

**I think about what happened every day. My hands shake permanently. I sleep poorly from the extreme stress of four years of anxiety and fear when I did not know what would happen the next moment. I am unable to come out of my experiences and what I saw during the war and during detention. My children ask me every day when can we go back to Sri Lanka."**

Male Interviewee

### The International Truth and Justice Project

This is a project run by the Foundation for Human Rights, one of the primary indigenous grant-makers to the human rights sector in South Africa. ITJP is comprised of human rights experts, international prosecutors and investigators and transitional justice experts who have worked in the past for the United Nations, ICTY and the ICC.

In 2014 ITJP was the first organisation to make the case that post war torture and sexual violence by the security forces in Sri Lanka amounted to a prima facie case of crimes against humanity. That finding was later upheld by the UN investigation in 2015.

In 2015 ITJP was the first to publish the GPS location of a secret naval torture site in Sri Lanka, which was later visited and corroborated by the UN Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearance.

ITJP now has the largest archive of witness testimony and other evidence outside Sri Lanka pertaining to the final phase of the conflict and post-war torture and sexual violence.

The author of *Forgotten* is the executive director of the Foundation and ITJP is a leading transitional justice expert, Yasmin Sooka. She is a former member of the South African & the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commissions and was a legal advisor to Ban Ki moon on Sri Lanka. She was the Soros inaugural Chair at the School of Public Policy and recently sat on the Panel investigating sexual violence by French peacekeeping troops in the Central African Republic.

## Forgotten: Sri Lanka's exiled victims



Read the full report at: [itjpsl.com](http://itjpsl.com)

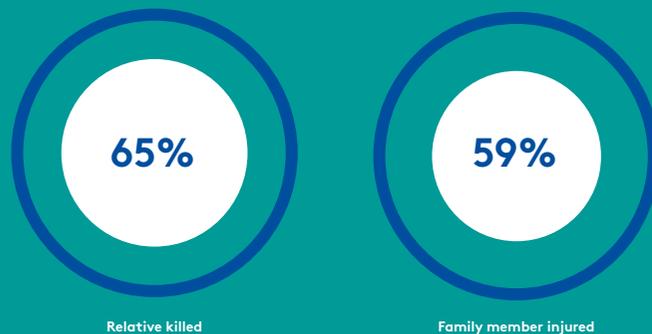
E [itjpsl@gmail.com](mailto:itjpsl@gmail.com)

# An external victim consultation

## Violations Suffered:



## Close family suffered violations:



## Views on transitional justice:

Top Priority:

Prosecutions of perpetrators and commanders

Lowest Priority:

Reparations and an apology

International Involvement in Truth Commission and Court:

100%

Willing to testify long distance if safe:

80%

Government of Sri Lanka will listen to my views:

No 90%  
Yes 10%

"It is very difficult to get truth from these people because many people abducted by them are unaccounted for. Nobody claims responsibility for any wrongdoing."

(Male interviewee)

"First of all there should be an open acknowledgement that these things happened."

(Female interviewee)

**80% are survivors of the final phase of the war. 48% were injured then.**

**73% were tortured in the post-war period.**

"These are some of the Tamils worst affected by the alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in Sri Lanka enumerated in several United Nations reports. They also represent the most marginalised whose views and experiences are disregarded. They need to be enabled to participate safely and confidentially in any future process. A process that excludes them will be a "diminished truth' about past violations."

(Yasmin Sooka)