to finally get information on the whereabouts of her son. For security reasons, however, they are not sleeping at the protest site.

Case E: "I got very excited and asked where she was"

Female, forcibly disappeared on 20th 2009, aged 16.

E. was forcibly recruited by the LTTE in March 2009, at the age of 16. On 20th May, she surrendered to the Sri Lankan military. Since then, she has been missing. Her mother was put into a camp for internally displaced people. One day, some prisoners were brought to the camp in a bus. Her mother reports: "I went straight to the bus to look for my daughter. A young woman gave me a piece of paper that said my daughter was still alive."

The mother filed a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission, the Paranagama Commission and the ICRC. In addition, she reported her daughter's disappearance at the Joseph Camp. "Once, a police officer showed me a photo and asked if this was my daughter. I got very excited and asked where she was", said the mother. The police officer said he could not tell her right now, but he would inform her soon. Afterwards, the mother regularly went to the Joseph Camp to look for E. Later, the police officer was transferred to another region. There is still no trace of her. Her mother, however, does not give up and takes part in the protest in Mullaithivu.



Protests of Tamil Women for Truth, Justice and Reparation

Hundreds of Tamil women are currently protesting on the streets in the north-east of Sri Lanka. In the hot sun and amidst the pollution and dust they are on the streets every day. They also stay on the protest site at night, when biting mosquitoes and loud vehicles rob them of their sleep.³⁷

Out of frustration over the state's inactivity, the protest movement began in the spring of 2017, making use of one of the few tangible but fragile achievements of the new government – the freedom of assembly. The purpose and aims of the protests are unmistakable: to obtain answers to questions about the fate of the forcibly disappeared. Decisive for the protest movement was a hunger strike started by nine Tamil women on 23rd January 2017 in Vavuniya.³⁸ After a visit from the State Minister for Defence where the participants were promised a meeting with high-ranking government officials, the women suspended the four-day-old hunger strike.³⁹ However, the meeting did not produce any tangible results.⁴⁰

On 20th February 2017, the passivity of the state caused a group of Tamil women in Killinochchi to start a continuous protest until their demands have been fulfilled. The number of protest participants has grown rapidly to about 1,200 people. On the protest site in the premises of a Hindu temple, around 50 to 200 people gather every day, and 20 to 25 remain overnight. Local shops are showing solidarity with the protest. They are providing the participants with food, among other things.⁴¹ On 24th February, four days after the protest started in Killinochchi, the women in Vavuniya resumed their protest, but without a hunger strike. Shortly thereafter, on 8th March, Tamil women in Mullaithivu in the north, and Trincomalee in the east, launched their own protests. Seven days later, on 15th March, four Tamil women in Maruthankerny on the Jaffna peninsula started to protest against the government's inactivity. On the first day of the protest, 23

³⁷ Visit to the protests in March/April 2017 by STP worker.

³⁸ Cf. https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/26/world/asia/sri-lanka-hunger-strike-missing.html?_r=0 (10.08.2017).

³⁹ Cf. <http://dailynews.lk/2017/01/27/local/105908/strike-relatives-missing-vavuniya-ends> (13.08.2017).

⁴⁰ Cf. <http://www.tamilguardian.com/content/families-missing-resume-vavuniya-hunger-strike> (13.08.2017).

⁴¹ Talk with protesters in Killinochchi on 31st March 2017.

security officers surveyed the protesting women, and intimidated and photographed them. Despite this harassment by the security forces, the women returned to the protest site the next day and went on with their protest.⁴²

Although the extent of surveillance in Maruthankerny has reduced, surveillance by security personnel and the presence of such personnel remains characteristic for all protests. During his visits to the protest sites, an STP worker observed several persons in civilian dress photographing himself and the protesters. When they noticed they were being watched they turned around quickly and walked away. The *Tamil Guardian* reported an incident where military personnel stopped a Tamil journalist on his way to the Maruthankerny protest site, intimidated him and forced him to return.⁴³ On 14th August 2017, two unknown persons threatened one of the leaders of the protest in Mullaithivu with death. The two men also groped and slapped her.⁴⁴

⁴² Visit to the protests in March/April 2017 by STP worker.

⁴³ Cf. <http://tamilguardian.com/content/tamil-journalist-harassed-sri-lankan-soldiers-en-route-disappearances-protest> (09.08.2017).

⁴⁴ Cf. <http://www.jdslanka.org/index.php/news-features/human-rights/702-tamil-woman-activist-campaigning-for-disappeared-threatened-with-death> (16.08.2017).

Demands of the Protesters

- Release the list of all those who surrendered or were detained by the Sri Lankan armed forces during and after the end of the war, and in particular during the last stages of the war.⁴⁵
- Release a list of all detainees in secret detention centres run by the security forces.
- Release a list of all detainees being held under the PTA/Emergency Regulation or unlawfully in any legal detention centres.
- Appointments to the OMP must be made in consultation with victims' communities. Respected, independent and credible international experts and representatives of the families of the disappeared who are viewed as credible by victims' communities across the country should be appointed to the OMP.
- The OMP should be located in the areas where the enforced disappearances occurred.
- The OMP should be linked to criminal prosecutions of the perpetrators of enforced disappearances.

Promise Made by the President

On 12th June 2017, the president met with some of the protest leaders, who handed him a petition setting out their demands. At the end of the meeting, Sirisena agreed to the timely publication of the three lists. The first list is of the persons who surrendered and were detained at the end of the war, the second of detainees in secret detention centres and the third of the detainees under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA).⁴⁶ To this day Sirisena did not fulfil his promise. Since President Sirisena rejects the existence of secret detention centres,⁴⁷ there are many doubts as to whether he will make good on his promises. However, the protests of the relatives of the enforced disappeared continue.

⁴⁵ While it cannot be ruled out that there are no complete lists of the names of all the surrenders, detainees at the end of the war and all the detainees in secret detention centres, the existence of similar lists is confirmed. General Chanayaka Gunaratna, head of the 58th division of the Sri Lankan military, testified in a hearing in February 2016 that the military had documented every person who had surrendered at the frontline during the last months of the war. (Cf. <http://www.tamilguardian.com/content/sri-lankan-army-has-list-surrendering-tamils-%E2%80%93-brigadier> (20.08.2017)).

⁴⁶ Cf. <http://www.tamilguardian.com/content/president-sirisena-must-not-delay-upholding-his-promises-protesting-families-disappeared-any> (08.08.2017).

⁴⁷ Cf. <http://www.ft.lk/article/504035/ft> (14.8.2017).

Conclusion

The statements in this brief note show that the GoSL has so far failed to deal with the issue of enforced disappearances. All their domestic commissions failed to investigate the countless cases of enforced disappearance, some of which dated back to the 1970s. For decades, the GoSL has ignored the victims' communities, despite promises made to the international community. However, even though the OMP bill was passed in parliament in August 2016, the OMP was not established until August 2017. Furthermore, a statement by government ministers, to the effect that all the disappeared were dead or abroad, indicates that Sri Lanka is not willing to investigate all the cases of enforced disappearance. Therefore, the frustration of the relatives of the enforced disappeared is very understandable. Continuous protesting on the streets is the only possibility of getting the attention of the GoSL and the international community. The government is still ignoring the protesters' demands.

Recommendations

Due to the passivity of the GoSL in dealing with cases of enforced disappearance in the past, STP believes and insists that urgent action is required. Our recommendations are addressed to the GoSL and to the international community.

To the GoSL:

- Immediate Fulfilment of the promises made to the protesters.
- Fulfilment of the other demands of the protesters.
- Adoption of legal provisions to define cases of enforced disappearance as a criminal offence in the national law.
- Guarantee that victims, including relatives of the enforced disappeared, are provided with full and effective reparation.
- Prosecution those responsible for enforced disappearances.
- Repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), immediate end its use and guarantee that any future legislation intended to replace the PTA meets international standards.
- Release all political prisoners.
- Compliance with the human rights framework that the GoSL has ratified, and implementation of the recommendations of the UNHRC Resolution 30/1 on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka.

To the international community:

- Support of the demands of the protesters und in particular urge the government to release the lists, to establish the OMP, to comply with the human rights framework and to implement UNHRC-Resolution 30/1.
- No trade concessions should be provided to Sri Lanka until the demands of the protesters have been fulfilled and Sri Lanka's human rights situation has significantly improved.