

HUMAN RIGHTS IN SRI LANKA

UPR Info Pre-sessions

Situation in Sri Lanka – Issue 1

Issue 1: Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka (April 2021 to date)

- Impact of the Economic Crisis
- Peaceful freedom of expression
- Peaceful assemblies

Recommendations – Issue 1

Issue 1: Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka (April 2021 to date)

- Amend section 15(8) of the Human Rights Commission Act 21 of 1996 to include ".... to the President who shall cause a copy of the such report to be placed before Parliament within three months of receipt of such report and dependent on the urgency as requested by the Commission.

Situation in Sri Lanka – Issue 2

Issue 2: Transitional Justice

Implementation of previous recommendations made by Slovenia, South Africa, France, Thailand, Belgium and Mexico

New Developments

- Establishment of Office of Missing Persons (OMP), the National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR), and the office of Reparation (OR)

Recommendations – Issue 2



Issue 2: Transitional Justice

- Establishing a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)

Situation in Sri Lanka – Issue 3

Issue 3: Restitution of lands confiscated by the army

Implementation of previous recommendations made by France and Haiti

New Developments

- Released land occupied by the tri-forces to the civilians in the North and East

Recommendations – Issue 3



Issue 3: Restitution of lands confiscated by the army

- Formulate a rights-based policy framework after dialogue with families who have lost land

Situation in Sri Lanka – Issue 4

Issue 4: Safeguards against arbitrary arrests and torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment

Implementation of previous recommendation made by Portugal, Poland, Denmark, Senegal, New Zealand, Ghana, UK, Afghanistan, Cote d'Ivoire.

New Developments

- **Establishment of National Preventive Mechanism**

Recommendations – Issue 4

Issue 4: Safeguards against arbitrary arrests and torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment

- Repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act
- Revise the definition of Terrorism to include ‘Any person by the use of force and violence by unlawfully targeting the civilian population or a segment of the civilian population with the intent to spread fear thereof in furtherance of a political, ideological or religious cause commits terrorism’.

SMART RECOMMENDATIONS

- Amend the PTA and the relevant laws to accommodate the offence of terrorism with a comprehensive definition of terrorist.
- Establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Amend section 15(8) of the Human Rights Commission Act 21 of 1996 to include ".... to the President who shall cause a copy of such report to be placed before Parliament within three months of receipt of such report and dependent on the urgency as requested by the Commission."

Thank you

