

Annexures

Annexure 1: Post-Election Incidents Reported in Media

12 February 2015 Open Letter to the Sri Lanka President from the clergy regarding a visit to Batticaloa:

“We were also extremely disturbed to learn from one of our hosts that we visited that they had already been questioned by military intelligence officials about our visit. We were told that this type of surveillance, intimidation and harassment is commonplace, even since the election of the new government. This is having a very negative impact on the confidence of civil society groups to engage in the issues that affect them.”

18 February 2015 Rasan Dayanandan abducted in the Jaffna Peninsula¹.

20 February 2015 Letter from the Centre for Justice and Accountability says, “CJA received a report that participants in two workshops in northern Sri Lanka — a healing program for families of missing and disappeared and another workshop on violence against women — were followed and harassed by intelligence officers”.

21 Feb 2015 At least 7 people from Northern Sri Lanka arrested at Colombo Airport after returning from abroad².

23 Feb 2015 Vipoosika Uthayakumar’s dead body is found with her hands tied in a well in Jaffna³.

¹ Man abducted in Valvettithurai, Lankasri news, 18 February 2015.

² More arrests at Bandaranaike Airport, Tamil Guardian, 21 February 2015.

³ Dead body of Tamil teenage girl found with hands tied in Jaffna, Tamil Guardian 23 February 2015.

24 February 2015 Organiser of a protest says he was questioned by Jaffna Police Chief on eve of demonstration⁴.

26 February 2015 A young journalist from Batticaloa is found dead - Nallathambi Vijikaran⁵.

28 February 2015 Tweet by @JaffnaPressClub at 13:11 quotes International Media Mission saying continued surveillance on journalists in Jaffna must stop.

8 March 2015 Gang Rape of School Girl and allegations of a cover up which are addressed promptly by Women's Affairs Minister on her Facebook page⁶. The Minister later orders the body of the victim exhumed⁷.

10 March 2015 Mother of Disappeared boy and activist, Balenderan Jayakumari, is freed but it takes her weeks to get custody of her daughter because the authorities hold on to her identity card and won't release her daughter without it.

11 March 2015 Sri Lankan military threatens distributors of Tamil weekly, Ithu Nam Theasam. "You will be burnt to ashes together with these papers if you continued to distribute this paper," they were told⁸.

11 March 2015 Vishvalingam Vinothiny, ex LTTE, is abducted by a member of the civil defence force at PTK⁹.

13 March 2015 Police prohibit the screening of a film about Richard de Zoysa on the grounds that it rakes up the past¹⁰.

⁴ Thousands protest in Jaffna rejecting domestic probe, demanding release of UN report, Tamil Guardian, 24 February 2015.

⁵ Young Tamil found dead in Batticaloa, Tamil Guardian, 26 February 2015.

⁶ Gang rape of schoolgirl sparks shock waves in Wannai, Colombo Mirror, 8 March 2015.

⁷ Saranya's remains ordered to be exhumed for post-mortem, Colombo Mirror, 1 April 2015.

⁸ SL military operatives threaten distributors of Tamil weekly, Tamilnet, 11 March 2015.

⁹ Former LTTE fighter abducted by Civil Defence Force member, Tamil Guardian, 12 March 2015; Young Tamil teacher abducted in Puthukkudiyiruppu, Colombo Mirror, 11 March 2015.

¹⁰ Police prohibits film on Richard de Zoysa, Sri Lanka Mirror, 13 March 2015.

19 March 2015 Alleged assassination attempt by Sri Lankan military of former Sea Tiger and French national, Baheerathy Murukesu, who was arrested earlier in the month¹¹.

20 March 2015 Family of asylum seeker in UK reported to have faced harassment from authorities after he goes public prior to return¹².

23 March 2015 Tamils demonstrate to reject a domestic inquiry¹³. This is one of a series of such protests in the north and east.

29 March 2015 reports that 8 (or some reports say 5) Tamils are arrested for producing a film deemed defamatory of the military. The police said the documentary contained "scenes portraying the Sri Lanka Army as an immoral, inhumane and atrocious group."¹⁴

20 March 2015 A story in the New Indian Express says former LTTE cadres who search for their missing husbands are under surveillance and can't find employment¹⁵.

29 March 2015 Reports say the Sri Lankan army has extended its "welfare projects" in the North despite promises that the military would cease civilian activities¹⁶. Two days later one of the Generals alleged to have committed war crimes in 2009, Jegath Dias, opened a school for his victims¹⁷.

31 March 2015 Journalists for Democracy in Sri Lanka allege secret torture camps are still operating in the North of Sri Lanka in Keppapulavu and Mullaitivu, despite denials from the Prime Minister that any secret camps still exist¹⁸.

¹¹ Ex-LTTE woman returned from France escapes assassination attempt in Vanni, Tamilnet, 19 March 2015.

¹² "...reports from Sri Lanka say that members of Kannan's family have suffered harassment since the injunction", Asia Correspondent, 20 March 2015.

¹³ Tamils protest across North-East rejecting domestic probe into atrocities, call for international action, Tamil Guardian, 23 March 2015.

¹⁴ Eight arrested for producing defamatory film on SL Army, Daily Mirror, 29 March 2015.

¹⁵ Ex-Tigers Involved in Anti-Govt Activism Under Surveillance, New Indian Express, 30 March 2015.

¹⁶ Sri Lankan army extends 'welfare projects' in Jaffna, The Tamil Guardian, 29 March 2015.

¹⁷ Suspected war criminal Jagath Dias opens school in Vanni, The Tamil Guardian, 31 March 2015.

¹⁸ Proof of secret camps Prime Minister Wickremesinghe denies exist, JDS Website, 31 March 2015.

1 April 2015 Tamil Civil Society Forum writes to Mr Pablo de Grieff saying, "the current government has done very little or nothing to consult the victims in the design of its internal mechanism. The entirety of the process is being designed in secrecy."¹⁹

8 April 2015 Bishop of Jaffna, Rev. Thomas Savundranayagam, points out to the Australian High Commissioner that the new government should ensure the safety of the ex-LTTE cadres as they were intimidated frequently even after after the rehabilitation process²⁰.

8 April 2015 A Tamil journalist is detained while investigating the assault of a schoolgirl by Sri Lankan police officers²¹.

8 April 2015 Three journalists are harassed and threatened after reporting on an environmental protest. They were Thinakkural's T Vinojith, T Piratheeban from a Colombo-based radio station and freelance journalist Mayurapriyan²².

11 April, 2015 Observations by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, Mr. Pablo de Greiff, on his recent visit to Sri Lanka:

"In the past, Sri Lanka has established numerous commissions of inquiry for mass violations. Some of these commissions have produced useful reports, including wide-ranging recommendations. Others have produced reports that have never been made public. Failed, inadequate or uneven implementation of their recommendations has been a common feature."

15 April 2015 - *Colombo Mirror* story about people who went missing during and after the war but were seen alive elsewhere in the island²³.

03 May 2015 TamilNet reports that 16 Batticaloa Tamils are arrested at the airport when returning to Sri Lanka from abroad. Most were reportedly ex-LTTE

¹⁹ Govt. Lacks Credibility; We've No Reason To Believe In Sirisena's Promises: Tamil Civil Society Forum, Colombo Telegraph, 1 April 2015.

²⁰ Bishop urges to ensure safety of Ex-LTTE cadres, Ceylon Today, 8 April 2015.

²¹ Jaffna journalist detained after investigating assault by Sri Lankan police, The Tamil Guardian, 8 April 2015.

²² Tamil journalists threatened by police in Jaffna, The Tamil Guardian, 8 April 2015.

²³ Disappeared, living but still missing! Colombo Mirror, 15 April 2015.

members who had undergone SL military 'rehabilitation' and been released earlier²⁴.

04 May 2015 A Northern Provincial Council Member, T Ravikaran, is summoned by Sri Lankan police to be investigated regarding his actions on Maveerar Naal, when he commemorated Tamil war dead²⁵.

07 May 2015 Sri Lankan state intelligence operatives take photographs of people participating in a discussion on the 'Right to Remember' at Jaffna Library on Sunday. The event was organised by the Tamil Civil Society Forum²⁶.

09 May 2015 "The 2014 Impunity Index" report jointly released by the International Federation of Journalists and the South Asia Media Solidarity Network (SAMSN) says that journalists in Sri Lanka are among the most vulnerable in South Asia, because their assailants generally go free²⁷.

13 May 2015 Tens of thousands of Tamil war widows in the North-East are still struggling to make ends meet, almost six years since the end of the armed conflict on the island²⁸.

14 May 2015 An 18-year old Advanced Level school girl, who went missing is found murdered in an abandoned house in the islet of Punkudutivu in the Northern Jaffna peninsula²⁹.

16 May 2015 Mullaitivu Magistrate Court issues a stay order banning the holding of any LTTE remembrance events up to 14 days from 18 May within the Mullaitivu police area³⁰.

²⁴ 16 Batticaloa Tamils arrested within last 100 days at Colombo airport, 3 May 2015, TamilNet.

²⁵ NPC member summoned by Sri Lanka police for involvement in commemorating Tamil war dead - Tamil Guardian, 4 May 2015.

²⁶ Sri Lankan intelligence photographs participants at TCSF 'Right to Remember' event, Tamil Guardian, 7 May, 2015

²⁷ Journalists in Sri Lanka most vulnerable: Report, Ada Derana, 9 May 2015.

²⁸ Help at last for Sri Lanka war widows - IRIN Global, 13 May 2015.

²⁹ Missing A/L school girl found murdered in Punkudutivu, Jaffna, Colombo Mirror, 14 May 2015

³⁰ Court bans LTTE remembrance events in Mullaitivu. Ada Derana, 16 May 2015.

17 May 2015 Human Rights Watch says that Sri Lanka's promotion of Maj. Gen. Jagath Dias whose 57th Division was allegedly implicated in serious human rights abuses casts doubt on government pledges to credibly investigate war crimes.

18 May 2015 ITJP releases a list over hundred people seen surrendering to the military on 18 May 2009 who disappeared since then³¹.

18 May 2015 Several relatives of Tamils who died in the last phase of the war gather in Mullivaikkal for an interfaith memorial service despite heavy surveillance by police and intelligence officers, who are filming all participants³².

21 May 2015 Tamil Civil Society Forum (TCSF), in a statement says a post-war environment of heavy militarisation, lenience towards drugs and alcohol abuse, and damaged social networks are contributing factors to rape within society.

22 May 2015 Father Elil Rajendram, the country director of Jesuit Refugee Service for Sri Lanka and Co-spokesperson for Tamil Civil Society Forum, recalls the dangers around organising an event to commemorate the war dead³³.

28 May 2015 The Oakland Institute, a US think tank, in a report says there is a "silent war" waged through the military occupation of Tamil land, which continues to seek "Sinhalese domination in former Tamil homelands".

31 May 2015 The Sri Lankan Police are blamed for shocking post-war increase of child abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation, drug addiction and crime rates in the island's embattled northern Jaffna peninsula³⁴.

³¹ Report available at http://www.fhr.org.za/latest_news/sri-lanka-disappearances-custody-six-years-ago-today/

³² Heavy surveillance at interfaith memorial event in Mullivaikkal, Tamil Guardian, 18 May 2015.

³³ Tamils brave harassment, threats to mourn their dead - Colombo Mirror, 22 May 2015.

³⁴ Police blamed for rising sexual abuse, drug addiction, crimes in Jaffna, Colombo Mirror, 31 May 2015.

02 June 2015 The bereaved grandmother of a 16-year old school girl, who died days after being allegedly gang raped in the Vanni region in February, expresses fears of attempts being made to cover-up her granddaughter's death³⁵.

09 June 2015 Chief Minister, Justice C.V. Wigneswaran, reiterates his call for the removal of thousands of army personnel deployed in the North in order to restore democracy and normalcy in the former war-zone³⁶.

18 June 2015 The Sri Lankan Army says no army camp has been closed down in the Northern Province since January this year³⁷.

24 June 2015 The Sri Lankan government appoints two senior army commanders, allegedly involved in war crimes, as Ambassadors. The Foreign Ministry announced that former army commander Jagath Jayasuriya and former army chief Daya Ratnayake have been nominated as envoys to Brazil and Pakistan respectively³⁸.

25 June 2015 Abductions and the existence of secret torture camps run by the government security forces with the full knowledge of ministers and top leaders of the previous government during and after the war, are revealed during a judicial proceeding in Colombo³⁹.

25 June 2015 A Sri Lankan soldier who was found guilty for the killing of 8 civilians in Mirusuvil, Jaffna nearly 15 years ago is sentenced to death by the Colombo High Court⁴⁰.

6 July 2015 A former LTTE cadre is arrested in Tellippalai, Jaffna. He is accused of trying to reorganise the organisation. Mr. Sakthivel Rajkumaran (41) was in the LTTE and also was in the government's "rehabilitation programme"⁴¹.

³⁵ Cover-up feared in Wannu school girl Saranya's death, Colombo Mirror, 2 June 2015.

³⁶ A soldier for every 5 people in North, we want them out: Wigneswaran, Colombo Mirror, 9 June 2015.

³⁷ No camp closed down this year: Army, Ada Derana, 18 June 2015.

³⁸ Sri Lanka continues to appoint suspected war criminals as diplomats, Tamil Guardian 24 June 2015.

³⁹ Widespread abductions, secret torture camps in Sri Lanka exposed, Colombo Mirror, 25 June 2015.

⁴⁰ Army soldier sentenced to death over Mirusuvil massacre, Ada Derana, June 25, 2015.

⁴¹ A former LTTE member was arrested in Jaffna, Namathueelanadu, 9 July 2015, Accessed at <http://www.namathueelanadu.com/?p=4693>

Annexure 2: Timeline of Political Statements on Accountability

There have been a number of statements by Sri Lankan politicians now in power that appear prejudicial to the impartiality of any future domestic inquiry into war crimes. The country's political leaders speak of inquiries being set up to clear the name of the Sri Lankan military, they commend for their gallantry officers alleged to have overseen the commission of war crimes or they describe the final phase of the war as "a humanitarian operation" to save Tamil civilians - even though all the evidence points to the contrary.

In addition, there have been many statements by members of the new government that are openly antagonistic to the UN investigation into Sri Lanka (OISL) and to any international involvement in Sri Lanka's accountability process.

PRE-CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT: statements by Maithripala Sirisena and allies

29 March 2014 The Sri Lanka Freedom Party in a statement signed by its General Secretary and Health Minister, Maithripala Sirisena, said the party totally rejected the UN Human Rights Council resolution on Sri Lanka⁴². Sirisena called it "an imperialist resolution".

8 July 2014 Health Minister, Maithripala Sirisena, said Sri Lanka would not accept any report submitted by the UN team "probing the last days of the humanitarian operation". "The LTTE supporters are behind this. Their main objective is destroying Sri Lanka through racism," he added⁴³.

13 Sept 2014 The General Secretary of the SLFP announced the party is to examine the resolution passed by the Northern Provincial Council this week calling for UN investigators to be allowed access in order to collect evidence for the OHCHR Investigation into Sri Lanka (OISL). "All provincial councils including

⁴² SLFP vehemently condemns imperialist resolution – SLFP, 29 March 2014, The Daily News, Accessed on 31 March 2015 at: <http://dailynews.lk/?q=political/sfp-vehemently-condemns-imperialist-resolution-sfp>

⁴³ SL will reject any probe report – Maithripala, 8 July 2014, The Daily News.

the Northern Provincial Council have pledged to act within the Constitution of Sri Lanka," said the SLFP General Secretary, Maithripala Sirisena. "They cannot violate it," he added⁴⁴.

28 November 2014 Maithripala Sirisena said, "I will not allow President Rajapaksa, his family or any member of our armed forces to be taken before any international war crimes tribunal."⁴⁵

30 November 2014 General Secretary of the Jathika Hela Urumaya, Patali Champika Ranawaka said, "Whether it is the President, the Defence Secretary (Gotabaya Rajapaksa), the then Service Commanders – Sarath Fonseka and Karannagoda or the likes of Shavindra Silva and Presanna Silva, we will not allow any of these people to be tried before the International Criminal Court (ICC)⁴⁶."

3 December 2014 Common opposition candidate, Maithripala Sirisena, and the Jathika Hela Urumaya jointly declared that they would oppose any investigation into war crimes and mass atrocities on the island, after signing a Memorandum of Understanding⁴⁷. Sirisena also rejected any federal solution⁴⁸.

17 December 2014 A former cabinet minister, Rajitha Senarathne, who crossed over to join the common opposition platform led by Maithripala Sirisena, reiterated his rejection of an international inquiry into mass atrocities in an interview. Stating that the opposition would strengthen domestic mechanisms, Senarathne stressed that they would, "settle our matters in our country".

19 December 2014 Sirisena released his manifesto for presidential elections in Sinhala and English but not Tamil which clearly stated, "no international power will be allowed to ill-treat or touch a single citizen of this country on account of the campaign to defeat terrorism."⁴⁹

⁴⁴ SLFP to examine NPC resolution calling for OISL access, 13 September 2014, The Tamil Guardian quoting The Daily Mirror. Accessed on 31 March 2015 at <http://www.tamilguardian.com/article.asp?articleid=12213>

⁴⁵ Sri Lanka opposition candidate resists foreign war probe, AFP, 28 November 2014.

⁴⁶ JHU names alleged war criminals but rejects ICC probe, 30 November 2014, Colombo Mirror.

⁴⁷ Sirisena and JHU rally against war crimes probe, 3 December 2015, Tamil Guardian, Accessed on 31 March 2015 at <http://www.tamilguardian.com/article.asp?articleid=13038>

⁴⁸ Sri Lankan candidate rejects Tamil federalism plan, AP, 2 December 2014.

⁴⁹ Maithripala manifesto released: vows to prevent international justice mechanisms and protect SL sovereignty, 19 December 2014, The Tamil Guardian.

21 Dec 2014 “The UNP-led Opposition declared that a victory for Opposition presidential candidate Maithripala Sirisena at January 8, 2015 poll would help settle accountability issues/war crimes charges raised by the Geneva-based United Nations Human Rights Council ...The Opposition spokesman assured that it would protect defeated President Rajapaksa from being hauled up before an international war crimes tribunal.⁵⁰”

29 December 2014 The National Bhikku Front called upon soldiers to vote for the Common presidential candidate Maithripala Sirisena. It noted that Sirisena would “never conduct internal or international war crimes investigations against this nation.⁵¹”

2 January 2015 Maithripala Sirisena said, “I will personally guarantee the safety of every individual who was opposed to me from the family of Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa. The safety of every one of them will be my personal priority⁵².”

6 Jan 2015 Sri Lanka’s joint opposition candidate Maithripala Sirisena said he would not withdraw troops from the island’s Tamil-majority north, as national security would be of top priority to him as President⁵³ .

POST-8 JANUARY 2015 CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT

The elections on 8 January 2015 resulted in the Combined Opposition Parties coming to power. Among the coalition is the former army commander during the final phase of the war, Sarath Fonseka. He repeatedly emphasized that he was the one in ultimate command of the forces during the period when they are alleged to have killed tens of thousands of civilians, shelled hospitals, bombed food queues and summarily executed those who surrendered. He would not have done this if he feared any sort of accountability.

⁵⁰ ‘Only MS can settle Geneva crisis’, 21 December 2014, The Island.

⁵¹ National Bhikku Front called upon military personals to vote for Maithiri, 29 December 2014, Lankasri News.

⁵² Sri Lanka’s sovereignty will remain intact under me, 2 January 2015, The Daily Mirror.

⁵³ No Lanka poll pact to woo Tamils: Sirisena, 6 January 2015, The Hindu.

12 January 2015 Former Army Commander, Sarath Fonseka: "If there is a legitimate inquiry then I am ready to face it since I was doing the ground operations. Rajapaksa was trying to get political mileage by saying I will not allow war heroes to face inquiry and all that. He made many nonsensical statements like this. But he knew only little about the war and what happened in the war field⁵⁴."

4 Feb 2015 President Sirisena in this Independence Day speech said, "It is not proper to point fingers at each other,⁵⁵" implying both sides were equally culpable.

6 Feb 2015 Sri Lanka's Minister of Justice, Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, told Anadolu Agency that there was no possibility of "an international inquiry or to demand the former president to explain himself.⁵⁶" He also assured troops that army camps would not be dismantled and soldiers would not be withdrawn from the north of the island⁵⁷. [This is controversial because it has long been a demand of the Tamil population in the North and East of the island, who voted in large numbers to oust the Rajapaksa government.]

7 March 2015 Prime Minister, Ranil Wickramasinghe, said in a long interview:

"Yes, there was a war, people were killed but on all sides. Remember just as much as Tamils got killed. There were Muslims & Sinhalese were killed." [There is plenty of evidence to indicate far more Tamils were killed in the war than other ethnic groups.]

"I said no International inquiry. If the UN Human rights commission wants an inquiry, I'm willing to talk to them."

"... as far as we are concerned we are not pulling the security forces out of any place unless we see improvements."⁵⁸

12 March 2015 President Sirisena was asked about the No Fire Zone film of Channel 4, which details war crimes in the final phase of the civil war. He said,

⁵⁴ Won't let ISI use Lanka for anti-India operations: Sarath Fonseka, 12 January 2015, TTN.

⁵⁵ Sri Lankan Leader Calls for Unity Amid Ethnic Divide, 4 February 2015,

Associated Press in The Washington Post.

⁵⁶ No international war crimes probe for Sri Lanka, 6 February 2015, World Bulletin.

⁵⁷ Army camps in the north will remain – Sri Lankan defence minister, 6 February 2015, The Tamil Guardian.

⁵⁸ Ranil Wickramasinghe's interview to Thanthi TV, 7 March 2015, The Hindu.

"I think we have to reject those things. I don't believe such things. Because we have questions regarding how they obtained all this information to change the situation in our country and to mislead the international community about the situation. Therefore I cannot comment on the content of the film as I haven't seen this film yet and don't even know what it contains. So I will only be able to comment on this after watching it. Apart from that, when I consider what was there earlier, I totally reject such things⁵⁹". In the same BBC interview he categorically ruled out the possibility of UN investigators coming to Sri Lanka.

13 March 2015 Mahinda Rajapaksa in an interview was asked about the court cases against members of his family and replied:

ANSWER: "This is just harassment. They had to withdraw the case against my son. If there is any charge they can take me to court. The case against my brother involves a legal armoury that signed a contract with the Navy. Forget that he is my brother. He was the defence secretary with authority to do this. Is every decision going to be questioned like this?

QUESTION: You can dismiss these charges, but the most serious charge of war crimes remains. In the U.K., President Sirisena has agreed to start a war crimes investigation...

ANSWER: They can...who said not to. My instructions to former Army chief Sarath Fonseka were very clear, no matter what he says now, is that not a single civil casualty should be there.

QUESTION: Yet thousands of civilians died, thousands went missing, and no action was taken...

ANSWER: They've never proven that. We held several inquiries. We put the LLRC into place.⁶⁰

15 March 2015 Former president (now head of The Presidential Task Force on Reconciliation) Chandrika Kumaratunga said, "The whole country doesn't want (an international inquiry) because it is the feeling that it is insulting to the government that we cannot carry out our own investigation in a transparent manner"⁶¹.

⁵⁹ BBC interview, 12 March 2015, Translation done by JDS on Twitter, Accessed on 31 March at http://www.twitlonger.com/show/n_1sl688m

⁶⁰ Rajapaksa: RAW not government conspired against me, 13 March 2015, The Hindu.

⁶¹ Calls for international war crimes probe 'insulting', says former Sri Lanka president, 15 March 2015, IB Times.

18 March 2015 Foreign Minister, Mangala Samaraweera, said in parliament that, "Our objective, Sir, is to clear the name of our armed forces, which have received wide international recognition as professional and disciplined forces. This is obvious by their very acceptance to UN peacekeeping missions in different parts of the world. In fact, the new Government is being invited to participate even more actively in UN peacekeeping efforts around the world and this matter was discussed extensively when I met the US Ambassador to the United Nations last month."⁶²

22 March 2015 Former defence secretary, Gotabaya Rajapaksa when asked about reports of disappearances just flatly denied they had taken place despite plenty of evidence to the contrary:

"ANSWER: These are lies created for political advantages. No one disappeared during that time."⁶³

22 March 2015 General Fonseka is promoted to Field Marshall and the invitation card commends him for his gallantry during "the humanitarian operation"⁶⁴ – using a term which is offensive to Tamil victims.

23 March 2015 President Sirisena postpones the Disappearance Commission presenting its findings. "As the President is busy with enormous amount of duties, the Commission has decided to postpone its meeting with the President," news reports say.⁶⁵

23 March 2015 President Sirisena claims, "...the biggest problem faced by the people in the North was the availability of drinking water"⁶⁶, ignoring the issues of security, extortion, land grabbing, militarisation and Sinhalisation to name but a few.

⁶² Hansard, Volume 233 - No. 3, 18 March 2015.

⁶³ Gota denies any prior knowledge, Ceylon Today, 22 March 2015.

⁶⁴ Invitation accessed on 30 March 2015 at: <https://twitter.com/francesharris0n/status/581156397431304192/photo/1>; Ex-army chief Sarath Fonseka, jailed for treason, made field marshal in Sri Lanka, 23 March 2015, The Guardian.

⁶⁵ Sri Lanka's missing persons commission postpones handing in the interim report to President, 23 March 2015, Colombo Page.

⁶⁶ Task Force under CBK to solve minority issues, 23 March 2015, The Daily Mirror.

28 March 2015 Sarath Fonseka when asked about the 2009 war says, “I commanded the troops and they were much disciplined... We follow the rules like the Geneva Convention on human rights for example... But if there is an inquiry with evidence they can have an inquiry so then we can clear our names... Yes we maintain thousand percent discipline. The Whole mission was handled by me.⁶⁷” [Again the assumption is any future domestic war crimes inquiry will exonerate the military as previous ones have done.]

30 March 2015 Deputy foreign minister, Ajith Perera, warns the LTTE could regroup and orchestrate another conflict, raising the security threat to justify continued militarisation⁶⁸.

1 April 2015 The newly appointed army commander, Lt. General Krishantha de Silva, says no demilitarisation⁶⁹.

20 April, 2015 A group of Parliamentarians staged a protest inside the chambers of Parliament against the decision to summon former President Mahinda Rajapaksa before the Bribery Commission on April 24.

21 April, 2015 Former Economic Development Minister Basil Rajapaksa, who left the country a couple days after his brother Mahinda Rajapaksa was defeated at the January 8 presidential poll, returned to the country to face a financial crime probe.

22 April, 2015 - The Financial Crimes Investigation Division (FCID) arrested former Economic Development Minister Basil Rajapaksa over allegations of financial fraud during presidential elections. He is promptly transferred to a prison hospital.

26 April, 2015 - The Presidential Commission of Inquiry led by retired judge Maxwell Paranagama in its interim report says at least four different groups

⁶⁷ I Am Ready For Any Inquiry, Fonseka, Sunday Leader, 28 March 2015.

⁶⁸ Sri Lanka minister warns Tamil Tiger rebels could regroup, 30 March 2015, EU Business.

⁶⁹ Sri Lanka Army not to withdraw troops, camps from North, 2 April 2015, Colombo Page.

including Sri Lanka's security forces and the LTTE were responsible for the disappearances of hundreds of persons during the war⁷⁰.

28 April 2015 Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera said in parliament that Sri Lanka has to hold a credible investigation in order to clear the name of the Sri Lankan military as it stands accused of committing mass atrocities against Tamils during the armed conflict⁷¹.

07 May 2015 - The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister pledged that a domestic mechanism of accountability would be in place before the UN Human Rights Council's 30th session this September⁷².

18 May 2015 Northern Province Chief Minister, C. V. Wigneswaran, called for maximum devolution for the Tamil speaking people and warned that further delay to do so would change the dimensions of the problem further⁷³.

20 May 2015 The domestic mechanism to investigate allegations over the war will be in place by June, President Maithripala Sirisena told media heads⁷⁴.

27 May 2015 Sri Lanka's wartime army chief Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka said in an interview with the Guardian that his conscience was clear and he would welcome a war crimes investigation to prove his innocence.

31 May 2015 The Chief Prelate of the Asgiriya Chapter, Galagama Attadasa Thera, warned that the government must be wise in responding to Tamil demands of de-militarising the North East and ensure that Sri Lanka remains united under one flag⁷⁵.

⁷⁰ *Different groups responsible for disappearances: Panel, Ada Derana, 26 April 2015.*

⁷¹ Credible domestic inquiry "important to clear name of our troops", Foreign Minister, Tamil Guardian, 28 April 2015

⁷² Sri Lanka says domestic probe will be ready before September, Tamil Guardian, 7 May 2015.

⁷³ Wigneswaran seeks maximum devolution for Tamils, Colombo Gazette, May 18, 2015.

⁷⁴ Domestic mechanism in place by June, Colombo Gazette, 20 May 2015.

⁷⁵ Buddhist monk warns Sri Lanka's PM against demilitarisation of North-East, Tamil Guardian, 31 May 2015.

06 June 2015 Sri Lanka's presidential panel investigating the disappearances of thousands of people, during the civil war will present its final report in August, its secretary H W Gunadasa said⁷⁶.

11 June 2015 The Jathika Hela Urumaya, a Sinhala-nationalist party in the ruling coalition led by the UNP, said it had forced the withdrawal of a cabinet paper, which proposed the granting of government compensation to LTTE members who were injured during the armed conflict⁷⁷.

19 June 2015 Sri Lanka's foreign minister Mangala Samaraweera in an interview with Nikkei Asian Review stressed that his government would lead any investigation into violations of international humanitarian law.

30 June 2015 Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party reiterated that it would not allow any international war crime probe against former president Mahinda Rajapaksa, former defence secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa or former army chief Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka⁷⁸.

⁷⁶ Missing Persons panel to submit final report in August, Ada Derana, 6 June 2015.

⁷⁷ UNP coalition partner blocks compensation to injured LTTE members and objects to diaspora talks - Tamil Guardian - 11 June 2015.

⁷⁸ We will protect Mahinda, Gota, Fonseka from war crime probe: UNP, Colombo Mirror, 30 June 2015.