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**Human Rights Council**  
**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Twenty-eighth session**  
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## Summary of stakeholders' submissions<sup>1</sup> on Sri Lanka<sup>\* 2</sup>

### Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

#### I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a summary of 49 stakeholders' submissions<sup>3</sup> to the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

#### II. Information provided by stakeholders

##### A. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies<sup>4</sup>

2. Joint Submission 19 (JS19) recommended that Sri Lanka implement the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.<sup>5</sup>

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\* The present document was not edited before being sent to United Nations translation services.



## **B. National human rights framework<sup>6</sup>**

3. According to Joint Submission 9 (JS9), key highlights of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution include: the removal of the President's immunity for official acts; reducing the President's power in relation to Parliament; re-introducing term limits for the office of the President; taking away the sole power of the President to make appointments to key independent institutions; and improving transparency in the law making process.<sup>7</sup>

4. Joint Submission 20 (JS20) recommended that Sri Lanka strengthen and ensure the independence of human rights institutions such as the National Human Rights Commission.<sup>8</sup>

## **C. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law**

### **1. Cross cutting issues**

#### *Equality and non-discrimination<sup>9</sup>*

5. JS9 noted that despite Sri Lanka's international treaty obligations and commitments, there were several laws and Constitutional provisions, which, contain discriminatory provisions towards women.<sup>10</sup>

6. Joint Submission 12 (JS12) expressed concern about certain legislation such as sections in the Penal Code that discriminate based on sexual orientation and gender identity.<sup>11</sup> JS12 highlighted that legislation such as the Vagrants Ordinance, the Brothels Ordinance, and certain sections of the Penal Code indiscriminately marginalized and discriminated against the LGBTIQ community and sex workers by means of criminalizing these lifestyles, and allowing persons in positions of authority such as police officers to detain, torture, and verbally and physically discriminate against members of these communities.<sup>12</sup>

7. Joint Submission 3 (JS3) recommended that a framework of legal reform be implemented, which actively prevents and prohibits discrimination against LGBTI persons, particularly in the context of education, housing, employment, accommodation and access to healthcare.<sup>13</sup> Human Rights Watch (HRW) expressed similar concerns.<sup>14</sup>

#### *Development, the environment and business and human rights<sup>15</sup>*

8. Joint Submission 17 (JS17) noted that the construction of Port City was adding to the already unacceptable current pollution levels, which are accelerating the destruction of the marine and coastal environment, as well as negatively impacting upon the health of the affected communities.<sup>16</sup>

#### *Human rights and counter-terrorism<sup>17</sup>*

9. Joint Submission 15 (JS15) noted that the Prevention of Terrorism Act had facilitated arbitrary and illegal arrest and detention, lengthy detention without trial, and torture.<sup>18</sup> Moreover, although many assurances were given to release political prisoners who had been languishing in prisons for a lengthy period of time, the Government had showed very little concern regarding their release and well-being.<sup>19</sup>

10. Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) recommended that the Government release all political prisoners detained currently under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and establish a moratorium for the use of the Act for new arrests until replacement legislation is enacted. Replacement legislation must contain safeguards against arbitrary arrest and torture or

cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, as well as provisions for access to legal counsel in the language spoken by the accused from the moment of deprivation of liberty.<sup>20</sup>

11. International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) highlighted that the draft “Policy and legal framework of the proposed Counter Terrorism Act of Sri Lanka,” prepared by the Government as a replacement to the Prevention of Terrorism Act was arguably more problematic from a rule of law and human rights perspective than the original Act, as it is inconsistent with international best practices.<sup>21</sup>

## 2. Civil and Political Rights

### *Right to life, liberty and security of the person*<sup>22</sup>

12. The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRC-SL) recommended that Sri Lanka abolish the death penalty.<sup>23</sup>

13. Joint Submission 8 also recommended that Sri Lanka establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty immediately with a view to its complete abolition and abolish the death penalty replacing it with a sentence that is fair, proportionate, and respects international human rights standards.<sup>24</sup>

14. JS9 noted that death in custody was investigated under the Criminal Procedure Code (Chapter 33) but certain elements of this chapter on investigations into sudden deaths were inadequate to investigate deaths in custody. Police still continued to enjoy impunity in reported cases of custodial death due to excessive use of force by police, which occurred between 2011 and 2015.<sup>25</sup>

15. HRW noted that Sri Lanka had a long history of torture and custodial abuse by the police and armed forces, which is facilitated by draconian wartime legislation.<sup>26</sup> Freedom from Torture (FFT) also noted that the Sri Lankan military, police and intelligence services continued to practice torture in a network of torture facilities across the country, including unofficial detention centres.<sup>27</sup> Similarly, Society for Threatened Peoples International (STPI) noted that torture and ill-treatment of detainees, arbitrary arrest and detention, surveillance and harassment of civil society and journalists are still common in Sri Lanka.<sup>28</sup>

16. HRC-SL noted a widespread incidence of custodial violations, including torture.<sup>29</sup> In this regard, it recommended that the Government issue a strong and clear message to law enforcement authorities of its zero tolerance policy on torture, establish an independent unit to investigate complaints of torture against the police, and initiate timely prosecutions to stem impunity.<sup>30</sup>

17. Tamil Centre for Human Rights (TCHR) expressed concern that the Government had systematically failed to investigate security personnel and the paramilitary groups, even though there was strong supporting evidence of torture and other violations.<sup>31</sup>

18. Centre for War Victims and Human Rights (CWVHR) recommended that the Government create a civilian oversight mechanism in accordance with international standards, and with investigative powers to prevent torture, especially with respect to people under custody by the criminal investigations department, police and military agencies.<sup>32</sup>

19. JS9 noted with concern the prison overcrowding in Sri Lanka as well as the information suggesting that torture is rampant, carried out both by prison officers and the inmates.<sup>33</sup> Similarly, Joint Submission 16 (JS16) noted the prison over-crowding in main prisons, caused due to the denial of bail, the inability to pay and meet bail conditions, the inability to pay fines for small crimes, and the delay of trials and appeal cases.<sup>34</sup>

20. Joint Submission 5 (JS5) also expressed concern about conditions in detention and in prison, including overcrowding, routine violence such as sexual violence against inmates by prison guards and authorities as well as fellow prisoners, lack of basic facilities, including sanitation, nutrition and recreation, and the failure to afford proper and timely medical treatment.<sup>35</sup>

21. Tamil Centre for Human Rights (TCHR) noted that according to statistics, there were more than 200 persons imprisoned for political reasons.<sup>36</sup> JS5 also noted that there had been a number of incidents of threats, harassment and physical attacks against journalists.<sup>37</sup> In this regard, CTC recommended that the Government ensure that all security forces end surveillance, harassment and reprisals against the Tamil community and human rights defenders.<sup>38</sup>

22. HRC-SL also recommended that the Government ensure civil society and human rights defenders are able to function without any surveillance, intimidation or harassment, especially by state security actors and law enforcement officers.<sup>39</sup>

*Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law<sup>40</sup>*

23. Together Against Genocide (TAG) stated that the judiciary lacked independence, judicial competence, and failed to abide by the international protection of fundamental rights and freedoms.<sup>41</sup> JS9 cited the impeachment of former Chief Justice by Parliament and the Executive as a major concern regarding the independence of the judiciary in Sri Lanka.<sup>42</sup> TAG also noted that the judiciary often erred in correctly applying legal principals inherited from the Roman-Dutch and English common laws.<sup>43</sup>

24. CWVHR stated that long languishing of political prisoners without charge or trial, extrajudicial killing of journalists, as well as arbitrary and lack of persecution of politicians on corruption cases were some examples of Sri Lanka's failure to uphold due process, rule of law and justice.<sup>44</sup> Similarly, JS19 highlighted that there was lack of political willingness on the part of Sri Lanka's institutions to effectively provide for truth or justice in the country.<sup>45</sup>

25. JS13 expressed deep concern about the overall climate of impunity regarding the large number of killings, disappearances, assaults, threats on journalists and media institutions.<sup>46</sup> JS9 also expressed concern that attacks against journalists had continued with impunity.<sup>47</sup>

26. Front Line Defenders (FLD) stated that impunity was a major concern that had not been completely addressed by the current Government.<sup>48</sup> Sri Lanka Brief (SLB) noted that there had been no concrete progress in any investigations of attacks on journalists and media organizations, including the killings and disappearances of journalists.<sup>49</sup> Action Contre La Faim (ACF) also highlighted that impunity still prevailed for the authors of the Muttur massacre,<sup>50</sup> and that since the last UPR, there had been no significant progress in ensuring accountability for the perpetrators of the Muttur massacre.<sup>51</sup>

27. With respect to the transitional justice process in Sri Lanka, JS9 highlighted that despite Human Rights Council resolution 30/1 underscoring the importance of foreign participation in a future judicial mechanism, government personnel had retreated from their early espousal of a hybrid judicial mechanism. JS9 also noted that the Government now backed a complete exclusion of foreign judges and the restriction of foreign participation.<sup>52</sup>

28. CWVHR noted that Sri Lanka had the second highest number of enforced disappearances in the world.<sup>53</sup> In this connection, JS9 highlighted that the extensive use of enforced disappearance, lack of judicial accountability and of decisive and sustained efforts to secure the truth, the absence of a comprehensive reparation programme and social,

psychological and economic support for the victims had left profound wounds on society and a deep sense of mistrust among victims.<sup>54</sup>

29. While noting that the Office of Missing Persons is presently only in name,<sup>55</sup> Tourner La Page recommended that Sri Lanka make a strong and concerted effort to end abductions or forcible disappearances, to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice, and to foster a climate free from fear and conducive to open debate.<sup>56</sup> Similarly, ICJ expressed concern about the lack of accountability for enforced disappearances.<sup>57</sup>

30. JS9 also noted that the process of establishing the Truth Commission and Office for Reparations had been painstakingly slow highlighting that no timeframe for the establishment of the Office on Reparations has been given nor is there any mention of a comprehensive reparations package and policy. JS9 also highlighted that despite the enactment of a Victim and Witness Protection Act in March 2015, fatal flaws in the substantive law and problems in the Act's implementation had hampered its overall effectiveness.<sup>58</sup>

31. Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE) noted that getting justice for victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity received a setback, due to the Government's unwillingness to prosecute civilian and security forces for having committed mass killings of Tamils and rape.<sup>59</sup> Similarly, TAG emphasized that Sri Lanka lacked an effective and appropriate mechanism for the investigation and prosecution of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed against the Tamil people by the Sri Lankan State.<sup>60</sup>

32. JUBILEE recommended that Sri Lanka continue to welcome international assistance for investigating war crimes, and that security forces be encouraged to undergo human rights training, which includes post-war reconciliation and humane treatment.<sup>61</sup>

33. JS16 noted that provisions for victim protection were inadequate, and that no specialized services were provided to the victims, as well as that child victims were mixed with criminals in state institutions.<sup>62</sup>

34. International Truth and Justice Project (ITJP) recommended that Sri Lanka establish an independent credible investigation with international investigators who will assist the Government with investigations of past and current system crimes and provide the technical support to establish a new independent investigative unit in order to systematically investigate, vet and screen alleged perpetrators in the security forces.<sup>63</sup>

35. Joint Submission 18 (JS18) stated that engagement of international judges, prosecutors, defence lawyers, forensic experts, and victim and witness protection experts would be of the utmost importance to maintain the credibility, independence and effectiveness of the transitional justice process.<sup>64</sup> JS18 recommended that Sri Lanka ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in order that re-occurrence of similar atrocities can be minimized and the ethnic Tamil population can be protected in the future.<sup>65</sup>

*Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life*<sup>66</sup>

36. ADF International highlighted the need for Sri Lanka to assess and follow through its commitment to freedom of religion.<sup>67</sup> It recommended that Sri Lanka recognize and respect the right to freedom of religion or belief for all citizens and residents, and avoid privileging the Buddhist faith to the point that the fundamental rights and freedoms of Christians, Muslims, Hindus, and other religious and ethnic minorities are infringed upon.<sup>68</sup> STPI further noted that ethnic and religious minorities in Sri Lanka continued to be exposed to discrimination.<sup>69</sup>

37. Joint Submission 11 (JS11) highlighted that the Evangelical Christian community in Sri Lanka was a minority within a minority thus facing a myriad of violations, including violent attacks in contravention of their right to freedom of religion or belief.<sup>70</sup>

38. JS9 noted that minority ethnic, religious and ethno-religious communities continued to face violence.<sup>71</sup> JS5 also noted that there had been a rise in attacks and hate speech against religious minorities by right-wing Buddhist groups.<sup>72</sup> TCHR also noted that in the recent past, a Buddhist extremist group known the Bodu Bala Sena – BBS (Buddhist Force) had carried out violent campaigns against Christians, Muslims and Saivites (Hindus).<sup>73</sup>

39. European Association of Jehovah’s Christian Witnesses (EAJCW) noted that despite positive developments with regard to religious freedom, it remained concerned over the inadequate response by police and prosecutors in cases of religiously motivated assaults and vandalism.<sup>74</sup>

40. Christian Society Worldwide (CSW) recommended that the Government take necessary actions to comprehensively implement its existing obligations under international law regarding freedom of religion or belief.<sup>75</sup>

41. JS9 noted that since January 2015, there had been an improvement in the freedom of expression and media freedom. However, despite important steps by the present Government to improve the environment for dissent, attacks against journalists had continued with impunity.<sup>76</sup>

42. Joint Submission 14 (JS14) noted that a spate of arrests and incidents of intimidation of Tamil journalists represented the still dismal status of Sri Lanka’s press freedom. It also led to the concern that Sri Lankan authorities were resuming the old government’s practices designed to intimidate Tamil journalists.<sup>77</sup>

43. JS9 highlighted that there continued to be challenges such as the violations of people’s right to peaceful protest, increase in the culture of fear and intimidation, extreme scrutiny of civil society and curtailment of unionization.<sup>78</sup> JS13 also remained concerned by ongoing restrictions on freedom of peaceful assembly.<sup>79</sup>

44. FLD noted that freedom of expression and assembly is still threatened in Tamil regions, especially in military-occupied territories affected by the civil war, impacting human rights defenders working on enforced disappearances, torture and land rights.<sup>80</sup> FLD also highlighted that press freedom remains fragile, as journalists still face difficulties covering certain topics and are subject to harassment and intimidation.<sup>81</sup>

45. Joint Submission 13 (JS13) noted that lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, trans-gender and inter-sex (LGBTI) organisations operating in Sri Lanka had suffered from purposefully prohibitive bureaucratic delays to impede their activities. JS13 specifically noted that an NGO, “Equal Ground” had suffered repeated harassment for organizing events that promote the rights of LGBTI people in Sri Lanka, including experiencing unjustified delays in gaining permission from authorities when coordinating activities.<sup>82</sup>

*Prohibition of all forms of slavery*<sup>83</sup>

46. JS12 noted that over 50,000 women were engaged in sex work in Sri Lanka. However, the statistics was not representative, as many sex workers are not identified, due to their enforced criminal status. JS12 also highlighted that the women of post-war affected regions especially in the North were forced to become sex workers in an attempt to sustain their families.<sup>84</sup>

*Right to privacy and family life*<sup>85</sup>

47. JS3 noted that Sections 365 and 365A of the Penal Code criminalized sexual relations between same-sex individuals, classifying same-sex relations as an "unnatural offence" subject to punishment of up to 10 years in prison.<sup>86</sup>

**3. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights***Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work*<sup>87</sup>

48. JS5 noted that informal sector workers accounted for 68 per cent of the labour force, a majority of who live below the international poverty line, and are female.<sup>88</sup>

49. Joint Submission 6 (JS6) emphasized that the gender segregation of labour in the plantation sector indicated the discrimination and exploitation of women workers as they faced clear barriers in going beyond basic manual labour work to managerial and supervisory roles unlike men.<sup>89</sup>

50. JS12 stated that LGBTIQ persons had been shunned from their homes, discriminated in the work place, and that it was difficult for them to find work.<sup>90</sup>

51. Joint Submission 10 (JS10) noted that returnees faced difficulties in finding employment opportunities in both the private and public sector.<sup>91</sup>

52. Joint Submission 17 (JS18) also expressed concern about the Port City project that presents a high risk of deprivation of work for the communities of fishermen. JS17 further noted the estimation that the number of fishermen directly affected goes up to 30,000 in the city of Negombo alone.<sup>92</sup> In addition, JS17 stated that the sand mining for the construction of Port City would have important consequences on the coastal fishing industry.<sup>93</sup>

*Right to an adequate standard of living*<sup>94</sup>

53. JS5 noted a 2017 national review showing that 5.2 million people -almost 25 per cent of the population - are currently undernourished, 18 per cent of pregnant women were in "a poor maternal nutrition situation" in 2015, and a quarter of the children between 6-59 months are underweight.<sup>95</sup>

54. JS6 noted that nearly 60 per cent of workers in the Estate sector lived in 'line rooms', which not only brings stigma but most of which are cramped and very old leading to reduced access to toilets or water within the household and lack of safe drinking water.<sup>96</sup>

55. JS9 emphasized that Sri Lanka had failed to ensure the right to land and housing creating problems and livelihood difficulties for people.<sup>97</sup> More specifically, Association Bharathi – Centre Culturel Franco Tamoul (Association Bharathi CCFT) recommended that the Government provide the Tamil people of the regions of North and East with access to their residential and agricultural lands to engage in economic and livelihood activities.<sup>98</sup>

*Right to health*<sup>99</sup>

56. JS5 noted that the 'free' public healthcare system, which serves only 60 per cent of the population, did not meet the quality health needs of all people, and almost 96 per cent of private health expenditure is out-of-pocket.<sup>100</sup>

57. Association Bharathi CCFT recommended that Sri Lanka continues and step up psychosocial assistance programmes to victims of the conflict according to their needs.<sup>101</sup>

58. JS12 stated that estimated 1,000 abortions were being conducted illegally in Sri Lanka per day.<sup>102</sup> JS12 also expressed concern about the lack of a rights-based, extensive discussion on sexual and reproductive health, including but not limited to sexual orientation

and gender identity, reproductive stages, contraceptive methods, services related to reproductive and sexual health and relationship from gender perspective.<sup>103</sup>

*Right to education*<sup>104</sup>

59. Tournier La Page recommended that Sri Lanka ensure that children belonging to minority religions receive religious education from volunteer teachers or local places of worship, as well as foster an environment in schools whereby children belonging to minority religions are treated equally and fairly.<sup>105</sup>

60. JS11 expressed concern that children belonging to the Evangelical Christian minority experience difficulty and discrimination when applying to State schools in direct contravention of the provisions of the Constitution.<sup>106</sup>

61. More specifically, JS6 recommended that the Government take immediate measures to allocate adequate resources to develop the quality of health and educational services in plantation areas, including through the establishment of higher educational institutes for the Malayaha Tamilar community.<sup>107</sup>

62. Joint Submission 7 (JS7) stated that not even the minimum facilities required for the concept of inclusive education accepted worldwide were available in the school's system of Sri Lanka.<sup>108</sup>

#### **4. Rights of specific persons or groups**

*Women*<sup>109</sup>

63. JS16 noted that male dominance, i.e. the control of female sexuality, and perceptions of women as man's property were reflected not only in domestic violence but in other forms of gender-based violence, such as rape and sexual harassment, and incest.<sup>110</sup>

64. JS7 noted that women who have disabilities faced sexual harassment and sexual exploitation in the home, community, work places and in society at a serious level with hidden or undiscovered incidents.<sup>111</sup>

65. Joint Submission 22 (JS22) noted that some Eelam Tamil women were being subjected to a wide range of sexual abuses as part of a systematic campaign of extermination against their nation by the Sri Lankan state.<sup>112</sup> JS22 also noted that some Eelam Tamil women giving birth to their first or second child had been forced to accept permanent birth control operations.<sup>113</sup>

66. JS5 also noted the State failure to hold accountable military, police and public officers that have committed crimes against women including during the armed conflict, and those who have sexually exploited women seeking state services.<sup>114</sup>

67. TCHR claimed that as part of ethnic cleansing, the soldiers carried on raping, committing sexual assaults, and harassing Tamil women with impunity.<sup>115</sup> JS15 noted that there had been a significant increase in violence against women and children in war affected areas in the North and East.<sup>116</sup> In this regard, JS5 expressed concern that the machinery to address gender-based-violence including sexual violence, domestic violence and ensure access to justice remains weak and enables impunity.<sup>117</sup>

68. Joint Submission 1 (JS1) expressed concern that continued militarization of the North and East regions and entrenched impunity had created the framework for sexual and gender-based violence and recurring human rights abuses against already vulnerable minority women.<sup>118</sup> JS1 also noted that violence against women was perpetrated not only by State actors at all levels, but also within Tamil and Muslim communities.<sup>119</sup> Similarly,



PEARL noted that security forces had perpetrated sexual violence against both women and men on an equal basis.<sup>120</sup>

69. Association Bharathi CCFT recommended that Sri Lanka draft legislation aimed at eliminating violence against women.<sup>121</sup>

#### *Children*<sup>122</sup>

70. JS2 recommended that Sri Lanka ensure that there are no legal ambiguities about the definition of the child to allow full rights and protection to all children – boys and girls without discrimination – under 18 years of age by reviewing all laws.<sup>123</sup>

71. JS1 noted that there was no minimum age of marriage for Muslims, and that the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act allowed a male guardian to give the bride in marriage, resulting in forced marriage of girls as young as fourteen.<sup>124</sup>

72. Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (GIEACPC) recommended that Sri Lanka prohibit all corporal punishment of children in all settings, including the home, and repeal all the legal defences.<sup>125</sup>

73. JS9 noted that one of the other major issues is child labour, with almost 100,000 child workers in Sri Lanka.<sup>126</sup> JS16 also expressed concern that there are no laws regulating employment in third party households, which leaves children of 14-18 years old to be employed as domestic workers thus vulnerable to exploitation.<sup>127</sup>

74. Joint Submission 2 (JS2) noted that Articles 365 and 365A of the Penal Code prohibiting homosexual relations, described as “acts of gross indecency”, might put children in danger as these articles do not explicitly exempt children for the crime, hence a child might be treated as an offender instead of a victim in exploitative situations.<sup>128</sup>

#### *Persons with disabilities*<sup>129</sup>

75. JS9 noted that the term 'disabled' was not mentioned in Article 12(2) of the Constitution, and that persons with disabilities faced enormous challenges in accessing justice, in getting employment, and accessing information and voting.<sup>130</sup>

76. JS7 noted that despite policy pronouncements, persons with intellectual disabilities and those with severe disabilities were frequently denied enjoyment of their most fundamental human rights and participation in society.<sup>131</sup>

77. JS7 also highlighted that since the opportunities for persons with disabilities to access information and communication were hardly available, their freedom of expression and right to information were violated.<sup>132</sup>

78. Furthermore, JS7 noted that when filling vacant positions, persons with disabilities were not recruited and denied of the opportunities although there was a 3% quota allocated to persons with disabilities when recruiting for government jobs.<sup>133</sup>

79. JS5 noted that children and youth with disabilities suffered discrimination in accessing education and vocational training.<sup>134</sup>

80. JS7 also stated that access to health services was a challenge for persons with disabilities, due to lack of physical accessibility, and non-availability of information, as well as non-availability of audio visual communication boards and sign language interpreters even in leading state hospitals.<sup>135</sup>

#### *Minorities and indigenous peoples*<sup>136</sup>

81. Le Pont noted that Tamils in Sri Lanka who have suffered and continue to suffer under the successive Sinhala-majority governments, had been denied of their right to freely

determine their political status due to the anti-democratic piece of legislation enacted in 1983 as the sixth amendment to the constitution.<sup>137</sup>

82. JS20 noted that destroying Tamil cultural identities, the Sri Lankan state was trying to wipe out Ethnic Tamil national identity.<sup>138</sup> JS5 expressed concern that the Tamil-speaking minorities did not have fair and equal access to state services.<sup>139</sup> Similarly, JS9 noted that lack of Tamil speaking staff in government institutions caused many difficulties to that minority and was a violation of their language rights.<sup>140</sup>

83. JS16 expressed concern that in the majority Tamil-speaking North and East, many police stations were unable to receive complaints in Tamil as the personnel are entirely Sinhala-speakers.<sup>141</sup> JS16 also noted that law enforcement officials were often reluctant to take effective action against persons who infringe on the liberties of minority religious groups, as a result of undue influence and pressure exerted by local Buddhist monks, government officials and politicians.<sup>142</sup>

84. JS5 noted that Sri Lanka had no special legislation or mechanism to protect the right of the “Veddhas”. Conservation regulations have deprived them of hunting grounds criminalized their livelihood.<sup>143</sup>

85. JS6 noted that the Malayaha Tamilar community was one of the most discriminated communities in Sri Lanka, but their issues had not been highlighted and received due attention in either national or in international human rights discourses.<sup>144</sup>

*Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and internally displaced persons<sup>145</sup>*

86. HRW noted that more than one million Sri Lankans were employed overseas, mostly in the Middle East, and many remained at risk of abuse at every stage of the migration cycle from recruitment and transit to employment, repatriation, and reintegration.<sup>146</sup> In this connection, JS5 noted that Sri Lankan migrant workers in the Middle East, especially women domestic workers, were highly vulnerable to abuses and grave miscarriages of justice.<sup>147</sup>

87. JS10 noted that many returnees no longer possessed essential legal documents such as birth, marriage, and death certificates, National Identity Cards, and land documents, having lost them through displacement under emergency circumstances.<sup>148</sup>

88. JS10 noted that returnees who have been refused asylum in other countries or return on the basis of bilateral agreements faced increased security surveillance, harassment, and detention.<sup>149</sup>

89. JUBILEE noted that housing for refugees remained a large concern in Sri Lanka.<sup>150</sup> In this regard, JS9 noted that there were no national procedures for refugee status determination. The Government instead engaged in *de facto* deporting of many asylum seekers at the port of entry without affording them an opportunity to present their case.<sup>151</sup>

90. JS10 noted that the treatment and services available to asylum seekers and refugees at public hospitals and clinics is often lacking in terms of care and compassion.<sup>152</sup>

91. JS9 stated that the last four years had seen significant changes in the numbers of internally displaced persons. Nonetheless, there continued to be serious obstacles, particularly relating to omissions and failings by the State, which thwart the achievement of durable solutions for those affected by displacement, currently living within the country and outside.<sup>153</sup>

92. JS9 noted that one of the main obstacles thwarting the return of internally displaced persons was the occupation of land by the military.<sup>154</sup> Similarly, PEARL expressed concern that the military occupation of Tamil lands was a source of ongoing trauma to the Tamil

population, who were forced to live among the same soldiers who attacked their families and communities through alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.<sup>155</sup>

93. Tamil Uzhagam stated that land -grabbing led to the fact that present and future generations of Tamils cannot meet their needs and livelihood requirements.<sup>156</sup> Tamil Uzhagam also expressed concern that the acts of land-grabbing, done against the will of the Tamil people and for “military purposes” were a government-sanctioned act to increase Sinhala presence in the Tamil homeland through resettlement schemes and other programmes, leading to demographic changes.<sup>157</sup>

94. TGTE noted that a large number of private lands were forcibly occupied by the Sri Lankan Security forces.<sup>158</sup> Association Bharathi CCFT recommended that the Government take immediate measures to demilitarize North and East and hand over lands occupied by the military for over 25 years to their rightful owners without any further delay.<sup>159</sup>

95. JS14 noted the Government’s failure to provide displaced villagers with homes to resettle, despite the fact that it has been almost 2 years in some instances since the land was released. JS14 also noted that many families were still living in temporary tin roof housing.<sup>160</sup>

96. JS15 noted that the wells in private lands belonging to the people in the North were controlled by the military, and that thousands of litres of water were drawn, on a daily basis, for the surrounding camps. As a result, people were facing water shortages.<sup>161</sup>

97. LE PONT expressed concern that a programme of systematic colonization of parts of Tamils homeland areas of North and East was continuing subtly. Peoples without land would become peoples lost among other peoples, and ultimately face extinction.<sup>162</sup>

98. STPI recommended that the Government ensure land rights for internally displaced persons by releasing all occupied areas to the public and resettle all internally displaced persons wherever possible on their traditional land. If land is absolutely necessary for public purposes, the Government need to legally acquire the land, inform the owners about the particular purpose and also compensate them accordingly.<sup>163</sup>

99. STPI stated that women and children were the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in the majority of internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, making members of female-headed households the most affected group of all.<sup>164</sup> STPI stated that inhabitants of IDP camps faced a number of economic, socio-cultural and political challenges in their everyday lives.<sup>165</sup>

## 5. Specific regions or territories<sup>166</sup>

100. Tournier La Page recommended that the Government provide Northern and Eastern people self-governance mechanisms, language rights, land rights and all other political, human and cultural rights.<sup>167</sup>

101. Tamil Uzhagam expressed concern that the heavy militarization of the North and East regions of Sri Lanka has not only impeded the Tamil people from recovering and returning to normalcy, but it also has been actively used as a tool by the Sri Lankan State to execute a far more sinister agenda of erasing the Tamil identity.<sup>168</sup>

102. JS1 claimed that many women in the North and East struggled with war-related physical challenges that impede their access to public spaces, transportation, employment, and services.<sup>169</sup>

103. JS15 noted that sexual crimes, murders, violent gang activities, sand and timber smuggling and trafficking and distributing narcotics had been increased in the North and East regions of Sri Lanka.<sup>170</sup>

## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21.
- <sup>2</sup> Please also refer to the Stakeholders' Summary on Sri Lanka from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/14/LKA/3).
- <sup>3</sup> The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org).

*Civil society**Individual submissions:*

ADF	Action Contre La Faim, Paris (France);
ADF International	ADF International, Geneva (Switzerland);
Association Bharathi CCFT	Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco Tamoule, Maurepas (France);
CSW	Christian Solidarity Worldwide, New Malden (United Kingdom);
CTC	Canadian Tamil Progress, Toronto (Canada);
CWVHR	Centre for War Victims and Human Rights, Callowhill, PA (United States of America);
EAJCW	the European Association of Jehovah's Christian Witness, Kraainem (Belgium);
FFT	Freedom from Torture, London (United Kingdom);
FLD	Front Line Defenders, Dublin (Ireland);
GIEACPC	Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, London (United Kingdom);
HRW	Human Rights Watch, New York City, NY (United States of America);
ICJ	International Commission of Jurists, Geneva (Switzerland);
ITJP	International Truth and Justice Project, Johannesburg (South Africa);
JUBILEE	JUBILEE, Fairfax, VA (United States of America);
Le Pont	Association LE PONT, Maurepas (France);
PEARL	People for Equality and Relief in Lanka, Washington, DC (United States of America);
SLB	Sri Lanka BRIEF news, views and analysis of human rights & democratic governance in Sri Lanka, Geneva (Switzerland);
STPI	Society for Threatened Peoples International, Ostermundigen (Switzerland);
TAG	Together Against Genocide, Middlesex (United Kingdom);
Tamil Uzhagam	Association Tamil Uzhagam, Maurepas (France);
TCHR	Tamil Centre for Human Rights, Garges les Gonesse (France);
TGTE	Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam, New York City, NY (United States of America);
Tourner La Page	Association Tourner La Page, Maurepas (France).

*Joint submissions:*

JS1	<b>Joint submission 1 submitted by:</b> Women's Action Network: Mannar Women's Development Federation, Mannar (Sri Lanka); Muslim Women Development Trust, Puttalam (Sri Lanka); Sangami, Mullaitheevu (Sri Lanka); Vallamai, Jaffna (Sri Lanka); Affected Women's Forum, Ampara (Sri Lanka); Third Eye, Batticaloa (Sri Lanka); Social Economical and Educational Developers, Vavunia (Sri Lanka); Mahashakthi, Killinochchi (Sri Lanka);
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- JS2 **Joint submission 2 submitted by:** Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere, Kuhawala (Sri Lanka); ECPAT International, Bangkok (Thailand);
- JS3 **Joint submission 3 submitted by:** EQUAL GROUND, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Kaleidoscope Australia, Clayton (Australia);
- JS4 **Joint submission 4 submitted by:** EQUAL GROUND, Colombo (Sri Lanka); the Center for International Human Rights of Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Chicago, IL (United States of America); Global Initiatives for Human Rights of Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights, Chicago, IL (United States of America);
- JS5 **Joint submission 5 submitted by:** NAFSO, Negombo (Sri Lanka); MONLAR, Rajagiriya (Sri Lanka); Law and Society Trust, Colombo (Sri Lanka); INFORM, Colombo (Sri Lanka); CHRD, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Batticaloa, Mannar (Sri Lanka); Justice for All, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Savistree, Bathharamulla (Sri Lanka); Sri Vimukhti Fisher Women Organization, Negombo (Sri Lanka); DIFSO Akkaraipaththu, Ampara (Sri Lanka); RDS, Poththuvil (Sri Lanka); Valarpirai Citizen Forum, Addalaichenai (Sri Lanka); Kilakku Sooriyan Women District Committee, Addalaichenai (Sri Lanka); Lucky Sports Club, Addalaichenai (Sri Lanka); NSLA, Akkaraipaththu (Sri Lanka); Vali North Resettlement Organization, Jaffna (Sri Lanka); RLO, Jaffna (Sri Lanka); DIFSO, Jaffna (Sri Lanka); NPFPU, Mannar and Jaffna (Sri Lanka); JDFCSU, Jaffna (Sri Lanka); Poonthalir Women District Committee, Jaffna (Sri Lanka); Vali North Citizen Forum, Jaffna (Sri Lanka); Vali East Citizen Forum, Jaffna (Sri Lanka); SFO, Galle and Matara (Sri Lanka); **Environmental Conservation Trust;** HRO, Poddala (Sri Lanka); Inter Religious Group, Galle (Sri Lanka); HPDP, Galle (Sri Lanka); Ginimella Fisheries Organization, Galle (Sri Lanka); SDF Rathgama, Galle (Sri Lanka); Citizen Forum Hikkaduwa, Galle (Sri Lanka); Uva Shakthi, Badulla (Sri Lanka); CWA, Passara (Sri Lanka); CCDF, Badulla (Sri Lanka); Citizen Council, Passara (Sri Lanka); UVA Redio, Badulla (Sri Lanka); UWF, Badulla (Sri Lanka); PCDF, Passara (Sri Lanka); EST, Madulsima (Sri Lanka); CDC, Betticaloa (Sri Lanka); CAMID, Betticaloa (Sri Lanka); Marumalarchchi Women District Organization, Betticaloa (Sri Lanka); SLNF, Betticaloa (Sri Lanka); Stand Up Movement, Negombo (Sri Lanka); NGO Consortium, Betticaloa (Sri Lanka); DIFESO, Betticaloa (Sri Lanka); Citizen Forum, Trincomalee (Sri Lanka); DIFSO, Trincomalee (Sri Lanka); WNW, Trincomalee (Sri Lanka); RDS, Sampoor (Sri Lanka); TDC, Trincomalee (Sri Lanka); Udayam District Women Organization, Udayam (Sri Lanka); Society for Resettlement, Trincomalee (Sri Lanka); DFCFU, Trincomalee (Sri Lanka); DIFSO, Mannar (Sri Lanka); MSED0, Mannar (Sri Lanka); Citizen Forum, Mannar (Sri Lanka); MCC, Mannar (Sri Lanka); Nesakaram Citizen Forum, Mannar (Sri Lanka); Valarpirai District Women Organization, Mannar (Sri Lanka); UWS, Matara (Sri Lanka); Jayantha Gamage Foundation, Matara (Sri Lanka); FFD, Matara (Sri Lanka); Pratheeba Media Collective, Matara (Sri Lanka); CCS, Matara (Sri Lanka); Savistree, Matara (Sri Lanka); YSDF, Hatton (Sri Lanka); MOD, Hatton (Sri Lanka); DIRC, Hatton (Sri Lanka);

- SIDPS, Hatton (Sri Lanka); ZOA, Mannar (Sri Lanka); **Suneru Foundation** (Sri Lanka); **Council of Returned Refugees** (Sri Lanka); Praja Abilasa Network, Negombo (Sri Lanka); PAAL, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Women Development Federation, Weligepola (Sri Lanka); Sramabimani Kendraya, Seeduwa (Sri Lanka); FIOH, Badulla (Sri Lanka); Lanka Farmers Forum, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Progressive Peasant Congress, Higurakgoda (Sri Lanka); CSDF, Dematagoda (Sri Lanka); PPPO, Paanama (Sri Lanka); Rural Workers Organization, Jaffna (Sri Lanka); Dabindu Organization, Katunayake (Sri Lanka); Center for Society and Religion, Maradana (Sri Lanka); Tissa Jaya Welfare Children Foundation, Weligama (Sri Lanka); Women and Media Collective, Colombo (Sri Lanka);
- JS6 **Joint submission 6 submitted by:** the Sri Lanka Malayaha Tamilar Rights Coalition, Colombo (Sri Lanka);
- JS7 **Joint submission 7 submitted by:** Ceylon Association For The Mentally Retarded; Kalutara District Organisation of The Disabled; Matugama Social Service Society Mayura Rehabilitation Centre; National Forum of Visually Handicapped Women; Organisation For Rehabilitation of The Handicapped Vavuniya District (ORHAN); Parents Teachers Organisation of The Intellectual Disability In Sri Lanka; Saviya Development Foundation; Special Education Development Service Society; Special Educational Services Society Blind And Deaf School; Sri Lanka Association of Parents of Deaf Children; Sri Lanka Central Federation of The Deaf; Sri Lanka Council For The Blind; Sri Lanka Federation of The Visually Handicapped; Sri Lanka Foundation For The Rehabilitation of The Disabled; Sri Lanka National Federation of The Visually Handicapped; Sri Lanka Spinal Injuries Association; Narada Sawana (Hear) Foundation; “Our Kids” Organization For Slow Growing Minded Children; National Institute For The Care Of Paraplegics Sri Lanka; Sri Lanka Council of Visually Handicapped Graduates; Exceptional Children’s Educational Development Foundation; Navajeevana; Southern Province Deaf Association; Puthiya Pathai Disabled People’s Organization; Valvaham Special Need People’s Organization; Association For Persons With Rheumatic Diseases;
- JS8 **Joint submission 8 submitted by:** the Advocates for Human Rights, Minneapolis, MN (United States of America); the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Montreuil (France);
- JS9 **Joint submission 9 submitted by:** Centre for Peace Studies, Zagreb (Croatia); Centre for Policy Alternatives, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Community Education Centre, Wellington (New Zealand); **Deshodaya (Sri Lanka)**; Disability Organizations Joint Front, Ratmalana (Sri Lanka); Diversity and Solidarity Trust, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Eastern United Women Organisation, Colombo (Sri Lanka); EQUAL GROUND, Colombo (Sri Lanka); 7Families of Disappearances, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Family Rehabilitation Centre, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Federation of Eastern Muslim Civil Organization, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Free Media Movement, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Human Development Organisation, Colombo (Sri Lanka);

- Lanka); Human Rights First Aid Centre, Gampaha (Sri Lanka); Human Rights First Aid Centre, Hambantota (Sri Lanka); Human Rights First Aid Centre, Matara (Sri Lanka); International Center for Ethnic Studies, Janawabodaya (Sri Lanka); Mannar Women's Development Federation, Mannar (Sri Lanka); Mother and Daughters of Lanka, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Muslim Women's Development Trust, Puttalam (Sri Lanka); National Christian Council of Sri Lanka, Colombo (Sri Lanka); National Christian Evangelical Alliance, Colombo (Sri Lanka); National Peace Council, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Organization for Elankai Refugee Rehabilitation, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Rights Now Collective for Democracy, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Rights to Life Human Rights Center, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Rule of Law Forum, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Rural Development Foundation, Colombo (Colombo); Rural Women's Front, Samadanam (Sri Lanka); Sarvodaya, Moratuwa (Sri Lanka); Social Development Service Foundation, Colombo (Sri Lanka); South Asian Centre for Legal Studies, Colombo (Sri Lanka); United Religious Initiative, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Uva Wellassa Women Organisation, Buttala (Sri Lanka); **Videeye Wirodaya**; War Child Holland, Amsterdam (Netherlands); Women's Action Network, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Women's Centre, Ja-Ela (Sri Lanka); Women's Political Academy, Colombo (Sri Lanka); **Young Out Here**;
- JS10 **Joint submission 10 submitted by:** Refugee Advocates Group;
- JS11 **Joint submission 11 submitted by:** World Evangelical Alliance, New York City, NY (United States of America); Asia Evangelical Alliance, Dehiwala (Sri Lanka);
- JS12 **Joint submission 12 submitted by:** Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Centre for Policy Alternatives, Colombo (Sri Lanka); the Grassrooted Trust, Mount Lavinia (Sri Lanka); EQUAL GROUND, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Women and Media Collective, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Shanthi Maargam, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Hashtag Generation, Colombo (Sri Lanka);
- JS13 **Joint submission 13 submitted by:** World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Geneva (Switzerland); INFORM: Human Rights Documentation Centre, Colombo (Sri Lanka);
- JS14 **Joint submission 14 submitted by:** Adayaalam Centre for Policy Research, Jaffna (Sri Lanka); Centre for Human Rights and Development, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Centre for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Trincomalee (Sri Lanka); Jaffna Press Club, Jaffna (Sri Lanka); Maatram Foundation, Vavuniya (Sri Lanka); Mannar Citizens' Committee, Mannar (Sri Lanka); Tamil Civil Society Forum, Jaffna (Sri Lanka); Tamil Lawyers' Forum, Vavuniya (Sri Lanka);
- JS15 **Joint submission 15 submitted by:** North East Coordinating Committee: Alternative Generation for Social Justice and Rights, Jaffna (Sri Lanka); Ampara District Women's Network, Ampara (Sri Lanka); Center for Human Rights and Development, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Centre for Humanitarian and Integrated Development, Colombo (Sri Lanka); Center for

- People's Dignity and Rights, Kilinochchi (Sri Lanka); Center for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Trincomalee (Sri Lanka); Trincomalee District Youth Development AHAM, Trincomalee (Sri Lanka); Trincomalee District Women's Network, Trincomalee (Sri Lanka); Law and Human Rights Education Institute, Jaffna (Sri Lanka); Center for Peace and Justice, Jaffna (Sri Lanka); Forum for War Affected People, Mannar (Sri Lanka); Mannar Social And Economic Development Organisation, Mannar (Sri Lanka); Batticaloa District Women's Network, Batticaloa (Sri Lanka);
- JS16 **Joint submission 16 submitted by: Religious and Priests for Human Rights** (Sri Lanka); Alliance for Justice, Washington, DC (United States of America); Human Rights Office Kandy, Kandy (Sri Lanka); National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka, Dehiwela (Sri Lanka); Franciscans International, Geneva (Switzerland); Dominicans for Justice and Peace, Geneva (Switzerland); Congregation of Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, St. Louis, MO (United States of America); the World Evangelical Alliance, New York City, NY (United States of America); Marist International Solidarity Foundation, Rome (Italy);
- JS17 **Joint submission 17 submitted by: The People's Movement against the Port City** (Sri Lanka); Dominicans for Justice and Peace, Geneva (Switzerland); Franciscans International, Geneva (Switzerland);
- JS18 **Joint submission 18 submitted by: Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco Tamoule, Maurepas (France); Association des Etudiants Tamoule de France, Paris (France); Association Tourner La Page, Maurepas (France); Association LE PONT, Maurepas (France); Association Tamil Uzhagam, Maurepas (France); Society for Development and Community Empowerment; Association Burkinabe pour la Survie de l'Enfance, Ougadougou (Burkina Faso); Solidarite Internationale pour l'Afrique, Bamako (Mali); Society for Development and Community Empowerment; Association Mauritanienne Pour la Promotion du Droit, Nouakchott (Mauritania); Association Pour les Victimes du Monde, Yaounde (Cameroon); Kenya Community Development Group, Nairobi (Kenya); Association Congolaise pour le Developpement Agricole, Brazzaville (Congo); Association Le Collectif La Paix au Sri Lanka, Maurepas (France); Association ABC TAMIL OLI, Seine-Sain-Denis (France); L'Association Culturelle des Tamouls en France, Paris (France); Association pour le Droit de l'Homme et le Developpement Durable; Association Internationale Des Droits de l'Homme de Bourgogne, Dijon (France); Association Jeunesse Etudiante Tamoule, Aulnay-sous-Bois (France); Swiss Council Eelam Tamils, Geneva (Switzerland); L'Association Mondiale des Droits de l'Homme, Geneva (Switzerland); Association International des Droits de l'Homme, Paris (France);**
- JS19 **Joint submission 19 submitted by: Association des Etudiants Tamoule de France, Paris (France); Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco Tamoule, Maurepas (France); Association Tourner La Page, Maurepas (France); Association LE PONT, Maurepas (France); Association Tamil Uzhagam,**



- Maurepas (France); **Society for Development and Community Empowerment**; Association Burkinabe pour la Survie de l'Enfance, Ougadougou (Burkino Faso); Solidarite Internationale pour l'Afrique, Bamako (Mali); **Society for Development and Community Empowerment**; Association Mauritanienne Pour la Promotion du Droit, Nouakchott (Mauritania); Association Pour les Victimes du Monde, Yaounde (Cameroon); Kenya Community Development Group, Nairobi (Kenya); Association Congolaise pour le Developpement Agricole, Brazzaville (Congo); Association Le Collectif La Paix au Sri Lanka, Maurepas (France); Association ABC TAMIL OLI, Seine-Sain-Denis (France); L'Association Culturelle des Tamouls en France, Paris (France); **Association pour le Droit de l'Homme et le Developpement Durable**; Association Internationale Des Droits de l'Homme de Bourgogne, Dijon (France); Association Jeunesse Etudiante Tamoule, Aulnay-sous-Bois (France); Swiss Council Eelam Tamils, Geneva (Switzerland); L'Association Mondiale des Droits de l'Homme, Geneva (Switzerland); Association International des Droits de l'Homme, Paris (France);
- JS20 **Joint submission 20 submitted by:** Association Tourner La Page, Maurepas (France); Association des Etudiants Tamoule de France, Paris (France); Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco Tamoule, Maurepas (France); Association LE PONT, Maurepas (France); Association Tamil Uzhagam, Maurepas (France); **Society for Development and Community Empowerment**; Association Burkinabe pour la Survie de l'Enfance, Ougadougou (Burkino Faso); Solidarite Internationale pour l'Afrique, Bamako (Mali); **Society for Development and Community Empowerment**; Association Mauritanienne Pour la Promotion du Droit, Nouakchott (Mauritania); Association Pour les Victimes du Monde, Yaounde (Cameroon); Kenya Community Development Group, Nairobi (Kenya); Association Congolaise pour le Developpement Agricole, Brazzaville (Congo); Association Le Collectif La Paix au Sri Lanka, Maurepas (France); Association ABC TAMIL OLI, Seine-Sain-Denis (France); L'Association Culturelle des Tamouls en France, Paris (France); **Association pour le Droit de l'Homme et le Developpement Durable**; Association Internationale Des Droits de l'Homme de Bourgogne, Dijon (France); Association Jeunesse Etudiante Tamoule, Aulnay-sous-Bois (France); Swiss Council Eelam Tamils, Geneva (Switzerland); L'Association Mondiale des Droits de l'Homme, Geneva (Switzerland); Association International des Droits de l'Homme, Paris (France);
- JS21 **Joint submission 21 submitted by:** Association Tamil Uzhagam, Maurepas (France); Association Tourner La Page, Maurepas (France); Association des Etudiants Tamoule de France, Paris (France); Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco Tamoule, Maurepas (France); Association LE PONT, Maurepas (France); **Society for Development and Community Empowerment**; Association Burkinabe pour la Survie de l'Enfance, Ougadougou (Burkino Faso); Solidarite Internationale pour l'Afrique, Bamako (Mali); **Society for**

JS22

**Development and Community Empowerment;** Association Mauritanienne Pour la Promotion du Droit, Nouakchott (Mauritania); Association Pour les Victimes du Monde, Yaounde (Cameroon); Kenya Community Development Group, Nairobi (Kenya); Association Congolaise pour le Developpement Agricole, Brazzaville (Congo); Association Le Collectif La Paix au Sri Lanka, Maurepas (France); Association ABC TAMIL OLI, Seine-Sain-Denis (France); L'Association Culturelle des Tamouls en France, Paris (France); **Association pour le Droit de l'Homme et le Developpement Durable;** Association Internationale Des Droits de l'Homme de Bourgogne, Dijon (France); Association Jeunesse Etudiante Tamoule, Aulnay-sous-Bois (France); Swiss Council Eelam Tamils, Geneva (Switzerland); L'Association Mondiale des Droits de l'Homme, Geneva (Switzerland); Association International des Droits de l'Homme, Paris (France);

**Joint submission 22 submitted by:** Association LE PONT, Maurepas (France); Association Tamil Uzhagam, Maurepas (France); Association Tourner La Page, Maurepas (France); Association des Etudiants Tamoule de France, Paris (France); Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco Tamoule, Maurepas (France); **Society for Development and Community Empowerment;** Association Burkinabe pour la Survie de l'Enfance, Ougadougou (Burkina Faso); Solidarite Internationale pour l'Afrique, Bamako (Mali); **Society for Development and Community Empowerment;** Association Mauritanienne Pour la Promotion du Droit, Nouakchott (Mauritania); Association Pour les Victimes du Monde, Yaounde (Cameroon); Kenya Community Development Group, Nairobi (Kenya); Association Congolaise pour le Developpement Agricole, Brazzaville (Congo); Association Le Collectif La Paix au Sri Lanka, Maurepas (France); Association ABC TAMIL OLI, Seine-Sain-Denis (France); L'Association Culturelle des Tamouls en France, Paris (France); **Association pour le Droit de l'Homme et le Developpement Durable;** Association Internationale Des Droits de l'Homme de Bourgogne, Dijon (France); Association Jeunesse Etudiante Tamoule, Aulnay-sous-Bois (France); Swiss Council Eelam Tamils, Geneva (Switzerland); L'Association Mondiale des Droits de l'Homme, Geneva (Switzerland); Association International des Droits de l'Homme, Paris (France).

*National human rights institution(s):*

HRC-SL

Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, Colombo (Sri Lanka).

<sup>4</sup> For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/16, paras. 127.1; 127.2; 127.3; 127.4; 127.43; 127.44; 127.47; 127.51; 127.60; 128.1; 128.2; 128.3; 128.4; 128.5; 128.6; 128.7; 128.8; 128.9; 128.10; 128.11; 128.12; 128.13; 128.14; 128.15; 128.16; 128.17; 128.18; 128.3; 128.43; 128.44; 128.45; 128.46; 128.47; 128.48; 128.49; 128.50; 128.51; 128.52; 128.71; and 128.82.

<sup>5</sup> JS19, p.10. See also JS20, p. 6, para. v., w., and x; and JS21, p.5, para. dd., see, and ff.

<sup>6</sup> For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/16, paras. 127.5; 127.6; 127.7; 127.8; 127.9; 127.10; 127.11; 127.12; 127.13; 127.14; 127.15; 127.16; 127.17; 127.18; 127.19; 127.20; 127.21; 127.22; 127.23; 127.24; 127.25; 127.26; 127.27; 127.28; 127.29; 127.31; 127.30; 127.32; 127.33; 127.34; 127.35; 127.36; 127.37; 127.38; 127.39; 127.40; 127.41; 127.42; 127.45; 127.46; 127.53; 127.54; 127.80; 127.81; 127.83; 127.84; 127.86; 127.87; 127.91; 128.26; 128.32; 128.35; 128.41; 128.56;

- 128.58; and 128.83.
- <sup>7</sup> JS9, para. 3.
- <sup>8</sup> JS20, p. 6, para. K.
- <sup>9</sup> For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/16, paras. 127.55; 127.56; 127.67; and 128.53.
- <sup>10</sup> JS9, para. 21.
- <sup>11</sup> JS12, para. 1.
- <sup>12</sup> JS12, para. 7. See also JS3, para. 5.6. and JS9, para. 25.
- <sup>13</sup> JS3, para. 5.21. See also JS5, paras. 5.1. and 5.3.
- <sup>14</sup> HRW, p. 3.
- <sup>15</sup> For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/16, paras. 127.100; 127.101; 127.102; 127.105; 127.106; 127.107; 127.108; and 127.109.
- <sup>16</sup> JS17, para. 20.
- <sup>17</sup> For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/16, para. 127.110.
- <sup>18</sup> JS15, Chapter 3, p. 3.
- <sup>19</sup> JS15, Chapter 4, p. 4.
- <sup>20</sup> CTC, para. 30.
- <sup>21</sup> ICJ, para. 22. See also WAN, para. 22.
- <sup>22</sup> For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/16, paras. 127.74; 128.19; 128.20; 128.21; 128.22; 128.23; 128.59; 128.60; 128.61; 128.62; 128.63; 128.64; 128.65; 128.66; 128.67; 128.68; 128.69; 128.73; 128.76; and 128.94.
- <sup>23</sup> HRC-SL, Chapter 2 (c), para. 12.
- <sup>24</sup> JS8, para. 15.
- <sup>25</sup> JS9, para. 11.
- <sup>26</sup> HRW, p. 2.
- <sup>27</sup> FfT, para. 5. See also ICJ, para. 16., and JS5, para. 2.6.
- <sup>28</sup> STPI, para. 1.
- <sup>29</sup> HRC-SL, Chapter 1 (b), para. 1.
- <sup>30</sup> HRC-SL, Chapter 2 (c), para. 14.
- <sup>31</sup> TCHR, p. 3.
- <sup>32</sup> CWVHR, p. 5.
- <sup>33</sup> JS9, para. 13.
- <sup>34</sup> JS16, para. 38.
- <sup>35</sup> JS5, para. 2.10.
- <sup>36</sup> TCHR, p. 2.
- <sup>37</sup> JS5, para. 2.11.
- <sup>38</sup> CTC, para. 10.
- <sup>39</sup> HRC-SL, Chapter 2 (h), para. 32.
- <sup>40</sup> For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/16, paras. 127.48; 127.52; 127.59; 127.75; 127.76; 127.78; 127.77; 127.79; 127.85; 127.103; 128.25; 128.29; 128.30; 128.31; 128.33; 128.34; 128.36; 128.37; 128.38; 128.40; 128.42; 128.54; 128.57; 128.70; 128.72; 128.74; 128.77; 128.78; 128.79; 128.80; 128.81; 128.82; 128.84; 128.85; 128.86; 128.88; 128.89; and 128.90.
- <sup>41</sup> TAG, para. 7.
- <sup>42</sup> JS9, para. 5.
- <sup>43</sup> TAG, para. 10.
- <sup>44</sup> CWVHR, p. 7. See also JS15, p. 10.
- <sup>45</sup> JS19, p. 6.
- <sup>46</sup> JS13, para. 4.5.
- <sup>47</sup> JS9, para. 19.
- <sup>48</sup> FLD, para. 2 (b). See also TCHR, p. 3.
- <sup>49</sup> SLB, para. 8.
- <sup>50</sup> ACF, para. 3.
- <sup>51</sup> ACF, para. 18.
- <sup>52</sup> JS9, para. 32.
- <sup>53</sup> CWVHR, p. 2. See also TCHR, p. 3, JS9, para. 10.
- <sup>54</sup> JS9, para. 10.
- <sup>55</sup> Tourner La Page, p. 3.

- <sup>56</sup> Tourner La Page, p. 3.  
<sup>57</sup> ICJ, para. 9.  
<sup>58</sup> JS9, paras. 33-34.  
<sup>59</sup> TGTE, p. 2, Chapter 1.  
<sup>60</sup> TAG, para. 12.  
<sup>61</sup> JUBILEE, p.5. See also TGTE, p.4.  
<sup>62</sup> JS16, para. 13.  
<sup>63</sup> ITJP, p. 6, para 1.  
<sup>64</sup> JS18, p.8.  
<sup>65</sup> JS19, p. 9, rec.#3.  
<sup>66</sup> For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/16, paras. 127.57; 128.27; 128.85; 128.87; and 128.91.  
<sup>67</sup> ADF International, para. 2.  
<sup>68</sup> ADF International, para. 13.  
<sup>69</sup> STPI, para. 1.  
<sup>70</sup> JS11, p. 1.  
<sup>71</sup> JS9, para. 20.  
<sup>72</sup> JS5, para. 2.14. See also JS15, p.10.  
<sup>73</sup> TCHR, p. 1.  
<sup>74</sup> EAJCW, p. 1, Executive summary.  
<sup>75</sup> CSW, para. 6.  
<sup>76</sup> JS9, para. 19.  
<sup>77</sup> JS14, para. 42.  
<sup>78</sup> JS9, para. 16.  
<sup>79</sup> JS13, para. 5.1.  
<sup>80</sup> FLD, para. 2 (a).  
<sup>81</sup> FLD, para. 2 (c).  
<sup>82</sup> JS13, para. 2.5.  
<sup>83</sup> For relevant recommendations: N/A.  
<sup>84</sup> JS12, paras. 33 and 35.  
<sup>85</sup> For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/16, para.128.24.  
<sup>86</sup> JS3, para. 5.1. See also JS4, para. 3.  
<sup>87</sup> For relevant recommendations: N/A.  
<sup>88</sup> JS5, para. 5.9.  
<sup>89</sup> JS6, para. 12.  
<sup>90</sup> JS12, para. 29.  
<sup>91</sup> JS10, para. 17.  
<sup>92</sup> JS17, para. 29.  
<sup>93</sup> JS17, para. 27.  
<sup>94</sup> For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/16, paras. 127.58; 127.88; and 127.104.  
<sup>95</sup> JS5, para. 5.7.  
<sup>96</sup> JS6, para. 9.  
<sup>97</sup> JS9, para. 42.  
<sup>98</sup> Bharathi CCFT, p. 5.  
<sup>99</sup> For relevant recommendations: N/A.  
<sup>100</sup> JS5, para. 5.3.  
<sup>101</sup> Bharathi CCFT, p. 6.  
<sup>102</sup> JS12, para. 20.  
<sup>103</sup> JS12, para. 22.  
<sup>104</sup> For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/16, para. 127.89.  
<sup>105</sup> Tourner La Page, p. 5, para. M.  
<sup>106</sup> JS11, para. 30.  
<sup>107</sup> JS6, para. 16.  
<sup>108</sup> JS7, Chapter 3, 3.2, 3.1.1, p. 8.  
<sup>109</sup> For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/16, paras. 127.61; 127.62; 127.63; 127.64; 127.65; 127.66; 127.68; 127.69; 128.28; and 128.55.  
<sup>110</sup> JS16, para. 6.

- 111 JS7, Chapter 4, 4.2, p. 12.  
112 JS22, p. 1.  
113 JS22, p. 3.  
114 JS5, para. 4.5.  
115 TCHR, p. 3.  
116 JS15, p.6. See also CWVHR, p. 6.  
117 JS5, para. 4.3.  
118 JS1, para. 3.  
119 JS1, para. 5.  
120 PEARL, para. 51.  
121 Bharathi CCFT, p. 6.  
122 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/16, paras. 127.49; 127.50; 127.70; 127.71; 127.72; and 127.73.  
123 JS2, para. 15.  
124 JS1, para. 31.  
125 GIEACPC, p. 1.  
126 JS9, para. 29.  
127 JS16, para. 14.  
128 JS2, para. 17.  
129 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/16, para.127.90.  
130 JS9, para. 27.  
131 JS7, p. 3.  
132 JS7, Chapter 2, 2.2, p. 5.  
133 JS7, Chapter 3, 3.4, 3.4.1, p. 9.  
134 JS5, Charter 5, para. 5.5.  
135 JS7, Chapter 3, 3.1., 3.1.1, p. 7.  
136 For relevant recommendations: N/A.  
137 LE PONT, p. 3.  
138 JS20, p. 2.  
139 JS5, para. 5.16.  
140 JS9, para. 44.  
141 JS16, para. 18.  
142 JS16, para. 32.  
143 JS5, Charter 5, para 5.8.  
144 JS6, p. 1.  
145 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/16, paras. 127.92; 127.93; 127.94; 127.95; 127.96; 127.97; 127.98; 127.99; and 128.93.  
146 HRW, p. 3.  
147 JS5, Charter 6, para. 6.2.  
148 JS10, para. 6.  
149 JS10, para. 19.  
150 JUBILEE, page 2.  
151 JS9, para. 40.  
152 JS10, para. 30.  
153 JS9, para. 37.  
154 JS9, para. 38.  
155 PEARL, para. 1.  
156 Tamil Uzhagam, p. 1.  
157 Tamil Uzhagam, p. 3.  
158 TGTE, page 5, Chapter 7.  
159 Bharathi CCFT, p. 5.  
160 JS14, para. 17.  
161 JS15, Chapter 10, p. 8.  
162 LE PONT, p. 4.  
163 STPI, para. 27.  
164 STPI, para. 10.

<sup>165</sup> STPI, para. 9.

<sup>166</sup> For relevant recommendations: N/A.

<sup>167</sup> Tourner La Page, p. 5, para. u.

<sup>168</sup> Tamil Uzhagam, p. 1.

<sup>169</sup> JS1, para. 33.

<sup>170</sup> JS15, Chapter 7, p. 6.

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