

SRI LANKA AND INTERNATIONAL LAW



TAMIL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS – TCHR
CENTRE TAMOUL POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME - CTDH
CENTRO TAMIL PARA LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS
(Established 1990)

“We are preaching hope,
standing on the bones of the past.”

John Rucyahana, The Bishop of Rwanda

“Genocide is the responsibility of the entire world.”

Ann Clwyd Roberts, Welsh Labour party politician

“The first atrocity, the first war crime committed
in any war of aggression by the aggressors
is against the truth”.

Michael Parenti, American political writer

“If you tell a big enough lie and tell it
frequently enough, it will be believed.”

Adolf Hitler

TAMIL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS - TCHR

(Established in 1990)

WEBSITE : www.tchr.net

TCHR PARTICIPATION IN UNITED NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCES AND OTHER MEETINGS

- * *On 24 June 2009 TCHR was invited to have discussion with the EU Commission's three appointed independent external experts (regarding GSP+ benefits) – on the effectiveness of Sri Lanka's implementation of certain core human rights conventions.*
- * *TCHR was a registered participant in the World Social Forum 2009 in Belem, Brazil Jan 27- Feb 1, 2009.*
- * *TCHR officially participated in the 61st annual DPI/NGO conference in UNESCO, Paris, 3-5 Sept. 2008.*
- * *TCHR was a registered participant in the European Social Forum 2008 in Malmo, Sweden 17-21 Sept 2008.*
- * *TCHR along with ECOSOC NGO Interfaith International contributed information to UPR session on Sri Lanka in May 2008*
- * *TCHR officially participated in the 'United Nations 7th Global Forum, Re-instating Good Governance', in Vienna, Austria 26-29 June 2007.*
- * *Members of TCHR participated in the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) seminar in Geneva, Switzerland, 29-31 July 2007.*
- * *TCHR was officially accredited to participate in the United Nations Conference on Anti-corruption Measures, Good Governance and Human Rights, in Warsaw, Poland 8–9 November 2006.*
- * *A meeting was held on 7 March 2006, in the European Parliament – titled "EU contribution to the peace process in Sri Lanka". This was jointly organised by TCHR and Mr. Robert Evans, Member of European Parliament.*
- * *TCHR was officially accredited by the United Nations to participate in the World Summit on the Information Society – WSIS in Tunisia, 16 – 18 November 2005.*

- * **TCHR officially participated in the NGO forum of the UN World Conference Against Racism – WCAR in Durban, South Africa, from 28 August to 1 September 2001. TCHR held an information stall including an exhibition at the forum. The TCHR representatives also attended the main WCAR conference held in Durban, 31 August to 7 September 2001. (http://www.tchr.net/reports_wcar_detail.htm)**
- * **A meeting was held on 14 October 1998, in the European Parliament – titled "Press censorship in Sri Lanka". This was jointly organised by the Tamil Centre for Human Rights (TCHR) and Ms. Anita Pollack, Member of European Parliament.**
- * **In 1993, TCHR held an information stall and a photo exhibition on human rights violations, in the United Nations 2nd World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna, Austria, from 14-25 June.**
- * **TCHR participates in meetings of Treaty bodies and submits reports to the same.**

**FACT FINDING MISSIONS TO THE NORTH EAST OF
THE ISLAND OF SRI LANKA**

- * **May 2003**
(http://www.tchr.net/report_studymission_2003.htm)
- * **December 2003 – addendum report**
(http://www.tchr.net/report_studymission_2003add.htm)
- * **July-August 2004**
(http://www.tchr.net/reports_visite_2004.htm)

HEAD OFFICE

9, RUE DES PEUPLIERS
95140 - GARGES LES GONESSE, FRANCE
Email : tchrgs@hotmail.com / tchrdip@hotmail.com
Fax : + 33 - 1 – 42 67 54 36

Branches

SWITZERLAND, UNITED KINGDOM

SRI LANKA AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

International Criminal Law - ICL originates from the legal principles set out in the Nuremberg trials, after the Second World War.

This was followed by the adoption of the Genocide Convention in 1948 and the four Geneva Conventions in 1949. Further developments of International Criminal Law culminated in the establishment of the permanent International Criminal Court – ICC in July 2002.

In Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the ICC, the severity of the consequence of attacks, constitutes an element of some of the crimes listed.

One is Article 8(2)(b)(iv), which refers to the crime of launching an attack with the knowledge that it will cause excessive injury to the lives of civilians. International law recognises the possibility of incidental injury to civilians. It stipulates that this does not necessarily justify causing foreseeable harm to civilians or civilian property that is excessive relative to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated from the attack.

Therefore, excessive damage to civilians constitutes one of the elements of the crime. This definition of a crime applies to a reckless perpetrator who was aware of the danger involved in an action but chose to proceed with the act.

Without any reservation, legal experts can identify this crime to have taken place repeatedly in Sri Lanka.

CRIMINAL LIABILITY OF INDIVIDUALS AND SRI LANKA

International crimes relate to a serious breach by a state, of an obligation (*erga omnes*) arising under a peremptory norm (*jus cogens*). Thus, only the most serious violations of human rights norms are criminalised under International Criminal Law. The ICL is a body of international norms designed both to proscribe certain categories of conduct (war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, torture, aggression, terrorism) and to make those persons who engage in such conduct criminally liable.

This authorises states, or imposes upon them, the obligation to prosecute and punish such criminal conduct.

Has Sri Lanka ever prosecuted and punished any perpetrators of these crimes?

The fundamental principle of criminal liability for individuals is accepted in international customary law. It is in the statutes of the various international tribunals and courts, for example, Article 25 of the Rome Statute which states:

- a) The Court shall have jurisdiction over natural persons pursuant to this Statute.
- b) A person who commits a crime within the jurisdiction of the Court shall be individually responsible and liable for punishment in accordance with this Statute.

The principle of universality reflects the common assumption that all states, governments and humanity generally agree that the commission of serious international crimes is unacceptable and hence, perpetrators should not enjoy impunity. For this reason, immunity from prosecution is ruled out, unless the

perpetrator enjoys personal immunity while serving as head of state, foreign minister or diplomatic agent, for instance.

The category of international crimes covered by the mandate of the ICC comprises: the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression.

So far how many states have applied this to any perpetrators of crime committed in Sri Lanka?

ACTUS REUS AND MENS REA

The ICL is closely linked to International Humanitarian Law - IHL, International Human Rights Law - IHRL and domestic criminal law.

One of the aspects of ICL, similar to domestic criminal law, is that a violation must be proven to have, **first**, a specific objective element (*actus reus*), the commission of certain offences (killing, forced displacement etc) or an omission contrary to a rule imposing a specific behaviour, and, **secondly**, a specific subjective element (*mens rea*), a certain mental state or intention of the principal perpetrators or others who have participated in the commission of the crime.

Under international customary law there is no general definition of the various categories of mens rea such as intent, recklessness, or negligence. In the context of the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, the matter is explicitly dealt with by Article 30 which stipulates that a person shall be criminally responsible “*only if the material elements are committed with intent and knowledge*”. Article 30 specifies that a person has intent where:

- a) In relation to conduct, that person means to engage in the conduct;
- b) In relation to a consequence, that person means to cause that consequence or is aware that it will occur in the ordinary course of events.

Most international crimes except genocide require culpability at the level of intention (*dolus directus*), but under certain circumstances a lesser degree of culpability would be sufficient, for example in relation to superiors' responsibility where recklessness (*dolus eventualis*) will suffice.

Currently, Sri Lanka enjoys international impunity for crimes committed with intent to harm and kill.

No limitations

It is also relevant to mention that ***ICL permits prosecution of international crimes committed many years previously.*** Although such rules might be contained in some national legal systems, no statutory limitations are applicable as a matter of customary international law, at least with regard to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Article 29 of the Rome Statutes confirms this.

Therefore it is still not too late for any State to act on Sri Lanka.

IMMUNITY

In line with domestic penal law, ICL recognizes various circumstances which may negate the responsibility of the accused. The most important in this context is the issue of immunity from prosecution.

International customary law recognizes two categories of immunity: **functional** (or *ratione materiae*) and **personal** (or *ratione personae*).

Functional immunity is excluded for perpetrators acting in an official capacity. Practice by international tribunals and courts confirm this. Furthermore, these institutions ***did not even recognize personal immunity*** – as demonstrated by the ICC when initiating a case against the sitting Sudanese President and by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, when issuing an arrest warrant against Charles Taylor, former President of Liberia.

Considering this and the possibilities of extra-territorial jurisdiction for crimes under ICL, how can Sri Lankan military officials become diplomats in various democratic countries?

PERPETRATORS

International crimes are committed by individuals: either state officials or private individuals who are not acting to pursue personal interests but are rather somehow connected with a state policy or at any rate with “system criminality”. Their actions :

- a) are linked to an international or internal armed conflict, or absence of such a conflict,

and / or

- b) have a political or ideological dimension, or are somehow linked or otherwise connected to the behaviour of state authorities or organized non-state groups or entities

The group of potential accused who have committed or attempted to commit an international crime or in the case of genocide been involved in conspiracy and incitement, includes those who have participated in the commission of the crime in question by planning, ordering or committing it.

In addition to the principal perpetrator and co-perpetrator, the potential accused would include those who have aided and abetted the commission of the crime.

ICL also imposes criminal liability, under certain circumstances, for failure to act, for example when criminal responsibility is established on the basis of the principle of command responsibility. Rome Statute Art. 28, i.e., liability of superiors “for failure to prevent or punish crimes perpetrated by their subordinates”.

Therefore, ***responsibility*** extends liability to persons at all levels of the military or civilian hierarchy – from foot soldiers and militiamen to high-ranking commanders and politicians – who support the commission of a crime.

Criminal jurisdiction may be extended to non-state actors who have committed crimes which are clearly connected to state policy.

If so, what is happening with regard to the criminality of the Sri Lankan state's policy?

WAR CRIMES, CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AND GENOCIDE

War crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide - it would appear that all three categories of international crimes are relevant in assessing the criminal nature of Sri Lanka's policies towards the Tamil people.

The notion of crimes against humanity, however, is of particular relevance because of its essential contextual requirement that criminalizes the widespread and systematic nature of state-sponsored policies, underpinning crimes committed by Sri Lankan security forces.

This concept also encompasses the 65 year old pattern of policies of human rights abuses, displacement and dispossession, expressing clear political objectives, which amounts to the crime against humanity of persecution.

Looking at the enforcement of ICL, the key perpetrators have gone unpunished for ***crimes committed in 1948 and during the following 65 years.***

Not a single high-ranking Sri Lankan official has ever stood trial for any of the serious crimes committed against Tamil people, either at the national or international level.

Furthermore, the crimes have never been investigated independently and thoroughly by an impartial judicial body. ***Sri Lanka continues*** to maintain a discriminatory legal system that precludes independent investigations and denies Tamils effective remedies.

A very great obstacle to achieving justice for the Tamils has been the hitherto unconditional diplomatic and

financial support given to Sri Lanka by world financial institutions, Inter-government bodies and some states.

We are firmly convinced that justice and respect for the rule of law constitute the indispensable basis for peace. The prolonged situation of impunity has created a justice crisis in Sri Lanka.

The UN Human Rights Council (formerly Commission), the Sub-commission, Treaty bodies and Mandate holders' reports stand witness for the Human rights Council to demand that the UN Security Council and the General Assembly refer Sri Lanka to the ICC.

WAR CRIMES

The category of war crimes is well established within IHL. A precondition for qualifying facts as war crimes is the existence of either an international or an internal armed conflict.

The Geneva Conventions (GC) criminalised certain serious crimes as “grave breaches” which entail individual criminal responsibility.

Article 147 of the GC-IV lists the following offences as grave breaches when committed against protected persons or property:

- a) wilful killing;
- b) torture or inhuman treatment, including biological experiments;
- c) wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health;
- d) unlawful deportation or transfer or unlawful confinement of a protected person;

- e) compelling a protected person to serve in the forces of a hostile Power;
- f) wilfully depriving a protected person of the rights of fair and regular trial prescribed in the present Convention;
- g) taking of hostages and
- h) extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly.

In relation to grave breaches, the obligation of states parties to search and prosecute war criminals will be triggered if the accused is present in their territory. Prosecution may then be possible on the basis of universal jurisdiction.

Additional Protocol-I has added some crimes to this list of “grave breaches” and war crimes including, in Article 85(3):

- a) Making the civilian population or individual civilians the object of attack; and
- b) Launching an indiscriminate attack affecting the civilian population or civilian objects in the knowledge that such attack will cause excessive loss of life, injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects.

Have any UN mandate holders or Treaty bodies said that Sri Lanka has not committed these crimes?

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

Crimes against humanity may have been committed before or during a war; and/or during persecutions on political, racial or religious grounds. These acts may have been in execution of or in connection with any crime within the jurisdiction of the ICC Tribunal, whether or not in violation of the domestic law of the country where perpetrated.

The focus of the prohibition on crimes against humanity is aimed towards the protection of a group, namely a civilian population, against a systematic and widespread attack that involves various human rights offences, which have a serious negative impact upon the group.

Attack directed against any civilian population means a course of conduct involving the multiple commission of acts against the civilian population, pursuant to or in furtherance of a State or organizational policy to commit such attack.

In practice, the required intensity and scale of the commission of the underlying offences must be established to reach the specific threshold of a crime against humanity. The other objective elements of a crime against humanity consist in the commission of specific underlying offences.

The ICC definition in Article 7(1) lists the following acts:

- a)** Murder;
- b)** Extermination;
- c)** Enslavement;
- d)** Deportation or forcible transfer of population;
- e)** Imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty in violation of fundamental rules of international law;
- f)** Torture;
- g)** Rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilisation, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity;
- h)** Persecution against any identifiable group or collectivity on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious, gender or other grounds that are universally recognised as impermissible under international law;
- i)** Enforced disappearance of persons;

- j) The crime of apartheid;
- k) Other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health.

The perpetrator's knowledge or awareness of such a contextual practice and the existence thereof is exactly what characterizes crimes against humanity. In an actual court case, judges would require factual evidence proving that high ranking officials or others were aware of the overall policy objective and that their decisions were based on these practices. According to the ICC's elements of crimes, it is not necessary to prove the perpetrator had knowledge of all characteristics of the attack or the precise details of the plan or policy of the State or organization.

This establishes that Sri Lanka has committed crimes against humanity on numerous occasions.

GENOCIDE

Genocide is considered the most abhorrent international crime – the crime of crimes committed against a national, ethnic, racial or religious group.

In the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, genocide became criminalized as a specific category of crime - as a matter of treaty law and subsequently also as a matter of customary law. The essence of the crime has remained unchanged, the intention behind its codification being the protection of certain groups against five prohibited offences committed with a very specific intent.

Cassese has noted that genocide is a typical crime based on the 'depersonalization of the victim'; that is a crime

where the victim is not targeted on account of his or her individual qualities or characteristics, but only because he or she is a member of a group.

Article 2 of the Genocide Convention:

Genocide is defined as: “any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- a) Killing members of the group;
- b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.”

The five acts of genocide are further explained in ICC’s Elements of Crimes.

The term “*killed*” is interchangeable with the term “*caused death*”.

This conduct in Article 2(b) may include, but is not necessarily restricted to, acts of torture, rape, sexual violence or inhuman or degrading treatment.

The term “conditions of life” in Article 2(c) may include, but is not necessarily restricted to, deliberate deprivation of resources indispensable for survival, such as food or medical services, or systematic expulsion from homes.

The words “destruction” can readily bear the concept of cultural as well as physical and biological genocide, and bold judges might be tempted to adopt such progressive construction.

The threshold for the specific intent to destroy a group is thus high in customary international law and limited to the intention to destroy a group by physical or biological means.

In addition to the commission of genocide (Article 2), the Genocide Convention also criminalizes conspiracy to commit genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, attempt to commit genocide and complicity in genocide (Article 3).

Thus, planning a genocide would be considered a serious international crime even if the plan were not carried out. Finally, genocide and the acts mentioned in Article 3 are criminalised whether or not they are committed by “constitutionally responsible rulers, public officials or private individuals” (Article 4).

If this is the case, Sri Lanka has been committing Genocide against the Tamil people for a very long time. What has the international Community done about this?

RAPE IS TACTIC OF WAR

In June 2008, the Security Council voted unanimously with a resounding ‘yes’ for a resolution describing **rape as a tactic of war and a threat to international security**.

Despite the increasing acceptance of sexual violence as a crime under both national and international law, victims in Sri Lanka still encounter great difficulty obtaining justice.

Sexual violence takes many forms, including rape, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy, sexual harassment and sexual assault. Rape as a weapon of war can occur on a vast scale involving thousands of victims, with perpetrators operating in organisational forms such as the Sri Lankan security forces, para-military groups and local police units. **In Sri Lanka** it has occurred during riots and armed conflict. Rape continues in so-called peacetime.

Many victims of sexual violence face enormous obstacles to reporting an assault. A victim may suffer if she reports a crime - she may lose status in her community. She may even be killed by the violators. For victims living in small or remote villages, physical access to the legal system is difficult. The travel required to report a crime and seek medical treatment is also an obstacle.

Even when a victim of sexual assault is willing to come forward, report the crime and pursue her or his attacker in court, challenges can obstruct the path to justice. The investigation itself can be difficult – the collection of testimony and evidence in cases of sexual violence can pose unique challenges.

With reference to genocide, during the first international genocide trial in history, the Ad hoc International Tribunal on Rwanda case No. ICTR-96-4-1 included the historic conviction of rape as crime against humanity and instrument of genocide.

Therefore Sri Lanka is threat to international security!

ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT

UN Commission on Human Rights (Special Rapporteur)

In 1985, in a report on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, the Special Rapporteur of the UN Commission on Human Rights recommended that “members of all forces engaged in the conflict, ***those of Governments as well as of the opposition, should be recognized as combatants*** within the framework of international humanitarian law”.

Hague Regulations (1899) Article 3 of the 1899 and 1907 Hague Regulations provides: “The armed forces of the belligerent parties may consist of combatants and non-combatants.”

Additional Protocol I - Article 43(2) of the 1977 Additional Protocol-I provides:

Members of the armed forces of a Party to a conflict (other than medical personnel and chaplains covered by Article 33 of the Third Convention) are combatants, that is to say, they have the right to participate directly in hostilities

Human Rights Instruments applicable to arbitrary arrest or imprisonment

Freedom from arbitrary arrest or imprisonment is recognised by several instruments of international human rights law. State policies of both mandatory detention and indefinite detention violate these.

“Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person,” and “no one shall be subject to arbitrary arrest or detention” (**Article 9-1 ICCPR**).

Mandatory and indefinite detention violate international laws that state it shall not be the general rule, release should be preferred with guarantees to appear for trial (**Article 9-3 ICCPR**). Some alternatives to detention should be preferred.

A person shall not be kept in detention without being given an effective opportunity to be heard promptly by a judicial or other authority (**Principle 11-1**).

A detained person shall have the right to defend himself or to be assisted by counsel (**Principle 11-1**).

A detained person and his counsel shall receive prompt and full communication about the detention decision (**Principle 11-2**).

An authority shall be empowered to review as appropriate the continuance of detention (**Principle 11-3**).

Anyone has the right to be heard by a court on the lawfulness of the detention and order the release if the detention is not lawful (**Article 9-4 ICCPR**).

A lawful immigrant may be expelled only in pursuance of a lawful decision and shall be allowed to submit the reasons against his expulsion and to have his case reviewed by the competent authority (**Article 13 ICCPR**).

ICCPR = International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Considering the Hague regulations, Additional protocol – I and the articles in the ICCPR, those who surrendered to the Sri Lankan security forces in May 2009 should be given status as combatants, leading to their being Prisoners of War – PoW.

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

The General Assembly referred to the issue of enforced disappearance in December 1978 and Resolution 33/173 was passed to address it.

The Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (resolution 47/133) was adopted by the General Assembly in December 1992.

The Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance was adopted on 29 June 2006 in the UN Human Rights Council. On 13 November 2006, the 3rd Committee of the UN General Assembly adopted the text and on 20 December 2006 the text was adopted by the General Assembly.

The Preamble to this Convention acknowledges extreme seriousness of enforced disappearance, which constitutes a crime and, ***in certain circumstances defined in international law, a crime against humanity.***

Enforced disappearance has been defined as the arrest, detention, abduction or any other form of deprivation of liberty committed by agents of the state or by persons or groups of persons acting with the authorization, support or acquiescence of the state, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person, which place such a person outside the protection of the law.

Enforced disappearance has been a serious violation of human rights for decades. It occurs when a person is secretly imprisoned or killed by agents of a State without any reasonable suspicion. The party who is responsible for the crime does not even admit to carrying out the act, thereby placing the victim outside the protection of the law.

A forced disappearance generally leads to murder. The victim is abducted, illegally detained and tortured, then killed and the body is kept hidden.

This has been a huge issue in Sri Lanka and successive Sri Lankan governments have never taken any constructive steps to address disappearances.

The Convention also asserts that “no one shall be subjected to enforced disappearance” and that “no exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political stability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification for enforced disappearance.”

Sri Lanka is not a signatory to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICCPED)

According to the UN Working Group on Disappearance, Sri Lanka has the 2nd highest number of disappearances in the world.

WHY IS THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL FAILING TO TAKE ACTION ON SRI LANKA?

The purpose of the Security Council is to maintain international peace and security, and to that end:

To take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace,

To bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace.

Various mechanisms exist within the UN Charter which allow the international community to take action to achieve peace. The General Assembly's "Uniting for Peace" resolution allows it to take action, when the Security Council fails to take action.

Consider the following :

- (1) UN Secretary-General's Panel of Experts on Sri Lanka
- (2) UN Secretary-General's Internal Review Panel on UN action in Sri Lanka
- (3) All reports and Statements of the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour on Sri Lanka
- (4) All reports and Statements of the present UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanaeetham Pillai on Sri Lanka

- (5) All reports of the Charter-based bodies on Sri Lanka
- (6) All reports of the Treaty Body on Sri Lanka.

These all beg the question :

Why is the international community failing to protect the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Tamils in Sri Lanka?

The inter-governmental bodies, the United Nations, the European Union, Commonwealth, other institutions and individual states all have responsibility to ensure that the international crimes against the Tamils by Sri Lanka do not go unpunished.

It is a well acknowledged fact that there can be no peace without justice.

While the international community continues to neglect its obligations, for political reasons, ethnic cleansing is successfully being carried out by Sri Lanka on the Tamil population.

The Tamil nation ranks as the 15th largest language group in the world.

MANY YEARS OF UN REPORTS ON SRI LANKA

Full list of reports by the Charter-based bodies on SRI LANKA

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/asiaregion/pages/1kindex.aspx>

http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?c=173&su=172

Full list of reports by the Treaty Body on SRI LANKA

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/asiaregion/pages/1kindex.aspx>

<http://tb.ohchr.org/default.aspx?country=lk>

UN Secretary-General's Panel of Experts report on SRI LANKA

<http://www.un.org/en/rights/srilanka.shtml>

UN Secretary-General's Internal Review Panel report on UN action in SRI LANKA

http://www.un.org/News/dh/infocus/Sri_Lanka/The_Internal_Review_Panel_report_on_Sri_Lanka.pdf

*“Justice for crimes against humanity
must have no limitations”*

(Simon Wiesenthal, 1908 – 2005)

*“Mr. Speaker, genocide is the most potent of all crimes against
humanity because it is an effort to systematically wipe out a
people and a culture as well as individual lives.”*

(Jerry Francis Costello, former U.S. Representative for Illinois)

*“Humanity has been buried fathom deep. Let the world hang its
head in shame. Let the United Nations approach the issue
seriously and find a solution”*

(The Hindu 19 February 2013)

*“Killing a captured prisoner is against the most basic tenets of
war and illegal according to the Geneva Convention. But then, to
kill a 12-year-old is even more incredible”*

(The Hindu 20 February 2013)