



Projects undertaken by three of Phoenix's divisions throughout Maaveerar Month

Three of Phoenix's divisions including; Puradsi Sound, Tamil Economic Forum (TEF) and Puradsi Media conducted a variety of projects throughout the month of November. These projects were centred around establishing a presence across social media platforms and London, United Kingdom. The three projects cohesively functioned to cement the Maaveerar's unwavering stance through countering the attempts undertaken with genocidal intent through escalated forms of censorship.

Puradsi Sound - Maaveerar Unarvugal

With the arts assuming a seminal role in the movement, it has almost become a communal tradition for Maaveerar-related songs to be heard and broadcast during Maaveerar month. However, an escalation of censorship has resulted in the systematic erasure of countless Maaveerar songs as well thus heavily impacting the communal psyche. Puradsi Sound's "Maaveerar Unarvugal", thus functioned in countering this through engaging 27 diaspora artists with the struggle through the regular republication of renowned Maaveerar songs as 13 covers throughout Maaveerar month. This project was initially based within the space of YouTube. However, following the censorship of the Puradsi Sound account through its deletion, such censorship was effectively countered through an immediate establishment of a new website for Puradsi

Sound where the project was effectively continued through publications on that site.

TEF - Akkini Attack

As an extension of the systematic censorship, countless rare photographs and content regarding our Maaveerar continue to be erased. To further strengthen the presence of our Maaveerar's unwavering stance, TEF undertook the social media operation; "Akkini attack" where multiple Instagram accounts were created to publish such photographs. Multiple such "back-up" accounts were created to counter any impending erasure of these accounts thus effectively allowing the continuation of the project.

Puradsi Media - Structures of Tamil Eelam: A Handbook | London Book Launch

"Structures of Tamil Eelam: A Handbook" was launched at London's SOAS University on 21.11.19 in collaboration with SOAS Tamil Society and Eelam Hub. It is noteworthy that this was the 4th time that the book was launched. It is known that the book emerged as an attempt to counter the erasure of the history of the struggle and to redirect the politics in line with the stance established through the de-facto state of Tamil Eelam. However, the Sri Lankan High Commission pressured the SOAS University's administration to prevent the

book launch from occurring thus attempting to prevent the London community from accessing the information and discourse that emerges around the book and thus the struggle for Tamil liberation overall. Nonetheless, the book launch successfully occurred at the campus where a wide array of youth expressed interest regarding the de-facto state. The attendees of the book launch included a representative from the Sri Lankan High Commission in London. It is noteworthy that the attendees purchased all of the books that were available for purchase at the event. Furthermore, multiple relationships were also established through the event thus strengthening ties within the diaspora.

Phoenix's projects for Maaveerar month targeted social media platforms which continue to be exploited and weakened by genocidal forces to bridge the gap and strengthen cohesion between the widespread Tamil diaspora network. Such attempts function as a prelude to future initiatives that must be undertaken to counter the rigorous escalation of censorship which impends with Sri Lanka's president-elect's expertise within the field of IT.



The book launch at the SOAS university

Presidential election

30.10.19: **Election** – TNPF express in a press conference with the Jaffna Press Club regarding their stance in the 2019 SL Presidential Elections which they intend to boycott.

01.11.19: **Election** – Sivajilingam announces his participation as a presidential candidate in the elections as a representative of the Tamil community.

01.11.19: **Election** - Chandrika has expressed her support for Sajith Premadasa.

02.11.19: **Election** - SL Presidential candidate, Sajith Premadasa openly declares rejection of the 13-point memorandum signed by 5 Tamil political parties upon the basis of threats to the unitary state model of governance adhered to within the island.

03.11.19: **Election** – ITAK announces endorsement of Sajith Premadasa as a presidential candidate at a meeting in Vavuniya. MA Sumanthiran specified at the meeting that whilst the decision was uniform, R Sampanthan would communicate with other parties within the TNA constituency to later announce a unanimous allegiance.

04.11.19: **Election** – Former NP CM Wigneswaran mentioned in an interview that his party (TMK) denied 3 ministerial posts in Sri Lanka's elected cabinet which was promised in exchange for the party's support for one of the election's leading candidates.

05.11.19: **Election** – During a public meeting in support of Sajith Premadasa in Kilinochchi, SL PM Ranil Wickremesinghe claimed an environment of freedom and development for the Tamils had been established under the unity government elected in 2015.

05.11.19: **Election** - Kulendran Sivaram, member to council of Jaffna University, campaigned in support of Gotabaya.

05.11.19: **Election** – During a gathering in Batticaloa, Ranil proposes the devolution of powers to the provinces under the UNF as a federal solution.

05.11.19: **Election** – Sirisena called for an urgent meeting with the party's Central Committee to recommend the expulsion of Chandrika following her expression of support for the NDF.

05.11.19: **Election** – Election monitors released estimates that the SLPP and NDF had accounted for almost LKR 1 billion for election expenditure within the period of 2 weeks (excluding social media).

05.11.19: **Election** – SL health ministry statement quotes SL Health Minister Dr. Senarathne of revealing at a public rally in Manipay that any Northern MPs expressing support for a Premadasa government were granted LKR 300 million each for electoral expenditure.

06.11.19: **Election** – TNA release statement endorsing Sajith Premadasa with support from leaders of ITAK, TELO and PLOTE.

06.11.19: **Election** – Former SL President Mahindha Rajapaksa condemns Premadasa in a statement for replacing “unitary state” with variations in the UNP Presidential Manifesto outlining constitutional reform.

06.11.19: **Election** – Minister of Education, Vijayagala Maheswaran reported to have mentioned that the Tamils should gain the support of Sajith Premadasa to gain democratic governance.

07.11.19: **Election** – CSD Staff have been pressured to vote for Gotabaya.

07.11.19: **Election** – Sajith Premadasa announces that he would appoint a new Prime Minister “who commands the confidence of Parliament” under his government despite earlier claims by Ranil Wickremesinghe that he would be appointed as Prime Minister.

07.11.19: **Election** – Mangala Samaraweera calls upon Gotabaya Rajapaksa to produce documents to prove his renunciation of US citizenship.

07.11.19: **Rape** – An SLPP supporter allegedly raped a young woman affected by down syndrome following a party rally in support of Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

08.11.19: **Election** – The Commonwealth has been reported to deploy a team led by former Ghanaian minister Bani to monitor the SL presidential elections. The team will be stationed in Colombo from 10.11.19 – 22.11.19.

09.11.19: **Election** – TELO’s Jaffna committee reported to have denounced TELO leadership’s decision to support Sajith Premadasa and expressed support for Sivajilingam during a

district committee meeting at their party office in Nallur.

09.11.19: **Election** – Former SL Army Commander Mahesh Senanayake predicts during a dialogue with civil society members in Colombo that extremist attacks on Muslims would increase after the elections.

10.11.19: **Election** – Almost 850 Sinhalese diaspora members have been reported to have returned to the island to vote in favour of presidential candidate Gotabaya Rajapaksa in the upcoming elections.

10.11.19: **Election** – MA Sumanthiran defends TNA endorsement of Premadasa in a published statement.

10.11.19: **Election** – The home of Sajith Premadasa’s supporter was attacked with petrol bombs with the occupants escaping with minor injuries.

10.11.19: **Rape** – At least 3 police officers from Hemmathagama Police station have been reported to be interdicted for failing to adhere to official investigation procedures regarding a rape case that had occurred at a SLPP party rally and have been remanded until the 13.11.19.

11.11.19: **Election** – HRW mentions in a statement that the new SL president will need to face any challenges emerging from crimes committed by previous regimes to prevent future abuses from occurring within the island.

11.11.19: **Election** – During a press conference in Killinochchi, the leader of the Rehabilitated LTTE Party, K. Inbarasa expressed the party’s support for Gotabaya due to the ‘liberation of 12,000 cadres’.

11.11.19: **Election** - an independent group of almost 21 prominent SL Buddhist monks issued a statement requesting the people to vote for a candidate who would preserve the unitary status of the SL state.

11.11.19: **Election** – US Department of Justice’s Office of Law and Policy issues statement specifying that Gotabaya had commenced but not completed the voluntary renunciation of US citizenship process.

12.11.19: **Election** – Chairman of SL Electoral Commission mentions that its plans to impose a social media ban during the final stages of the election are unnecessary.

12.11.19: **Election** – Gotabaya Rajapaksa mentioned at a rally in Wennapuwa that those in the government who “diluted the intelligence service” in regard to the Easter Sunday bombings must be held accountable.

12.11.19: **Election** – Gotabaya Rajapaksa’s name was not included in the US Federal Register which published the names of US citizens who had renounced their citizenship.

12.11.19: **Election** – Former CM Varadaraja Perumal denounces TNA’s decision to support the UNP.

13.11.19: **Election** – MA Sumanthiran has filed criminal investigations against 3 SL newspapers for fake news.

13.11.19: **Election** – Mavai Senathirajah mentions that the Jaffna University Students Union have declared that they will not support TNA’s decision to endorse Sajith Premadasa.

13.11.19: **Election** – Tamil youth who managed the sound system at a TNA rally were arrested by occupational SL police for broadcasting LTTE songs.

13.11.19: **Election** – A report released by the Centre for Monitoring Election Violence

(CMEV) estimates that the most of campaign expenditure was spent by Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

13.11.19: **Election** – EU deployment of 5 Parliamentarians arrive in SL under a EU Election Observer Mission headed by Marisa Matias. Latest phase of mission launched with 30 observers deployed across the 9 provinces of the island to observe the occurrences of election day.

13.11.19: **Election** – TNA arranged a campaign meeting in support of Sajith at Sankiliyan Park, Jaffna.

14.11.19: **Arrest** – Coordinator of Sivajilingam’s campaign and former TNA candidate, Thambirasa, was arrested by occupational SL Police for conducting a peaceful protest outside the Jaffna District Secretariat calling for the resignation of the SLEC chairman due to a failure to provide voter details in Tamil in the Colombo district.

15.11.19: **Election** – TNA’s Media Office and MA Sumanthiran deny allegations by Hiru News on Twitter. Hiru News claimed that a legal case was filed against the TNA for “Attempted secession”.

15.11.19: **Election** – Hambantota Police find and seize 58 false ballot papers which were supposedly for the “awareness of voters” in the van of a driver who was taken into SL police custody.

16.11.19: **Election** – Buses transporting Muslim voters from Puttalam to Mannar reported to have been attacked at Oyamadhu by unidentified gunmen.

16.11.19: **Election** – Attack on upcountry Tamils demanding them to vote for a particular candidate reported according to BBC.

16.11.19: **Election** - CMEV reports at least 139 election-related violations across the island including; illegal campaigning, intimidation and influencing voters.

16.11.19: **Election** – Tamils in Galle were threatened not to vote by a SLPP Supporter according to Virakesari.

16.11.19: **Election** - Tamil man stabbed in an attack of Tamil voters by unidentified persons in Kegalle leading to tensions in Deraniyagala.

16.11.19: **Election** – Ravi Seneviratne (Senior Deputy Inspector General of SL Police) re-instructs occupational forces to

remove roadblocks to allow Tamils to access polling stations despite initial denial from the occupational armed forces.

16.11.19: **Election** – Spokesman for the SL Police, Gunasekara reports the arrest of 26 people for the violation of election laws during voting period.

17.11.19: **Meeting** – Urgent cabinet meeting chaired by Ranil Wickremesinghe at the President's House in Colombo.

17.11.19: **Election** – Gotabaya Rajapaksa elected as the President of Sri Lanka by securing 6,924,255 votes (52% of the total voter base).

17.11.19: **Election** – According to Azzam Ameen Sajith resigns his post as the deputy leader of UNP due to his defeat.

17.11.19: **Election** – According to Azzam Ameen Indian PM Modi had congratulated Gotabaya via telephone for his victory.

17.11.19: **Election** - US pledges allegiance with SL to establish a “strong sovereign Sri Lanka”.

17.11.19: **Election** – Maldives commend

Gotabaya's “resounding victory” in congratulatory statement.

17.11.19: **Election** – Government of Pakistan congratulates Rajapaksa and expresses resolve to ‘fortify the fraternal ties’ in statement.

18.11.19: **Election** – Tamils in Kegalle attacked by a group of unidentified Sinhalese.

18.11.19: **Election** - EU Election observer mission concludes in a published statement that the elections were fair and that they would like to engage with Gota in future endeavours.

18.11.19: **Election** – EU releases statement congratulating Rajapaksa on his win and declare continued efforts to “improve governance, human rights and reconciliation.”

18.11.19: **Election** – Gotabaya was sworn in as the 7th president of Sri Lanka, Commander in Chief and Minister of Defence of Sri Lanka in Anuradhapuram before the statue of King Dutegemunu where he called upon global nations to respect the sovereignty of Sri Lanka. According to the MoD, he had

mentioned in his presidential address that he would lead the country based on Buddhist philosophies and that their foreign policy would be neutral.

21.11.19: **SL Cabinet** – Ranil Wickremesinghe has been nominated as the leader of the UNP despite a manifesto signed by over 40 MPs requesting that Sajith Premadasa retains his position as leader.

21.11.19: **Resignation** – Chandrika Kumaratunga reported to have resigned from her position as the Chairperson of the Office for National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR).

23.11.19: **Presidential Elections** – Gotabaya reported to have praised social media outlets for; their assistive role in his election victory, to promote his campaign and discredit others in statement.

27.11.19: **SL Parliament** – SL Speaker, Karu Jayasuriya recognises leader of United National Front for Good Governance (UNFGG), Ranil Wickremesinghe as the official Leader of the Opposition in SL Parliament.

International News

14.10.19: **EU** - EU Parliament MP Ignazio Carrao questioned the ongoing nature of torture and harassment in Sri Lanka under the PTA and questioned the EU's role in pressuring the repealing of the PTA and CTA to protect citizens from ongoing tensions.

28.10.19: **UK** - The UK Parliament's House of Commons express concerns during a parliamentary session, regarding water quality specifically within Northern Sri Lanka and have called for a full independent investigation of water quality within the region which have been resulting in birth defects and many diseases within the area - especially around the Chunnakam power plant area.

01.11.19: **EU** - Security Expert of the European Union Election Monitoring Mission met with several people at the SL defence ministry.

02.11.19: **UK** - UK authorities drop counter-terrorism investigations against four arrested last month at Luton airport.

03.11.19: **UK** - British conservative parliamentarian, Lord Naseby calls for full disclosure of British

diplomatic dispatches to and from Colombo during the final stages of the war in 2009, within the public domain yet continues to contort casualty figures to less than 6,000 in favour of the former Rajapaksa regime.

06.11.19: **Malaysia** - The Malaysian Sessions Court permitted the dismissal of 2 charges against MP Gunasekaran.

07.11.19: **India** - Delhi's High Court confirms to uphold a 5-year ban on the LTTE.

08.11.19: **Germany** - Higher State Court of Düsseldorf acquits Sivatheeban for charges of war crimes related to his involvement with the LTTE following indictment in 12.04.19.

08.11.19: **Malaysia** - Socialist Party of Malaysia condemn SoSMA - especially in relation to the recent arrest of 12 Tamils in Malaysia.

13.11.19: **USA** - Official spokeswoman of the US Embassy in Colombo, Nancy VanHorn participated in an interview with pro - Gotabaya news outlet, Ada Derana TV without the knowledge of other US government agents to address the topic of Gotabaya's supposed

renunciation of US citizenship.

14.11.19: **India** - NP Governor Dr. Raghavan has engaged in talks with the opposition leader of the TN Legislative Assembly M.K. Stalin in Chennai regarding Dr. Raghavan's responsibility to build relations between Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu as well as the Northern Province and Tamil Nadu with such talks as the first step in such initiatives.

18.11.19: **Tamil Nadu** - Namal Rajapaksa requests the Tamil political leaders of Tamil Nadu to; refrain from promoting false information about the GoSL and rather engage in practical relations with Gotabaya Rajapaksa to ensure that the island's Tamils could live in peace.

18.11.19: **USA** - US Secretary of State, Pompeo congratulates Gotabaya on his win and remind him to uphold commitments to security reform, accountability and human rights.

19.11.19: **India** - Indian Foreign affairs minister, Dr. Subramaniam Jaishankar met with Gotabaya in Colombo extending an invitation to the new President to make his first Presidential trip to India on 29.11.19 to

discuss the strengthening of relations between the 2 countries.

20.11.19: **Pakistan** – The Colombo Gazette reported that the Pakistani PM, Imran Khan had called Gotabaya to congratulate him on his appointment and to discuss bilateral cooperation.

20.11.19: **India/China** – Mahindha Rajapaksa met with Indian foreign affairs minister and China's ambassador to Sri Lanka in Colombo with his son Namal Rajapaksa.

21.11.19: **Pakistan** - Pakistan's Prime Minister congratulated Mahinda for his new post and extended an invitation to Mahindha and Gotabaya to visit Pakistan in a statement.

23.11.19: **USA** – US Ambassador Teplitz met with Gotabaya to strengthen Sri Lankan sovereignty and “good governance” on the island.

24.11.19: **Interview** – In his first published presidential interview with the Bharat Shakti, Gotabaya specifies that he will not engage in any activities that would harm India's interests and requests the Tamil diaspora to forget about “war crimes.” He further mentioned the necessity to renegotiate the “mistake” of transferring the

Hambantota harbour to China.

24.11.19: **China** – Chinese state councillor and foreign minister, Wang Yi, reported to have congratulated Dinesh Gunawardena on his assumption of ministerial duties as Sri Lanka's foreign minister.

25.11.19: **India** – Leader of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), M K Stalin, reported to have made a statement that denounced the increased militarisation of the Tamil homeland, and called upon Modi to consider the issue seriously.

26.11.19: **UK** - British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Sarah Hulton visited Gotabaya Rajapaksa to convey wishes on behalf of the British government to the election.

26.11.19: **India** – High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Taranjit Singh Sandhu has been reported to have mentioned that the election of Gotabaya is a “festival of democracy” during a commemorative event held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) in Colombo.

27.11.19: **Swiss** – The Swiss government has been reported to have summoned Sri Lanka's

ambassador for Switzerland to Bern to discuss the abduction of their employee. Switzerland's Ambassador in Sri Lanka, Hanspeter Mock met with Dinesh Gunawardena at SL's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The GoSL denies any awareness regarding the abduction of the Swiss employee.

28.11.19: **India** - President's Media Division reports Gotabaya's arrival in India for his first official presidential visit. The visit will be 3 days in length. He was received by India's State Transport and Highways Minister, Dr. V.K. Singh and Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, Tharanjit Singh Sandu. Gota is accompanied by Dr. P.B. Jayasundara (Secretary to the President), Ravinath Aryasinghe (Secretary, Ministry of Foreign of affairs), S.Atygala (Secretary of the Treasury), Mr. Lalith Weeratunga (Honorary advisor to the President) and Mr. Sugeeshwara Bandara (Personal Secretary to the President).

28.11.19: **Japan** – An agreement was signed between the Japanese Ambassador Sugiyama Akira and Country Director of Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Valentina Stivanello at the

Japanese Ambassador's residence in Colombo where Japan vowed to provide an additional grant of USD 635,420 for humanitarian demining activities in the Northern province.

28.11.19: **Swiss** – CID and SL police reported to have commenced investigation regarding the alleged abduction and intimidation of local Swiss embassy employee.

29.11.19: **Canada** – Canadian Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Development reported to have mentioned in a statement that Canada would fund communities such as Sri Lanka with USD 8.3 million to support mine-clearance across the island with USD 2 million specifically allocated for clearance in the Northern province in accordance with their commitment to the; Ottawa Convention, International campaign to ban landmines, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and Mines Action Canada.

29.11.19: **India** – Gotabaya and Modi have met in Delhi. After the meeting, Sri Lanka released all arrested Indian fishermen and India granted Sri Lanka finance of USD 450 Million of which USD 400 Million would be allocate for infrastructure and USD 50 Million for security against terrorism reports Azzam Ameen. Modi has also stated, that he is confident that Sri Lanka will continue to pursue reconciliation to fulfill the aspirations of the Tamils and that the implementation of the 13th amendment should be included in the process.

29.11.19: **Swiss** – Mahindha Rajapaksa mentions that an investigation regarding the alleged abduction of the embassy employee could not proceed without a statement from the victim.

29.11.19: **Swiss** – Embassy of Switzerland publishes statement clarifying correspondence between SL and the embassy regarding the alleged abduction of their employee.

30.11.19: **Swiss** – Human Rights Commission of SL (HRC SL) reported to have encouraged the SL IGP to conduct a 'thorough and impartial investigation' regarding the alleged abduction of local Swiss embassy employee.

30.11.19: **Pakistan** – Pakistan's Foreign Minister Qureshi reported to lead a delegation to SL for a 2-day visit with a scheduled arrival onto the island by 01.12.19.

30.11.19: **Swiss** – Sajith mentions in a published statement that the abduction of an employee of the Swiss embassy has tainted the reputation of SL and has requested that the mandate provided by the people to the elected government is protected by the holders.

30.11.19: **UK** - British Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Sara Hulran met with TNA MP Sumanthiran to discuss the Tamils' situation and the party's future objectives.

Military News

23.10.19: **Navy** – A British Royal Naval delegation under the British Commander of Operational Training, Huntington arrived at the SL Eastern Naval Command Headquarters to participate in the Galle Dialogue International Maritime Conference.

28.10.19: **Philippines** – SL Foreign Ministry mentions in a statement that the Philippines will be studying counter-insurgency in Sri Lanka to improve SL-Philippine relations following many courtesy calls between the 2 parties.

30.10.19: **WHM** – Occupying SLA provide 30 civilians with artificial limbs from the Vanni HQ.

02.11.19: **Defence** – Joint disaster relief training exercises conducted by UK and SL armed forces.

04.11.19: **WHM** – Occupying SLAF provided a new house to a deceased CSD member's family in Kudakachchakkodiya, Vavuniya as a part of the Vavuniya base's 41st anniversary celebrations

04.11.19: **Russia** – Colonel Denis I. Shkoda (Military, Navy and Air Attaché of the Russian embassy) visited the

occupying Navy's southern Naval command. The attaché was briefed about the security arrangement of the Hambantota port and the role of the southern Naval Command.

04.11.19: **Technology** – SL Police used 2 robots for drug and explosive detection at the Katunayake International Airport. These two robots were presented to the police by China.

04.11.19: **Technology** – SL Police will be equipped with body cameras for the first time, to assist with increasing surveillance during the presidential elections.

05.11.19: **Technology** – CRD (Centre for Research and Development) has developed several innovations, which were presented to the SLA including; BTR 80 Tank Simulator, 81mm Mortar Simulator, Light Vehicle Driving Simulator, Mobile Live Firing Range and Ballistic Laboratory, Virtual Reality Paratrooper Training Simulator and the High-Tec Soldier.

05.11.19: **Poland** – Jakub Glowaczewsky, a state official from Poland met SL's Secretary of Defence.

05.11.19: **Afghanistan** - M Ashraf Haidari, Afghan ambassador in Sri Lanka, met Ruwan Wijewardene, minister of Mass Media and State Minister of Defence. Matters discussed in the meeting include; the maintenance of bilateral defence ties, the resistance of drug trafficking, and the enhancement of the political and economical ties between the two countries.

05.11.19: **Navy** – A new operational room equipped with latest technologies was opened at the Naval HQ.

06.11.19: **Navy** - Cisco International Limited (UK) has signed a contract with the occupying Navy at their HQ. Through this MOU the navy enters a program, where it can independently conduct; CCNA, IT Essentials, IOT, CCNA cyber operations, and other technical training programs.

07.11.19: **Australia** - David Holly, Australian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka has visited Southern Naval Command HQ of the occupying Navy. Sean Unwin, Defence Attaché to the Australian High Commission in Sri Lanka,

was also present at the meeting.

08.11.19: **Army** – The new HQ of the occupying SLA in Sri Jayawardenepura unveiled and reported as the largest construction project on the island, the HQ extends to over 77 acres.

13.11.19: **Technology** – MOD has launched an SMS service. The general public will receive news on national security and disaster management emergencies.

13.11.19: **UN** – 243 SL soldiers from the Combat Convoy Company left for Mali for a peace-keeping mission. The UN had recently banned non-essential SL troops for UN mission.

14.11.19: **Navy** – A ship from the Chinese navy has arrived at port of Colombo. The ship will be docked for 6 days.

14.11.19: **Navy** - Ashraf Haidari, Afghan ambassador in Sri Lanka, has met the Commander of the occupying Navy at their HQ.

16.11.19: **WHM** – Occupying Army from the Kilinochchi HQ organised educational seminars for the upcoming O/L Exams in December. According to the website of MoD, several hundreds of

students had attended these seminars.

17.11.19: **Navy** – Navy handover CG410 boat to the coastguard according to the navy's website.

18.11.19: **Navy** - A Visit Board Search & Seizure (VBSS) Course will be conducted for 2 weeks at Special Boat Squadron (SBS) Training School in Trincomalee according to the Navy's website. It is conducted for the partners associated with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Participants include 16 foreign students from countries such as; Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia.

19.11.19: **Navy** – Russian training ship “Perekop” arrived at the Hambantota port and will be docked for 3 days.

21.11.19: **WHM** – Occupying Sri Lankan army HQ Jaffna have donated a house for a ‘deserving’ Tamil family in Ampan, Jaffna.

19.11.19: **Symposium** – SL Navy and the ICRC have organized the 6th Asia-pacific-Symposium at Galle Face hotel according to the navy's website. The theme of this symposium is ‘The Law of Naval Warfare’. Around 26 naval officers from; Bangladesh, Cambodia,

China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Timor East, Vietnam and Sri Lanka are participating.

21.11.19: **Defence** – SL defence secretary Major General Kamal Gunaratne threatens legal action against any disturbers of peace within the island in a statement.

22.11.19: **Drugs** – Kamal Gunaratne reported to have instructed occupational SL police forces to implement tough measures to “curb drug menace” during a special meeting arranged with senior officers of the SL Police Narcotic Bureau at the SL Defence Ministry.

25.11.19: **Defence** – The Russian ambassador has visited the Secretary of MoD. The topics of the discussion were matters of bilateral importance according to MoD's website.

25.11.19: **Ship** – Indian Naval ship ‘Nireekskak’ reported by the MoD's website to have arrived at the Trincomalee port with the intent of engaging in training and is expected to leave at the completion of training on 03.12.19.

26.11.19: **WHM** – Occupying Sri Lankan troops have conducted educational seminars in the East. According to the MoD's website, the seminar was held in Muttur and was attended by more than 500 students.

27.11.19: **Defence** – 120 troops of the Gemunu Watch unit will participate at a joint military exercise with the Indian Army in India. according to the MoD's website, this annual joint exercise was established in 2012 with the aim of; sharing knowledge on military tactics, experience, exchange of infantry technicalities, counter terrorism practices, long range reconnaissance patrol (LRRP) techniques, small group operations, effective employment of

snipers, simulated attacks on terrorist hideouts, suicide bombing, use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) etc.

28.11.19: **Visit:** A four-member-delegation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have met the Secretary of the MoD. According to the MoD's website, the topics discussed included; training, strengthening of cooperation and other matters.

29.11.19: **Pakistan** - According to the MoD's website, the defence advisor of the High Commission of Pakistan in Sri Lanka has the Visited Secretary to the MoD.

29.11.19: **Meeting** - Mahinda Rajapaksa and

Kamal Gunaratne met to discuss national security issues.

29.11.19: **Defence** – SL State Minister of Defence, Chamal Rajapaksa assumes duties.

30.11.19: **Russia** – A Russian delegation visited the commander of the SL Navy. The topics of the discussions included several topics such as the pursuit of training exercises between the 2 navies according to the navy's website.

30.11.19: **Defence** – Gunaratne reported to have mentioned during a press conference in Kandy that the military camps established throughout the Tamil homeland would not be removed.

Economy News

27.10.19: **Tax** - Zuberi, a predominant Sri Lankan organiser of a fundraiser and lobbyist for the Obama campaign who was paid more than USD 6.5 million by Sri Lanka, has been accused of attempting to influence the US elections for personal and national business gains.

03.11.19: **IMF** – the IMF has undertaken measures to provide SL with additional funds of USD \$164 million under phase

6 of their loan schemes amounting to a total of USD \$1.5 billion provided through loans overall.

04.11.19: **MCC** – Protest against MCC held in Colombo by Wimal Weeravamsa.

04.11.19: **Resignation** – SL Central Bank Governor Dr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy submits a tender of resignation with his term expecting to end by 20.12.19.

05.11.19: **MCC** – Sinhala Buddhist monk, Ududumbara Kashyappa Thero commenced a fast-unto-death campaign in Colombo against the MCC agreement. The Thero's strike was hastily ended after both main candidates assured that the MCC will not be signed before the presidential election.

06.11.19: **Conference** – The “South Asia Economics and Prosperity Conference” organised by The Foreign &

Commonwealth Office commenced in Sri Lanka with the presence of diplomats and trade policy experts.

07.11.19: **Tourism** – SL Tourism Development Authority reports 22.5% decline in tourism rates in October – a 4.7% improvement from September with record market growth from Russian tourists as the only sector to experience increases.

13.11.19: **MCC** – Petition against MCC for the alleged violation of the territorial integrity of the island to be heard by a five – judge bench.

14.11.19: **Economy** – Reports indicate expectations of an increase in revenue by 57% from the air transport and service delivery industry following the revision of a new tariff.

14.11.19: **Resignation** – Chairman Gomes has submitted his resignation to the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau to be effective from 15.11.19 to

allow the new government to elect a new Chairman.

18.11.19: **Economy** – Gotabaya Rajapaksa reported to have inherited more than USD 34.4 billion worth of debt of which 25% is supposedly owed to China. The island is also reported to be in its “deepest economic slump in more than 15 years.”

21.11.19: **SL Cabinet** – SL Tourism Development Authority Chairman, Jayaratne has resigned from his position as chairman.

21.11.19: **EU** - India and SL reported to have raised concerns regarding the EU’s proposal to curb illegal fishing in the region.

23.11.19: **Geopolitics** – Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, Alice Wells reported to have mentioned that Sri Lanka has ‘ceded sovereignty’ over the Hambantota Port and has extended US support for India’s opposition to

China’s One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative.

23.11.19: **USA** – After congratulating Gotabaya on his victory, the American Chamber of Commerce in Sri Lanka (AmCham) expressed hope to promote trade and investment between the 2 countries in a statement.

27.11.19: **Economy** – VAT (Value Added Tax) has been reduced from 15% to 8%. Other Tax reductions were implemented according to Azzam Ameen. These will be in decline due to the structural reform program by IMF.

29.11.19: **Economy** – SL Central Bank’s Monetary Board reported to have mentioned in a published review of monetary policy that the recent tax revisions would support lower inflation and increased economic growth within a short term but has advised the government to revise the impact of such tax revisions upon SL’s long term fiscal policy.

News about Opression & Protests

01.11.19: **Arrest** – 2 Tamil administrators of Maligai Kaatu Vinaayagar temple in Vavuniya were arrested and detained at a nearby local prison following a complaint made by the Department of Archaeology to the occupational SL Police department.

01.11.19: **Media** – Vasantham TV's Kattankudy journalist, Mohamed Saji was attacked by a group of unidentified individuals resulting in his hospitalisation. The manager of the media outlet was also threatened by the attackers.

01.11: **Summons:** ITAK's young activist Peter Ilancheliam received summons from the TID for unspecified reasons with a meeting scheduled for 08.11.19 for his involvement with Maaveerar naal preparations.

02.11.19: **Media** – Following a commemorative vigil in light of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists in Jaffna, journalists commenced an awareness campaign to encourage the public to voice against the

injustices that continue to be conducted against Tamil journalists through pamphlet distribution throughout the district.

03.11.19: **Protest** – Families of forcibly disappeared persons protest outside ITAK's meeting in Vavuniya. Protestors accused the TNA for betraying basic Tamil demands.

04.11.19: **Media** – "Batti Press Club" opened with the intention of strengthening a local journalist network.

06.11.19: **Arrest** – Tamil administrators of Maligai Temple detained in Vavuniya have had their detention extended following the adjournment of the case to 16.11.19.

09.11.19: **Intimidations** - Months of pressure from the SL military and the University Grants Commission (UGC) to bar Kumaravadivel Guruparan from private practice following his involvement in a *habeas corpus* case regarding victims from Navatkuli mount with a meeting conducted by the Jaffna University Council instructing Guruparan to adhere to the UGC instructions.

09.11.19: **Summons** – Former NPC member Kugathas summoned by TID for appearance in Colombo on 13.11.19.

10.11.19: **Protest** – Tamil families of forcibly disappeared persons protested in Mullaitivu against white van disappearances during Mahindha Rajapaksa's visit at a rally in support of Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

10.11.19: **Remembrance** – TNA MP Nadaraja Raviraj commemorated by TNA officials and families of the disappeared in Jaffna and Vavuniya in memory of his assassination 13 years ago which remains unaccounted for.

10.11.19: **White van abductions** – Alleged former white van driver, Anthony Fernando claims in a spontaneous press conference introduced by Dr. Seneviratne that he had witnessed the kidnappings, torture and murder of victims before the bodies were "fed to crocodiles" who he claims to be Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

10.11.19: **Case** – SL Court of Appeal has set a court hearing for Extremist Sinhala Buddhist monk Gnanasara Thero for

17.02.2020 following an action filed last month by TNA MP Shanthi Srisikantharajah regarding the Neeraviyadi cremation incident.

14.11.19: **Protest** – 2 fathers active in protests in Mullaitivu calling for justice for forcibly disappeared persons reported to have passed away this week.

15.11.19: **Protest** – 1000th-day mark reached by the protesters, who are searching for their forcibly disappeared relatives.

18.11.19: **Remembrance** – Students of Thandikulam Agriculture College commemorated 5 students, who were killed in 2006.

22.11.19: **Media** – Nonuniformed SL police interrogated the administration of Vavuniya-based Tamil newspaper, Thinapuyal regarding the

publication of LTTE-related news in the paper.

23.11.19 – 25.11.19: **Exhibition** – Aspects of Tamil resistance exhibited through over 1000 photographs at the Jaffna Photography Festival held at the Thanthai Selva auditorium.

26.11.19: **Celebration** – Jaffna University students celebrated the national leader of Tamil Eelam, V. Prabhakaran's 65th birthday on campus at midnight in secret.

28.11.19: **Arrest** – Vaiko arrested by Delhi Police for organising a black flag protest against the arrival of Gotabaya in India.

29.11.19: **Explosives** - 2 kgs of TNT explosives and 4 detonators recovered by STF from a lagoon in Passaiyoor, Jaffna.

29.11.19: **Demands** – Fishery movements in the North put forth 21 demands towards the newly-elected Gotabaya government to address issues faced by fishing communities in the province, during a press conference in Nallur, Jaffna.

29.11.19: **Burials** - Occupational police HQ in Trincomalee claim to have uncovered 130 suspected LTTE burial remains from Alasthottapuram, Trincomalee.

29.11.19: **Arrest** – Youth reported to be arrested by Horana police for sharing photos of the national leader of Tamil Eelam's photograph on social media.

Signs of Structural Genocide

Batticaloa - SL Forestry Department officials from Ampaarai intervene to release Sinhalese individuals who had exploited Tamil dairy farmers in Batticaloa and were initially detained by local forest guards to avert legal action.



MAAVEERAM

Militarisation, memorialisation and resistance narratives

Maaveeram or its core concept ‘martyrdom’ is often publicised amongst as “virtuous militarised practices which often result in popular social change through the cultural indoctrination of the subject society by a ruling body.” Yet the subversive nature of the political doctrine of Maaveeram as represented within the struggle for an

independent Tamil Eelam, challenges such basic conceptions of militarisation to counter hierarchical powers to establish sovereign historical agency amongst oppressed communities thus fostering national and global consciousness through resistance. Therefore, the commemoration of such martyrs – especially

within the occupied homeland – is a representation of an unwavering form of resistance against genocidal regimes. A review of this year’s commemorations in spite of the new Sri Lankan regime, will thus represent the role of such resistance in strengthening agency.

Community commemorations

Events and commemorative acts were undertaken by various cross-sections of the Tamil community in the lead up to and on Maaveerar Naal.

Date	Nature	Location	Organisers
21.11.19	Vigil – lamp lit to commence Maaveerar Vaaram.	Jaffna University campus	Students.
23.11.19 – 25.11.19	Exhibition – Over 1000 photographs exhibiting recent Maaveerar Naal events held within the occupied homeland and other protests to document Tamil resistance and memorialisation portrayed.	Jaffna Photography Festival, Thanthai Selva Auditorium	-
24.11.19	Honouring the parents of Maaveerar - a tradition introduced under the LTTE administration to honour the families from which our struggle received selfless martyrs.	Multiple districts within the occupied homeland.	-
24.11.19	Vigil	Koppay	TNPF.
24.11.19	Vigil	Pachchilaippalli	ITAK.
26.11.19	Stones – stones inscribed with the names of 25,000 Tamil liberation fighters unveiled.	Nallur, Jaffna.	TNPF and civil society activists.
27.11.19	Campus event – martyrs commemorated on campus premises despite disruptions.	Jaffna University Campus.	Students.

27.11.19	Tribute – sacrificial lamp lit.	Lt. Col. Thileepan monument, Nallur.	Public.
27.11.19	Campus event - students commemorate martyrs on campus premises.	Vanthuramoolai campus, Batticaloa Eastern University.	Students.
27.11.19	Vigil & tree planting – students plant trees and light candles in memory of the martyrs and to symbolise the ongoing nature of the struggle.	Jaffna Hindu College.	Students and staff.
27.11.19	Office vigil – candles lit in memory of martyrs.	Jaffna TNA party office.	ITAK head and senior TNA politicians.
27.11.19	Media – Tamil newspapers feature articles and commemorative content in their papers regarding the sacrifices made by the martyrs.	N/A	The following newspapers Uthayan Thinakkural Virakesari Tamil Mirror Valampuri
27.11.19	Vigil	Vavuniya	Vavuniya Urban Council

Thuyilum Illam commemorations

The sites of destructed *Thuyilum Illangal* were cleared throughout the month in the lead up to maaveerar naal through community-led initiatives. Individuals involved in the clearance of these sites were constantly subject to threats and surveillance from the occupational forces.

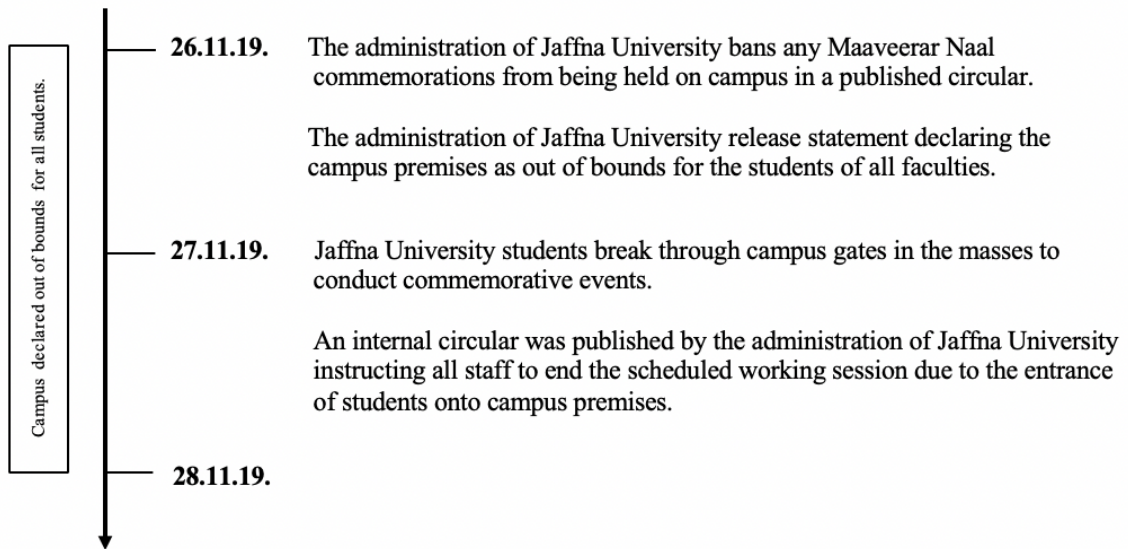
Date	Memorial site	Location	Notes
22.11.19	Kumarappa – Pulendran memorial site.	Theeruvil, Valvettithurai	Clearance led by the Valvettithurai Urban Council reported to have been prevented by occupational forces with videos taken of public engaged in the process.
24.11.19	-	Paruthithurai Mullivaikkal Vavuniya	Organisers of commemorations reported by Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam to have been threatened not to conduct events by occupational SL forces in civil clothes and instructed to report to nearby police stations by 25.11.19.
26.11.19	-	Mullaitivu	13 Tamil organisers of commemorations reported to have been arrested by Mullaitivu's occupational police and intelligence officers after their red & yellow decorations were seized by the officials. Individuals reported to be released after questioning.

26.11.19	Eechankulam Thuyilum Illam.	Vavuniya Mannar	Preparations at <i>thuyilum illam</i> sites reported to have been completely destructed by occupational military forces overnight causing the public to make last minute rearrangements for commemoration.
27.11.19	Kodikamam Thuyilum Illam	Jaffna	Tamils attempting to commemorate Maaveerar Naal at the site where an occupational army camp has been built, were denied access to the site by uniformed SL officers. The attendees continued with commemoration by lighting a lamp near the site.
27.11.19	Alankulam Thuyilum Illam	Mallavi, Mullaitivu	Traditional maaveerar naal commemoration.
27.11.19	Irattaivaikkal Thuyilum Illam	Mullaitivu	Traditional maaveerar naal commemoration.
27.11.19	Vannivilankulam Thuyilum Illam	Mullaitivu	Traditional maaveerar naal commemoration.
27.11.19	Mulliyavalai Thuyilum Illam	Mullaitivu	Traditional maaveerar naal commemoration.
27.11.19	Iranappalai Thuyilum Illam	Mullaitivu	Traditional maaveerar naal commemoration.
27.11.19	Tharavai Thuyilum Illam	Batticaloa	Traditional maaveerar naal commemoration.
27.11.19	Vaharai Kadaladi Thuyilum Illam	Batticaloa	Traditional maaveerar naal commemoration.
27.11.19	Mavadi Munmari Thuyilum Illam	Batticaloa	Traditional maaveerar naal commemoration.
27.11.19	Vakarai Thuyilum Illam	Batticaloa	Journalists reported to be intimidated and prevented from going to Vaharai through road blocks and other measures by occupational police forces.
27.11.19	Koppay Thuyilum Illam	Jaffna	Traditional maaveerar naal commemoration.
27.11.19	Chatty Thuyilum Illam	Velanai Island, Jaffna	Traditional maaveerar naal commemoration.
27.11.19	Theeruvil Thuyilum Illam	Vaddamarachchi, Jaffna	Traditional maaveerar naal commemoration.
27.11.19	Paruththithurai Munai	Jaffna	Traditional maaveerar naal commemoration.
27.11.19	Ellankulam Thuyilum Illam	Kodikamam, Jaffna	Traditional maaveerar naal commemoration.
27.11.19	Aadkattiveli Thuyilum Illam	Mannar	Traditional maaveerar naal commemoration.
27.11.19	Pandivirichaan Thuyilum Illam	Mannar	Traditional maaveerar naal commemoration.
27.11.19	-	Amparai	Traditional maaveerar naal commemoration.
27.11.19	Sampur Thuyilum Illam	Trincomalee	Traditional maaveerar naal commemoration.

27.11.19	Kanakapuram Thuyilum Illam	Kilinochchi	Traditional maaveerar naal commemoration.
27.11.19	Eechchankulam Thuyilum Illam	Vavuniya	Traditional maaveerar naal commemoration.

Bans

Commemoration events organised by the students of Jaffna University faced multiple bans and injunctions from conducting events on campus. The chronology will further indicate the level of oppression exerted by campus authorities to prevent the memorialisation.



The fundamentals of the Tamil struggle which represent resistance are constantly erased or destructed as a portion of the genocidal onslaught undertaken by various actors. United forms of resistance against any historic erasure - especially from within the occupied homeland - strengthens effective resistance against such genocidal hegemony.