

## CFIS's large-scale protest in Basel was conducted on 14.12.2019

**Basel** – With atleast 14 constituent organisations, the Committee for International Solidarity (CFIS) conducted a protest in Basel, Switzerland which effectively blocked traffic on the 14.12.2019. It is noteworthy that Phoenix - the Next Generation is also a constituent organisation and participated in the said protest alongside more than 800 individuals.

The protest was organised to resist the agenda of the global superpowers (including Switzerland) and to establish international solidarity amongst oppressed communities. Whilst global superpowers continue to cohesively corroborate as a result of their agenda of expanding globalisation, subjugated communities continue to struggle in an isolated manner.

### Opposition

This protest faced many challenges and obstacles prior to its commencement including aggression from media outlets and government authorities. Despite the fear instigated amongst the wider population due to such actions, the protest occurred successfully with mass participation. Such strong solidarity and active participation from the population prevented the police from attempting to take any actions against the participants. Their attempts to implement the strategy of “divide and conquer” against the protestors also failed. The core values of the Tamil struggle were conveyed to the attendees thus effectively transferring the essence of the Tamil liberation struggle to other struggling

subjugated communities thus strengthening solidarity amongst the oppressed societies.

It has become apparent that continuing to engage in diplomatic initiatives to convert opposing parties to aid us in our struggle is senseless. It is only moral to engage in discourses with oppressed communities to further all international struggles for liberation - including the Tamil struggle. However, it is unfortunate that many Tamils have been caught up in the mirage of global diplomacy thus stunting the progress of our liberation struggle. Therefore, it is essential that many such “Tamil activists” involved in this process are held accountable for their actions against the struggle.

The detrimental effect of the strategy for global diplomacy which was adapted by the Tamils began during a time prior to 2009. The failure of diaspora activists to allow the LTTE cadres who had arrived in such countries following 2002 (the peace process), to engage in conversation with progressive powers is one such particular failure. Subsequently, this resulted in our isolation during the 2009 period. It is through identifying this failure that Phoenix-the Next Generation has participated in this protest. This action has thus cemented the foundational step in establishing international solidarity amongst subjugated communities thus redirecting the course of the Tamil liberation struggle.



## International News

01.12.19: **China** – The former Chinese ambassador to Sri Lanka visited Sri Lanka according to Xinhuanet. In this meeting both sides agreed to strengthen their robust political ties and upgrade their pragmatic cooperation. They also want to speed up the implementation of cooperation on his projects like Colombo City port and the Hambantotta port under existing consensus. The former ambassador met also Gota, Mahinda and other politicians.

01.12.2019: **Swiss** - According to SL's ministry of the foreign relations, the information presented by the Swiss government about the abductions did not correspond with the inquiry conducted by the CID. They also indicated that they wished to examine the alleged victim. A retired SL army major has also been reported to have commenced a hunger strike before the Swiss embassy, which was later called off.

01.12.2019: **Swiss** – SL's Ministry of Foreign Relations reported that Ravintha Aryasinha, Kamal Gunaratne and other SL officials met with the Ambassador for Switzerland in Sri Lanka, Hanspeter Mock and the Deputy Chief of Mission to discuss the outcome of the investigations conducted by the CID regarding the Swiss embassy employee abduction case in a published statement. In this meeting the chronology of the investigation was discussed, and it was noted that the victim should be presented for a medical examination by a Judicial Medical Officer in Sri Lanka to validate claims that she sustained injuries during the abduction.

01.12.2019: **Malaysia** – Tamil Guardian reports that the family members of the Tamils arrested for alleged links to the LTTE in

Malaysia have been reported to have been threatened through anonymous calls. G. Swaminathan's wife Umah Devi claims to have received such a call during her hunger strike outside Bukit Aman police HQ.

01.12.2019: **Pakistan** – Colombo Page reports that Pakistan's Foreign Minister Qureshi was received by SL Ambassador and Additional Secretary Bilateral Affairs (East) of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, P. Selvaraj for his 2-day visit to Sri Lanka. He has scheduled meetings with Gota and Mahindha as well as a separate meeting with SL foreign minister, Gunawardena. The aim of this visit includes bilateral relations and regional security according to PMD news.

02.12.19: **China** – Former Chinese ambassador Wu Jianghao met Gota according to PMD news.

02.12.19: **Italy** - The Ambassador for the Republic of Italy in Sri Lanka, Rita Giuliana Mannella called on Gotabaya at the Presidential Secretariat. Her government expects to work in wider cooperation with Sri Lanka to progress with a new vision according to PMD news.

02.12.19: **Norway** - A delegation of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Sri Lanka headed by its Ambassador Trine Jøranli Eskedal met Gotabaya. During the meeting Norway's fullest support was pledged according to PMD news.

02.12.2019: **Canada** – Canada's High Commissioner David McKinnon met with Gotabaya to discuss the strengthening of bilateral relations and tweeted that the meeting was useful.

02.12.2019: **Swiss** – Tamil Guardian reports SL military's Major (Rtd.) Attorney-at-Law Ajith Prasanna's commencement of a protest outside Switzerland's Embassy in Colombo condemning the country's alleged role in tarnishing Sri Lanka's reputation and calling upon the Embassy to allow the victim to present a statement to the SL police.

02.12.2019: **Swiss** – In a statement published by Switzerland's FDFA, it was mentioned that Switzerland's State Secretary had met with Sri Lanka's ambassador after summoning him to discuss the evidence referenced to by the statement published by Sri Lanka's foreign ministry earlier this month and to reiterate that the victim "could not be questioned on health grounds."

03.12.2019: **Swiss** – Tamil Guardian reports that the GoSL had alerted Colombo's international airport that the local Swiss embassy employee may attempt to leave the island thus attempting to prevent her departure. It was also reported that the Swiss government had requested an air ambulance to allow the employee to safely travel to Switzerland for further treatment.

03.12.2019: **Swiss** – In a ruling regarding allegations put forth against 12 Swiss – Eelam Tamils by the OAG regarding allegations for financing the LTTE, Switzerland's Federal Court rules that the LTTE is not a criminal organisation and that their main objective was to establish an independent homeland thus simultaneously acquitting all 12 individuals from allegations. The ruling was published in a press release by Switzerland's federal tribunal.



03.12.2019: **UK** – During the recent British elections both major political parties referred to the Tamils in their manifesto. This led to criticism from Namal Rajapakse. Paul Sully from the conservative party released a tweet in response, where he clarified that they did not want a 2 state solution.

03.12.2019: **Swiss** – Colombo's Chief Magistrate has imposed a travel ban on the employee of the Swiss embassy according to Azzam Ameen.

03.12.2019: **Swiss** – According to local Swiss newspapers Switzerland's federal court had ruled that the LTTE is not a criminal organisation.

03.12.2019: **Pakistan** - Pakistan's Foreign Minister visited Sri Lanka's Foreign minister and discussed the growth of bilateral relations. He further mentioned that Pakistan is seeking further intelligence correspondence according to the ministry of the foreign relations.

03.12.2019: **China** – A Chinese military delegation met the commander of the SL navy. The delegation was conducting an official visit, where they conducted bilateral discussions and exchanged their views according to the website of the navy.

04.12.2019: **Swiss** – Tamil Guardian reports that Colombo's Chief Magistrate had announced a travel ban preventing the allegedly abducted local Swiss embassy employee from leaving the island until 12.12.2019.

04.12.2019: **UK** – Tamil Guardian reports that members of the Sinhalese diaspora gathered outside Britain's Labour Party's HQ to condemn the party's commitment to the Eelam Tamils.

04.12.2019: **UK** – UNP's MP Navin Dissanayake condemns Britain's Conservative Party's manifesto which allegedly outlines a 2-state solution in Sri Lanka during statement made in a press conference which was published by the Daily Mirror.

04.12.19: **UAE** - The Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates in Sri Lanka, Ahmad Ali Al Mualla made a courtesy call with Gotabaya to discuss bilateral relations according to PMD news.

04.12.19: **New Zealand** - A delegation headed by the New Zealand High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Joanna Kempfers met with Gotabaya according to PMD news.

04.12.19: **Maldives** - Maldivian Foreign Affairs Minister, Abdulla Shahid arrived in SL for a 4-day official visit according to PMD news. In this meeting Gota said, that countries like Japan, Australia, Singapore and South Korea should also invest in Sri Lanka. He further mentioned that the Indian Ocean must remain free and open for all nations for their economic upliftment.

04.12.19: **Canada** – High officials from Canada have met Gota. In this meeting they greeted Gota on behalf of the Canadian government according to PMD news.

04.12.19: **New Zealand** – High officials from New Zealand have met Gota. In this meeting the officials assured their commitment to develop their mutual relation according to PMD news.

05.12.2019: **Swiss** - Sri Lanka rejected the Swiss embassy's request to bring the alleged abducted woman to Switzerland for treatment according to MoD's website.

06.12.19: **Australia** - The Australian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, David Holly called on Gotabaya at SL's Presidential Secretariat. In this meeting, the High Commissioner pledged Australia's fullest support to Sri Lanka according to PMD news.

06.12.2019: **UK** – Court ruling published by London's Westminster Magistrates' Court declares Brigadier Fernando guilty of breaching the Public Order Act 1986.

07.12.2019: **UK** – SL's foreign ministry condemns court decision regarding Brigadier Fernando in a statement released by the ministry and maintains that he is still entitled to diplomatic immunity.

08.12.2019: **UK** – In an interview with Ada Derana, Kamal Gunaratne blames the pressures of a pro – LTTE diaspora in Switzerland and the UK for pressuring their respective governments regarding the Swiss embassy employee incident and Brigadier Fernando's case ruling.

08.12.19: **Middle East** - According to the PMD, Ambassadors representing the Middle Eastern Ambassadors' Forum called on Gotabaya at SL's presidential secretariat to discuss and strengthen bilateral relations between constituent states including; Palestine, Egypt, Kuwait, Oman, Iraq, Libya and Qatar.

08.12.2019: **Swiss** – Daily Mirror and Tamil Guardian report that the local Swiss embassy employee was accompanied by embassy officials and lawyers to provide her statement to SL's CID.

08.12.2019: **Swiss** - According to Colombo Page SL Foreign Secretary has claimed, that legal action against the local Swiss



embassy can be taken. Then she is a Sri Lankan Citizen.

09.12.19: **Swiss** – According to Azzam Ameen, the CID interrogated the allegedly abducted local Swiss embassy employee for 9 hours.

09.12.2019: **Swiss** – Tamil Guardian reports that SL's judiciary had ordered for the allegedly abducted local Swiss embassy employee for a medical examination by Colombo's Judicial Medical Officer (JMO).

10.12.2019: **Swiss** – Tamil Guardian reports that the Swiss government has released a statement condemning SL's media for "harming the relationship between the two countries."

10.12.2019: **Swiss** - Tamil Guardian reports that the local Swiss embassy employee appeared before SL's CID to present her statement regarding her abduction for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time and was assessed by the JMO for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time.

11.12.2019: **Swiss** - Tamil Guardian reports that the local Swiss embassy employee is scheduled to appear before SL's Fort Magistrate's Court on 12.12.2019 where the CID and JMO will submit their findings to the court.

12.12.2019: **Swiss** – Tamil Guardian reports that the local Swiss employee was ordered by the court to be subject to a psychiatric examination on 13.12.2019 and has had her travel ban extended to 17.12.2019.

12.12.2019: **EU** – EU releases statement expressing that approximately LKR 813.7 million would be allocated to SL's civil societies to launch 7 projects to advocate democracy and human rights across the island.

13.12.19: **EU** – Geoffrey Van Orden CBE conveyed wishes regarding Gotabaya's Presidential victory on behalf of the Chairman of Friends of Sri Lanka in the European Parliament and further mentioned the need for the strengthening of bilateral integration in the aftermath of the defeat of the LTTE according to Daily FT.

13.12.2019: **Japan** – Japanese Foreign Minister Motegi met with Gotabaya during a 3-day visit to Sri Lanka at the SL President's Office. Leading an 8-member delegation, Motegi was reported by the Colombo Page to have discussed bilateral areas of cooperation including ICT development, port infrastructure development, television transmission digitalisation, disaster prevention and security cooperation. Japan has also vowed to continue efforts for stability and reconciliation.

16.12.2019: **Swiss** – Tamil Guardian reports that the local Swiss embassy employee was arrested by SL authorities for allegedly falsifying evidence in her statement. Azzam Ameen reports that the arrest was made following instructions from the Attorney General.

16.12.2019: **Swiss** – Ambassador of Switzerland, Mock met with Gotabaya at the Presidential Secretariat and has been reported to have mentioned that misunderstandings must be overcome to strengthen relations between the 2 countries reports the PMD news. Azzam Ameen reports also that Gotabaya had mentioned that any allegations were completely fabricated.

16.12.2019: **Swiss** – Switzerland's FDFA releases statement calling upon SL's judicial authorities to ensure that their local employee's security is maintained in a published statement.

18.12.19: **Swiss** – According to Azzam Ameen, the Swiss foreign minister had spoken with the Sri Lankan Foreign minister via phone to discuss the status of the local Swiss embassy employee's case.

19.12.2019: **Swiss** – Switzerland's FDFA releases statement outlining Switzerland's phone conversation with SL's foreign minister Gunawardena to inform him that Switzerland's expert diplomat Frieden would be sent to Sri Lanka to address the local Swiss employee's situation.

19.12.19: **China** – Gotabaya stated according to Azzam Ameen, that the contract about the port of Hambantota would not be renegotiated yet the security aspects would be re-analysed.

20.12.2019: **China** – China has been reported to have welcomed Gotabaya's decision not to renegotiate the Hambantota port deal reports the Xinhua Net.

23.12.2019: **Malaysia** – Malaymail reports that the case of Tamils arrested under SoSMA for alleged links to the LTTE will be transferred to Malaysia's High Court.

25.12.2019: **Nigeria** – Colombo Gazette reports that the Nigerian President Buhari had appreciated Sri Lanka's support for Nigeria to be selected as the president of the UN General Assembly with Nigeria's High Commissioner expressing the need for mutual cooperation between the 2 countries due to similar challenges.

26.12.2019: **Russia** – Russian Foreign Affairs Minister, Lavrov is scheduled to visit Sri Lanka on 14.01.2020 to discuss bilateral relations reports Colombo Page.



27.12.2019: **Britain** – According to SL's Justice Ministry, Britain's High Commissioner, Hulton met with SL's Justice and Human Rights Minister, Nimal Siripala de Silva this week to offer support

to Sri Lanka to develop "prison and justice reform".

30.12.19 – **Swiss** – The local Swiss embassy employee was granted bail and released.

31.12.19 – **Swiss** – The Swiss embassy released a statement, where they hoped to resume positive cooperation between both states as a healthy relationship had been maintained between the 2 states over the past decades.

## Military News

02.12.2019: **Training** – According to the SL Navy's website, a Naval Special Warfare Maritime Security Course commenced in Trincomalee. The training spanning 2 weeks focuses on; roles in the maritime domain, boat maintenance and navigation of craft, Maritime Security, Mission planning and personal safety. This training program is conducted by eight trainers from the US Navy's Special Warfare Coastal troop.

04.12.2019: **Church** – According to the MoD website, SL's Defence Secretary had met the cardinal of Colombo to discuss issues of mutual interest

05.12.2019: **Defence** – According to SL's State Defence Minister, Chamal Rajapaksa, there will be a common media unit for SL's tri-Forces and police. He mentioned this at an event, where 187 motorbikes worth 75 Million USD had been donated by China to SL police stations across the island.

05.12.2019: **Russia** – According to the SL Navy's website, the Russian Ministry of Defence met SL's Eastern Naval Command in their official visit. Bilateral discussions were reported to have been conducted with an exchange of views between the 2 parties. Subsequently, the Russian military was further reported to have conducted a training program for the occupying SL Navy personnel

regarding counter terrorism operations.

06.12.19: **Technology** - According to MoD's website, SL Defence Secretary Gunaratne assumed duties as TRCSL (Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka). The TRCSL will expand the 5G under the concept of "Smart Sri Lanka" in accordance with Rajapaksa's manifesto.

09.12.2019: **Defence** – SL Army's official website reports Kamal Gunaratne's address at the Army's HQ in Sri Jeyawardenapura where he mentioned that the LTTE ideology was still active.

09.12.2019: **Defence** – Brigadier Priyanka Fernando reported to have been appointed as the Director of Real Estate and Quartering at SL Army HQ. Reports emerge on the SL army's official website.

10.12.19: **Japan** – According to the SL Navy, the Japanese naval ship, DD-102 Harusame had visited the Trincomalee Port.

10.12.19: **Russia** – A Russian army delegation including a Russian de-mining expert, Lt. General Iurri Stavitskii arrived in Sri Lanka. Both sides were reported to have shared their knowledge with SL educating the Russian delegation regarding their de-mining operations. On the other hand, the Russian delegation shared their experiences in the combatting the Islamic state. It is noteworthy that a "Military

cooperation Agreement" was signed between the 2 parties in 2018.

10.12.2019: **Defence** – Gotabaya issues gazette notification centralising the following 31 institutions within SL's defence ministry:

01. Office of the Chief of Defence Staff
02. Sri Lanka Army
03. Sri Lanka Navy
04. Sri Lanka Air Force
05. Sri Lanka Police
06. Department of Civil Security
07. State Intelligence Service
08. Ranaviru Seva Authority
09. Sir John Kotelawala Defence University
10. Defence Services Command and Staff College
11. Defence Services School
12. National Cadet Corps
13. National Defence Fund
14. Defence Research and Development Centre
15. Sri Lanka Institute of National Defence Studies
16. Coast Guard Department of Sri Lanka
17. Lanka Logistics Limited
18. Rakna Arakshana Lanka Ltd.
19. National Dangerous Drugs Control Board
20. Department of Immigration and Emigration
21. Department of Registration of Persons
22. National Media Centre,
23. Secretariat for Non-Governmental Organizations
24. Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka
25. Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka
26. Sri Lanka Computer Emergency Readiness Team
27. National Disaster Management Council
28. Disaster Management Centre
29. National Disaster Relief Services Centre
30. Department of Meteorology
31. National Building Research Organization



11.12.2019: **Intelligence** – SL's former Director of Military Intelligence (DMI), Brigadier Suresh Salley who was removed from his position due to alleged association with gangs in Jaffna has been reported by Tamil Guardian to have been reappointed as the head of SIS by Gotabaya.

11.12.19: **China** – China has been reported to have donated 50 bicycles and 3 electronic buggies to SL's navy.

12.12.19: **Defence** – According to the MoD's website, Gunaratne visited occupying forces in Jaffna where he was reported to have mentioned in a speech that the LTTE was trying to regroup.

12.12.19: **WHM** – According to the SL Army's website the occupational army had constructed a pre-school in Ariyaalai with funds from US-based Dr. Sukumar Nagendran, who was in contact with an SLA commander.

13.12.19: **India** – The Indian defence attaché visited SL's Defence Secretary Gunaratne reports the MoD's website.

13.12.19: **Technology** – According to the SL navy's website, the navy has the capacity to electrically operate their 40mm/L60 weapon, which is onboard of the SLNS Samudura.

13.12.19: **WHM** – According to the SLA's website, the occupying armed forces of Sri Lanka arranged Christmas Carols at "Nelum Pisyasa" – an auditorium in Kilinochchi.

14.12.19: **WHM** – Occupational SL armed forces assisted Christmas Carols at ST Mary's Cathedral Grounds reports the SLA website.

17.12.19: **USA** – According to the MoD's website, the US

ambassador met with SL's Defence Secretary, Gunaratne.

17.12.19: **WHM** – According to the SLA's website, the occupying SL armed forces had constructed the 700th house for supposedly deserving people in Jaffna.

18.12.2019: **UN** – A study published by the Conversation mentions that children as young as 11 were impregnated by UN peacekeeping forces in Haiti, including Sri Lankan armed officials reports Tamil Guardian.

18.12.19: **Russia** – According to the MoD's website, the Russian defence attaché had met with SL's Defence Secretary, Gunaratne.

18.12.19: **Bangladesh** – According to the SL Navy's website, the defence attaché of Bangladesh had visited the SL's Southern Naval Commander to discuss matters of mutual interest.

18.12.19: **Training** – According to the website of the SLA, the Bomb and Improvised Explosive Device Disposal Training Basic Course (BIEDDT) which was conducted for the Maldivian Forces have concluded. Advanced courses have been reported to commence in the beginning of 2020.

19.12.19: **Seminar** – Officer Career Development Centre (OCDC) held their second seminar on «Countering Violent Extremism». The topics of the two day seminar were: «**Understanding Violent Extremism, Trends and challenges in the local context, Necessity of a national narrative, Legal framework for dealing with violent extremism and the Role of military commanders at tactical level.**»

19.12.19: **WHM** – The occupying armed forces of Sri Lanka assisted Christmas carols in Batticaloa according to their website.

19.12.19: **India** – According to the Army's website, the chief of the Indian naval staff of the navy met the commander of the SL army during his 4-day trip. In the meeting, they discussed bilateral cooperation projects between both sides and expressed interest in the expansion of maritime security cooperation and ongoing bilateral working relations.

22.12.2019: **Militarisation** – Tamil Guardian reports that Gotabaya has urged SL's occupational armed forces to maintain law and order thus effectively increasing militarisation to come into effect from today.

24.12.19: **WHM** – According to the SLA, occupying armed forces in Jaffna have donated bicycles to school students and coconut-seedlings to families.

30.12.19: **Turkey** – The outgoing ambassador of Turkey held a meeting with SL's defence secretary Gunaratne. According to MoD's website, they spoke about defence and security matters, enhancing training opportunities for security forces between the two countries, intelligence sharing and enhancing bilateral cooperation.

30.12.2019: **Data** – In a meeting held at the SL Presidential Secretariat with SL's Minister of Information and Communication, Gotabaya assessed the possibilities of establishing a centrally coordinated national data centre collating personal information of all citizens to ease strains on various governmental sectors reports the Colombo Page.



## Economic News

05.12.2019: **USA** – USAtoday chose Sri Lanka as one of the top 20 warm-weather destinations for winter.

07.12.19: **Colombo City port** – According to Azzam Ameen, 269 hectares of Colombo City port was officially declared as a part of Sri Lanka.

09.12.19: **UN** – Sri Lanka ranked 71st amongst 189 countries in the 2019 Human Development Report which was released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bogota, Colombia.

10.12.2019: **India** – Hiru News reports that the Indian High Commissioner Taranjith Singh met with SL's Minister of Industrial Export Investment Promotion and Civil Aviation, Prasanna Ranatunga, where Singh announced that India would provide SL with a grant of RS 300 million to develop Jaffna's Palaly International Airport.

12.12.2019: **Energy** – SL President met with senior officials of the Ministry of Power and Energy to review issues in the power and energy sectors and formulated many solutions reports the Colombo Page.

16.12.19: **Economy** – According to Azzam Ameen, Sri Lankan airlines is adding 18 more cities through an agreement with Qatar Airways increasing SL airlines' availability to 127 destinations in 56 countries despite a loss of 168 Mio \$ in the 2018/2019 financial year.

18.12.19: **Economy** – Azzam Ameen reports that World Bank had approved a loan of USD 25 million to Sri Lanka to improve the transparency and efficiency of the core government and public financial management operations.

20.12.19: **Loan** – According to SL's finance ministry all banks must suspend the recovery of SME-Loans under 300 Mio Rs.

27.12.2019: **Tourism** – Colombo Gazette reports that SL's Central Bank had mentioned the Sri Lankan tourism industry's fast recovery in contrast to expected projections of growth following the Easter Sunday Attacks, in a published statement.

27.12.2019: **IMF** – SL's Central Bank Governor, Lakshman was reported by Colombo Gazette to have mentioned that SL would engage with IMF and other international multilateral agencies whilst maintaining Sri Lanka's sovereignty.

29.12.2019: **Economy** – According to Adaderanabiz the first foreign investment under Gotabaya's government would be launched soon. The Ministry noted that the USD 250 million investment would involve a 30-story commercial tower that would be constructed between Beira Lake and the Shangri-La Hotel in Colombo by the foreign investor, Perennial Real Estate Holdings.

30.12.2019: **India** – According to the Daily Mirror, India has offered to develop the Batticaloa Airport for flight operations between regional destinations as a component of its measures to improve air connectivity with Sri Lanka.

## News about Oppression & Resistance

26.11.2019: **Law** – University Grants Commission publish a circular letter establishing that approval cannot be granted for academic staff members to practice as Attorneys-at-Law. The decision was published following the decision made by the UGC to bar Kumaravadevel Guruparan from practicing law.

30.11.2019: **TNA** – In an interview with Daily Mirror, R. Sampanthan encourages Gotabaya and his government to

fulfil their existing obligations rather than propose new ones to the UNHRC to maintain the country's legitimacy within the global political arena.

01.12.2019: **Foreign policy** – Tamil Guardian reports that SL state minister, Vidura Wickramanayaka had condemned international involvement in Sri Lanka's political affairs in a statement to the Sunday Observer where he mentioned that; "as a sovereign

state, we cannot let the UNHRC or any other organisation take us for a ride."

01.12.2019: **Interview** – In an interview published by the Indian media outlet, the Hindustan times, Gotabaya Rajapaksa mentions that the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment of the SL constitution cannot be implemented in its current form, and further expressed the country's interests in furthering relations with other powers



within the region for counterterrorism and defence purposes whilst denying the white van allegations as bogus claims.

**02.12.2019: Remembrance** – The 1984 Cheddikulam massacre where 52 Tamil men were surrounded and forcibly captured by occupational SL armed forces was reported by Tamil Guardian to have been commemorated in Cheddikulam for the first time since the massacre. Families of the forcibly disappeared were also reported to have commemorated the massacre during a protest in Vavuniya and demanded justice for the 52 individuals as well as the countless others who were forcibly disappeared or killed by a genocidal regime.

**02.12.2019: Remembrance** – The massacre of 32 Tamils by occupational SL armed forces in 1984 in Othiyamalai, Mullaitivu was reported by Tamil Guardian to have been commemorated in Othiyamalai.

**02.12.2019: CID** – Daily Mirror reports that the CID is to probe former SL minister Rajitha Seneratne's statement regarding "white van" abductions following reports made by the CID to Colombo's Chief Magistrate's Court to conduct an investigation regarding the matter.

**03.12.2019: Media** – RSF condemn the increase in the intimidation, interrogation and searches conducted against journalists across the island within the first few days of Gotabaya's presidency and emphasise that authorities must end all forms of media intimidations. The concerns were expressed in RSF's published statement.

**04.12.2019: Justice** – ITJP publishes statement declaring that the 11 torture victims who had filed a case against

Gotabaya have strategically withdrawn their case to refile it once his term of presidency ends.

**04.12.2019: Election** – According to Azzam Ameen, SL's next parliamentary re-election could be held on the 25th, 27th or 28th of April in 2020.

**05.12.2019: Arrest** – Tamil Guardian reports that 4 Tamil men and 1 Muslim man were arrested in Jayawardenapura by police for their alleged involvement in an assassination plot against the Rajapaksas upon the basis of the PTA. The Tamil men were released on bail however, the Muslim man remains in detention for further hearing at the Minuwangoda court on 07.12.2019.

**05.12.2019: Propaganda** – Tamil Guardian reports the emergence of pro- Sinhala national propaganda art across the South of the island which has been praised by Gotabaya in a tweet.

**06.12.2019: Parliament** – SL Parliament's Speaker, Karu Jayasuriya has been reported by Tamil Guardian to have accepted nominations to appoint Sajith Premadasa as the opposition leader. The Daily Mirror has claimed that Premadasa's appointment as leader will be announced by Jayasuriya following the resumption of Parliament in January.

**07.12.2019: Petition** – Tamil Guardian reports that buddhist monks have written a petition to the UNP. There they are calling for the party to prevent those, who had "insulted" the monks from being entitled to parliamentary nominations in Sri Lanka's upcoming parliamentary elections.

**07.12.2019: Novel** – Amnesty International releases a graphic novel entitled "Spectrum"

outlining the discrimination faced by the LGBTI community within the island.

**08.12.2019: Case** – Ajith Prasanna was reported to have gathered and presented former SL navy officers involved in the navy abduction of 11 Tamil youths and an LTTE cadre to validate his claims that the CID had falsified claims that an abduction ring was involved in the murder of 11 Tamil youths. Reports made by Tamil Guardian and Ada Derana.

**08.12.2019: Parliament** – Tamil Guardian reports that the leader of All Ceylon Makkal congress had mentioned that a lack of Muslim ministers in the cabinet is "fine" as long as the majority government treated them with equality.

**08.12.2019: Law** – The Island LK reports that SL's Department of Immigration and Emigration has imposed a new law banning women from wearing "pottus" when taking photos for their SL passports.

**08.12.2019: Protest** – News First LK reports a protest held against illegal sand mining in Vadamarachchi after days of large-scale sand mining in the area.

**08.12.2019: Remembrance** – Vavuniya's locals commemorated the Semamadu massacre. This massacre was conducted by occupational armed forces in 1984, where 28 Tamil men were rounded up from their houses and forcibly disappeared.

**10.12.19 : Arrest** – SL's Terrorist Investigation Division (TID) mentioned that 4 non-rehabilitated LTTE cadres had been arrested and taken into custody in Muttur and Sampur areas on 08.12.19. They were allegedly engaged in reviving the LTTE following a tipoff from the SL government's Intelligence Service. For further



investigation they were handed into Colombo's TID. A T56 rifle, 2 magazines, 61 live cartridges, 1 claymore mine, 3 live grenades, 3 detonators and 31 live ammunitions used for 9 mm pistols were recovered.

10.12.2019: **Defence** – ITJP releases a 100 – page dossier outlining SL's Defence minister Kamal Gunaratne's committal of war crimes and crimes against humanity

10.12.2019: **Protest** – Tamil Guardian reports that the families of disappeared persons protested throughout Tamil Eelam to mark International Human Rights Day. The protesters were demanding justice for all disappeared persons. The families sent the UN a joint letter demanding justice and accountability. It was reported that the families also condemned onlooking intelligence officers.

10.12.2019: **Floods** – Tamil Guardian reports that 130,793 individuals have been affected by heavy floods throughout Tamil Eelam causing large-scale displacements. It has been reported that the government has further deployed more troops across the Tamil homeland in response to the destruction.

10.12.2019: **India** – Tamil Guardian reports that India's parliament has passed the Citizenship Amendment Bill causing large levels of discontent amongst the Indian populace as well as Eelam Tamils as Eelam Tamils have been denied citizenship status.

11.12.2019: **Shooting** – Tamil Guardian reports that a Tamil youth was hospitalised following a shooting incident in Mullaitivu on 10.12.2019. The occupational forces claiming that the investigations were ongoing and the incident was due to "personal" issues.

12.12.2019: **Media** – Gotabaya issues a statement vowing not to interfere with "media freedom" under his presidency and called upon media outlets to cooperate and support his aspirations for the prosperity of the island via the PMD news.

13.12.2019: **Justice** – During a graduation ceremony which was held for SL's Defence Services Command and Staff College at Nelum Pokuna Theatre, Mahindha Rajapaksa mentioned that the armed forces will no longer face humiliation and interference from foreign forces. They had been exposed to it in the past 5 years which supposedly threatened the island's sovereignty and that they would receive justice.

14.12.2019: **Arrest** – Colombo Gazette reports that the 2 individuals who claimed to have been involved in "white van" abductions during the media conference organised by former SL Minister Dr. Senaratne have been arrested by the CID.

14.12.2019: **Remembrance** – Tamil Guardian reports that the LTTE's chief political strategist was commemorated across Tamil Eelam.

14.12.2019: **Buddhism** – Tamil Guardian reports that Wigneswaran mentioned in an interview that it is "wrong to say Sri Lanka is a Buddhist Country...the North and East must be separated as being majority non - Buddhist".

16.12.19: **TNA** – According to Newsfirst a fraction of TELO detached from the TNA party.

16.12.2019: **CID** – Tamil Guardian reports that the head of the Sinhala nationalist organisation, Nawa Sinhale National Movement, had filed a complaint at SL's Police HQ and CID. In the complaint he was calling for the immediate arrest of Wigneswaran

following the statement he made on 14.12.2019.

16.12.2019: **Media** – Committee to Protect Journalists condemns the intimidation and harassment of journalists in Sri Lanka and call upon authorities to thoroughly investigate the attacks and implement accountability in a statement.

17.12.2019: **Buddhism** – Tamil Guardian reports that a senior Sinhala Buddhist monk, Sobitha has urged SL to withdraw from the Commonwealth in response to British PM Boris Johnson's statement calling upon reconciliation and accountability in the island.

17.12.2019: **Remembrance** – The parents of disappeared Tamils who had been protesting for justice for their missing children were commemorated during a vigil in Thambiluvil, Amparai which was attended by over 100 people, reports Tamil Guardian.

18.12.2019: **Gender** – A report published by the WEF mentions that Sri Lanka's gender gap has increased with the island's ranking falling from 100<sup>th</sup> to 102<sup>nd</sup> out of 153 countries reports Tamil Guardian.

18.12.2019: **Federal solution** – According to Tamilguardian gota has negated any federal solutions during a meeting with senior SL representatives of electronic media.

18.12.2019: **Federalism** – Daily FT reports that TNA MP Sumanthiran has renewed his calls for federalism.

19.12.2019: **UN** – SL Foreign Ministry has confirmed, that it is currently reviewing the government's stance at the UNHRC's March session including the 30/1 resolution following confirmations made



by Minister Gunawardene, reports the Daily Mirror.

19.12.2019: **Acquittal** – Daily Mirror reports that a Tamil prisoner, Chandrabose Selvachandran, who was imprisoned for 14 years upon the basis of PTA for the alleged assassination attempt against Gotabaya, has been acquitted by SL High Court judge.

19.12.19: **Sri Lanka** – According to Azzam Ameen, Ms PSM Charles is appointed as the governor of the Northern Province.

20.12.2019: **Disappearance** – The body of Antonis Nimal, a Tamil man from Mannar was found alongside a road in Naruvilikulam by locals reports Tamil Guardian. He was reported to be missing.

21.12.2019: **Protest** – Occupational SL authorities' attempts to unveil a Buddhist historical figure outside Jaffna Prison's complex were prevented by locals and council members reports Tamil Guardian. This followed after local journalists attempt to expose the authorities' intentions.

21.12.2019: **Protest** – Tamil Guardian reports that occupational SL police forces confronted and harassed local Tamils and a priest in Mannar. This harassment happened during a protest against illegal sandmining in the area.

22.12.2019: **Politics** – SL Governor to the Eastern Province, Yahampath has issued a warning to Tamils and Muslims to emphasise that the law will be upheld to protect the island's sovereignty and unitary status according to Tamilnet.

22.12.2019: **Disappearance** – Paramu Vijakaumar who was summoned to Colombo by the TID on 06.12.2019 has been reported missing by his family

members. She was informed by the local police station, that her husband had not been summoned by the TID according to Tamilguardian.

25.12.2019: **National anthem** – Tamil Guardian reports that the GoSL has confirmed that the island's national anthem will only be sung in Sinhala during their official Independence Day celebrations in Colombo.

25.12.2019: **Remembrance** – Senior TNA member and former MP of Batticaloa, Joseph Pararajasingham was commemorated across Tamil Eelam following his assassination 14 years ago reports Tamil Guardian.

26.12.2019: **TID** – Former NPC member Sivajilingam has been summoned by the TID to appear in Colombo on 27.12.2019 for questioning regarding Mullivaikkal commemorations from this year, reports Tamil Guardian.

26.12.2019: **Remembrance** – Tsunami victims were commemorated across Tamil Eelam reports Tamil Guardian.

26.12.2019: **Body** – Tharmarasa, a father of two, gunned down in Mannar according to Tamilguardian.

27.12.2019: **Protest** – Tamil Guardian reports that Tamils protest in Jaffna and Mannar condemning the local authorities' failure to prevent the illegal sand mining was continuing.

30.12.2019: **Protest** – The families of forcibly disappeared persons protested in Kilinochchi reports Tamil Guardian.

30.12.2019: **Protest** – Families of the disappeared were protesting in Vavuniya regarding their relatives and against Douglas Devananda, who was to attend a meeting

regarding forcibly disappeared persons. A civil society representative involved in the protests, Ravikumar was attacked by EPDP members reports Tamil Guardian.

31.12.2019: **Bail** – SL Lt. Commander, Hettiarachchi who was arrested for his alleged involvement in the SL Navy's abduction and forcible disappearance of 11 youths was granted bail by a SL court with a travel ban imposed against him, reports Colombo Page.

## Signs of Structural Genocide

22.11.2019: **Landgrab** – 14 acres of land belonging to 10 individuals is going to be grabbed by the occupying Navy in Punguduthivu.

05.12.2019: **Buddhicisation** – Occupational SL armed forces reported to have constructed a Buddhist temple on a 2-acre property in Thaiyiddy resulted in outrage amongst locals. Valikamam North divisional council has been unable to enforce any decisions against the occupational forces despite complaints from locals due to the fact that the region remains as a "High Security Zone".



## **The potency of solidarity amongst oppressed nationalities and progressive forces**

The geopolitical dynamics of the world have revolved around an ever-evolving world trade and shaped by hegemonic powers interests' to access and exercise control over trade routes, seas, lands and productive forces (human and natural resources) around the globe. The neutralization of native sovereignties and peoples resistance to such external interests has paralleled such imperial pursuits. Out of such experiences emerges what has been known as Counter-Insurgency (COIN). It has developed through various historical stages and experiences propelled by varying world and regional hegemonic actors pursuits for greater hegemony as witnessed since the period of colonial imperialism to the present era and its contemporary form of imperialism and capitalism. Thus it has persisted since the French attempts under General Jean-Jacques-Germain Pelet-Clozeau to quell anti-colonial native resistance in the Maghreb during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century efforts of the U.K under General Harold Briggs with a COIN strategy termed the Briggs plan, to destroy the Malaysian communist resistance during the Malaya-Emergency. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century world powers such as U.S and U.K and their regional allies whether Turkey, Colombia, Sri Lanka or India, have coordinated COIN efforts which has been employed against LTTE and the Eelam Tamil national liberation struggle, the PKK and the Kurdish liberation struggle in northern Kurdistan as well against the FARC and their revolutionary struggle on behalf of Colombia's underprivileged classes and peoples.

In the age of the multi-polar world characterized with the overarching hegemony of the U.S propelled with the fall of the Soviet Union, a new era of neo-colonial and imperial geopolitics and COIN has been brewing. It is in this era that the independently mobilized Eelam Tamil national liberation struggle under the LTTE attains its significance. Similarly the contemporary era has also produced unprecedented challenges and developments for the struggling masses and oppressed nationalities of the world. Geopolitical and economic interests and rivalry between world and regional hegemons have produced conditions in which powers have sought to manipulate or utilize popular people's revolutionary struggles or national liberation

struggles. Conditional support to such revolutionary struggles emerged not out of any principled belief in revolutionary equality and political justice, but rather from the interests and geopolitical games played out between world and regional powers and their local dependent nation-states.

In the Sri Lankan context the 1980's Indira and Rajiv Ghandi's India conditionally supported the already mobilized Eelam Tamil revolutionary national liberation struggle, by aiding and training a variety of the many existent guerrilla formations and organisations. This was produced out of the then Sri Lankan President J.R Jayawerdena's tilt towards the U.S.A during the cold-war period when India did not desire such foreign influence in its backyard. Interests emerged in utilizing temporary support for the Eelam Tamil national revolution in order to enhance pressures on the Sri Lankan state and its ruling regime to push them toward the negotiation table with India. Such negotiation sought to compel Colombo to accommodate the geopolitical and strategic interests of New Delhi. Once this materialized in the form of the Indo-Lanka accord of 1985, the Indians withdrew their support, and demanded Eelam Tamil revolutionary organisations - mainly the LTTE - to disarm and to accept a political solution devised by New Delhi and Colombo under the unitary state. The national aspirations amongst the Eelam Tamils for self-determination and self-governance were demanded by the oppressor state and the dominant regional hegemon to be shed. LTTE alongside a section of the EROS and PLOTE refused, and the LTTE then led a three year war (1987-1990) against the Indian occupation force, the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) sent to enforce the Indo-Lanka accord. The revolutionary heroism of this struggle is embedded in the memory of the collective Eelam Tamil psyche. Such is also the case with consequent decades of revolutionary struggle against ruling elites of the imperialism facilitating the emergence of the comprador state of unitary Sri Lanka which was given birth to in 1833 out of British colonial interests.

The leader of the LTTE, Velupillai Pirapakaran, once famously said that world powers will always sacrifice oppressed nations' interests at

the altar of international diplomacy. In the context of the post-2009 war which concluded on the shores of Mullivaikal in Sri Lanka's north-east with the genocidal onslaught against Eelam Tamils and subsequent destruction of the LTTE de-facto state, the US led the forefront in utilizing the Tamil fight for justice, through the UN human rights Council (UNHRC) in Genève. This was not out of concern for Tamil lives or the Eelam Tamil national question but driven by the interests to use it as a pressure to discipline a previously collaborative ruling regime of Mahinda Rajapakse. Mahinda Rajapakse who collaborated with Washington and New Delhi to execute the Mullivaikal genocide and destroy the LTTE, had upon its conclusion sought a closer relationship with Beijing. These developments were reminiscent yet disparate to the 1980's geopolitical games played by New Delhi. Thus in the years following 2009, Tamil resistance to the unitary state of Sri Lanka, was sought to be politically contained and incorporated within the overall regime-change orientations of the U.S and U.K. Once the latter materialized in January 2015, with the composite regime headed by former President Maithiripala Sirisena taking power of the Sri Lankan state, the Tamil human rights issues which had already been diluted and watered down in the UNHRC resolutions, were abandoned. From a demand of self-determination and judicial justice for genocide and crimes against humanity targeting the Eelam Tamils, it was framed as generic human rights issues facing the island. The Tamil national aspirations were silenced. Similar attempts at hijacking, facilitating conditional support and trying to political contain peoples and national liberation struggles has also been witnessing in the Middle-East. It is seen in the recent U.S withdrawal of support for the Kurds fighting ISIS in Syria, once U.S ally and NATO member, Turkey opted for a military occupation of Rojava to attempt to dismantle the YPG/YPJ led self-governance.

In face of such historical truths regarding the trajectory of world and regional hegemony, efforts to pursue the just cause of self-determination of an oppressed nation and the struggle for self-governance and socialism amongst oppressed classes and peoples of the world, cannot logically find its solution in the venues of international diplomacy. These are venues shaped by the geopolitical dynamics of imperialism and its internal rivalries. We live now at a time when a potential world war is lurking around the corner, with various world and regional hegemony such as U.S and its allies, and Russia and China with their coalitions of allied states are threatening a large scale confrontation and escalation of conflict. Hence the need of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is a platform - both in theory and praxis - to forge a true internationalist solidarity between the struggling masses and forces of the world. That is an alliance between a large section of humanity neglected in the geopolitical dynamics of neo-imperialism, are painted by corporate media in a world-view reflective of former hegemonic interests.. This largely neglected section of humanity is constituted of oppressed nationalities and their revolutionary liberation struggles as well the revolutions sought to be brought about by progressive organisations fronting popular classes' aspirations for justice, equality and dignity.

**Athithan Jayapalan, Eelam Tamil diaspora academic (Social Anthropology) and solidarity activist.**