

## **Sri Lanka's cultural genocide and Tamil sovereignty – an introduction.**

The Tamil liberation struggle was established to counter the denial of the Eelam Tamils' distinct national presence in Sri Lanka. Whilst such denial was initially instigated by the Sri Lankan government, it was later supported by various other international players through the means of genocide. As a result, the liberation struggle simultaneously enabled the protection and sustenance of a distinct Tamil identity thus strengthening Tamil sovereignty.

However, the agenda of Tamil genocide has been institutionalised by the oppressors, thus adapting a structural nature. Following the silencing of weapons in 2009, the absence of a centrally coordinated leadership for the liberation struggle has resulted in an increase in the efficiency with which such genocidal initiatives are undertaken, thus intensifying the subsequent psychological warfare.

Whilst the struggle was secular in nature, it also functioned to protect the Eelam Tamils' methods and sites of worship from Sri Lanka's systematic cultural genocide. The desecration of traditional Tamil sites of worship through Buddhicisation continues to be used by Sri Lanka as its primary tactic to implement cultural genocide. Moreover, the ramifications of Sinhala Buddhist supremacy through such desecration and land appropriation, furthers Sri Lanka's genocidal agenda. This is enabled as such acts interrupt the Eelam Tamils' territorial integrity which is often secured through the establishment of such distinct sites of

worship, thus diminishing and eventually destructing Tamil sovereignty.

In the aftermath of the pinnacle of Tamil genocide in 2009 at Mullivaikkal, political spaces which cement Tamil sovereignty continue to deteriorate both within the occupied Tamil homeland and the diaspora due to Sri Lanka's extended COIN operations.

As a result, there is a necessity to strengthen such political spaces through a multitude of political and cultural initiatives thus harmonising the distinct Eelam Tamil identity across various cross sections of the Eelam Tamil community. One such initiative includes the integration of signifiers of the Tamil identity and struggle within mass sites of congregation such as sites of worship. Such integration is quintessential to strengthen the cohesion that exists within the Eelam Tamil community and thus further the struggle for Tamil liberation. A detailed analysis regarding such matters will be explored in next month's issue.

### **Bala Chanthiran**

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***“Though the LTTE is an ardent advocate of the principle of secularism, it guarantees, the freedom of religious worship and will promote religio-cultural aspirations of the people of Tamil Eelam”***

***Socialist Tamil Eelam***

## International News

02.01.2020: **Iran** - According to Daily Mirror, Iranian Ambassador to SL, Mohammad Zaeri Amirani had announced that SL's police and armed forces could be provided training opportunities in Iran. Amirani has been reported to have mentioned this in a meeting with Kamal Gunaratne in his office. Amirani had also commended SL for utilising SL's police and armed forces to maintain peace within the island.

03.01.2020: **China** - Gotabaya, who was scheduled to undertake an official visit to China from 14.01.2020 to 15.01.2020, has postponed his visit on China's request, reports the Daily Mirror.

03.01.2020: **Uganda** - According to Virakesari, SL's former High Commissioner to Uganda, Velupillai Gananathan continues to operate as Sri Lanka's current diplomat to Uganda.

04.01.2020: **Nigeria** - The Nigerian Navy produced 7 Sri Lankans amongst others to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission of Nigeria for alleged involvement in illegal crude oil acquirement, reports Colombo Gazette.

06.01.2020: **EU** - Gotabaya met with the Ambassadors of France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Romania and the EU at the Presidential Secretariat. According to PMD News he had requested the EU to view SL in a positive light. It was also reported that the European ambassadors had welcomed Gotabaya's initiatives in eradicating corruption, ensuring transparency, and prioritising meritocracy.

06.01.2020: **Germany** - According to Colombo Gazette, the German Embassy has funded the construction of latrines in Kinniya, Trincomalee in collaboration with their project partner, the "Serving Humanity Foundation."

08.01.2020: **Singapore** - Singapore's Law and Home Affairs Minister, Kasiviswanathan Shanmugam who was on a three-day official visit to Sri Lanka, visited Gotabaya. PMD News reports that topics of discussion included; regional concerns, countering terrorism, cyber security, extremism, threats from foreign influences, interferences and improving intelligence, hate speech, and online disinformation.

08.01.2020: **Australia** - PMD News reports that Gotabaya engaged in a telephone conversation with the Australian PM, Scott Morrison, to express his empathy to Australians as they battled one of the worst bushfires in history.

09.01.2020: **US** - Singaporean Foreign News Analyst, Dr. Kalinga Seneviratne spoke about the consequences that SL would have to face if the country enters into any agreement with the US, reports News First LK.

09.01.2020: **India** - Indian External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar held comprehensive talks with Dinesh Gunawardena, to explore ways to deepen bilateral ties reports NDTV.

14.01.2020: **EU** - According to Colombo Gazette, the EU has maintained the LTTE as a terrorist organisation despite its renewal of its EU terrorist list.

14.01.2020: **India** - According to Tamil Guardian, Mahindha is scheduled to visit India in February 2020 to deepen bilateral relations.

14.01.2020: **Geopolitics** - According to News First LK, the Russian Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, Chinese Foreign Minister, Wang Yi and US Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, Alice Wells, had made official calls to Colombo within 1 day.

14.01.2020: **China** - Following a meeting with Gotabaya in Colombo, China's Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, has been reported to have mentioned that China is prepared to provide SL assistance with the areas of technology, tourism, infrastructure and other related fields during SL's visit to China, reports PMD News.

14.01.2020: **Japan** - According to PMD News, Japan's State Minister for Regional Revitalisation, Kozo Yamamoto, had visited Gotabaya and discussed the strengthening of bilateral relations.

15.01.2020: **Azerbaijan** - The remains of three SL students, who died in Azerbaijan due to a fire, were brought to SL. Officials have been reported to have mentioned that the government had agreed to finance the Rs 1.5 million for transportation under the coordination of SL's Foreign Relations Ministry.

16.01.2020: **India** - The Indian Government is likely to transfer Taranjit Singh Sandhu, the current High Commissioner to SL, as the next ambassador to the US, Times of India has reported. Gopal Baglay, is



expected to take over from Sandhu as India's envoy to Colombo.

17.01.2020: **Germany** – A 66-year-old Tamil activist from Stuttgart was, arrested for the allegations of funding terrorism. According to German local newspapers, the accused has admitted his “crimes”.

18.01.2020: **UN** - According to PMD News, the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Hanna Singer, had responded positively to his commitment to sustainable development in SL. The discussions included; poverty, climate control, digitisation of government offices, missing persons and refugees.

21.01.2020: **Malaysia** – Around 500 people rallied in solidarity on 17.01.2020 demanding the release of 12 men who were arrested for alleged links to the LTTE, reports Tamil Guardian.

21.01.2020: **Germany** - A former LTTE member has been reported to have been sentenced by Stuttgart's regional court in Germany after he was found guilty of being an accessory to murder in the killing of SL's

foreign minister Lakshman Kadirgamar in 2005. Prosecutors were reported to have mentioned that the defendant, was a member of the LTTE's intelligence unit by Daily Mirror.

23.01.2020: **Germany** – German Ambassador Jörn Rohde has been reported to have announced that the German Federal Foreign Office had granted funds to SL's Forum on Disarmament and Development (FDD) to allow the translation of the Treaty of the Non- Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) into Tamil and Sinhala, reports Colombo Gazette.

24.01.2020: **Canada** – Canadian Supreme Court affirms the acquittal of Lesly Emmanuel, Nadarajah Mahendran and Thampeernayagam Rajaratnam from charges of human smuggling in 2010. The decision was made on 23.01.2020, in response to the Canadian government's application to appeal a previous decision of acquittal, reports Tamil Guardian.

25.01.2020: **EU** - According to News First LK, the EU's Election Observation Mission had engaged in a media briefing in Colombo on 24.01.2020. They were reported to have mentioned that SL must adapt a law on campaign financing and expenditure and revise the presidential elections act to ensure equal campaign opportunities for all candidates.

28.01.2020: **Canada** – According to Colombo Gazette, SL's Foreign Ministry mentioned that Canada's Ambassador, David Hartman and SL's Foreign Secretary, Aryasinha had met during a bilateral meeting to discuss reconciliation in the country.

31.01.2020: **Luxembourg** - Jean Asselborn, the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg, was reported to have arrived in Sri Lanka on 30.01.2020. According to SL's Ministry of Foreign Relations, this is the first high-level official visit from Luxembourg to Sri Lanka since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1972, reports News First LK.

## Military News

01.01.2020: **Police** - SL's Police Media Unit which has been defunct since Gotabaya's appointment as SL's President, is now reported to be in operation under the leadership of its new spokesperson, Jaliya Senaratne, reports Colombo Gazette.

02.01.2020: **Military** - According to Daily Mirror, SL Army Commander Shavendra Silva recently assumed duties as SL's Acting Chief of Defence Staff following a vacancy in the aftermath of

Admiral Ravindra C. Wijegunaratne's retirement on 31.12.2019.

02.01.2020: **TID** – SL's TID has reportedly launched investigations into the request, authorisation and use of an occupied council-owned water tanker to water the streets around Nallur. The tanker was used to alleviate heat within the area on 26.09.2019 to ease public comfort at Lt. Col. Thillepan's remembrance events reports Tamil Guardian.

03.01.2020: **Research** – According to the SL Navy's website, a Chinese research ship had arrived at the port of Colombo. The ship is reported to engage in research about the micro-organisms in Sri Lanka's territorial waters including seas and seabeds.

03.01.2020: **Bail** – Former SL intelligence officer and alleged offender in the abduction and disappearance of 11 youths, Lt. Commander Chandana Prasad Hettiarachchi, was reportedly granted bail on 31.12.2019 with



the case due to be heard again on 05.02.2020, reports Tamil Guardian.

04.01.2020: **China** – According to Colombo Gazette, a Chinese-built Y-12 turbo plane used by SLAF had crashed on 03.01.2020, raising concerns regarding their quality.

05.01.2020: **Maldives** – The Bomb and Improvised Explosive Device Disposal Training (BIEDDT) Advanced Course has reported to have commenced for Maldives' National Defence Force. According to SLA's website, this is the second phase of the course and is being conducted by Sri Lankan Army experts.

09.01.2020: **SL Police** – According to Daily Mirror, the occupational SL Police have decided to recruit 2000 officers (200 sub-inspectors, 1400 police constables and 400-female police constables) from the Northern Province as per instructions from Gotabaya.

13.01.2020: **Tourism** – Following a meeting between Gotabaya and SL's Tourism Ministry, a decision has been made to strengthen their Tourism Police Unit through increasing surveillance, reports Colombo Gazette.

16.01.2020: **Law** – According to MoD's website, the SL government had granted permission for a new national intelligence act to be drafted. The new act would provide power to intelligence agencies to manage SL's national security by providing; feedback, guidelines and recommendations whilst also monitoring the country's security situation.

16.01.2020: **Russia** – According to MoD's website, Russia has agreed to enhance defence and counter-terrorism cooperation with Sri Lanka. It

has also been reported that they intend to provide arms and equipment to Sri Lanka to improve their military capacity.

16.01.2020: **UK** – In a meeting with Britain's High Commissioner to SL, Sarah Hulton on 14.01.2020, Kamal Gunaratne has been reported to have requested the British government to share military intelligence and technology with SL to counter terrorism. Tamil Guardian reports that Gunaratne had especially made the request to counter the Tamil diaspora.

17.01.2020: **Drones** – According to Azzam Ameen, SL's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) had quoted that the drone ban had been lifted. The lift of the ban enables drones to be flown in compliance with standards civil aviation regulations.

18.01.2020: **Australia** – According to the Sri Lankan Navy's website, Australia's defence attaché met the commander of SL's Eastern Naval Area.

18.01.2020: **India** – According to PMD News, India's National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval had visited Gotabaya and discussed bilateral interests in improving; military cooperation, maritime security and close cooperation between coast guards. USD 50 million credit was also promised to purchase military equipment for SL as a part of defence cooperation. The establishment of an earth co-ordinating centre was also reportedly discussed.

20.01.2020: **India** – An Indian naval ship, Airavat, was reported to have arrived at the port of Colombo. According to the Sri Lankan Navy's website, the crew of the ship would be participating in several programs during its stay.

20.01.2020: **India** – According to Daily Mirror, the Indian government had pledged USD 50 million in assistance to SL to purchase equipment as part of bilateral cooperation on counterterrorism.

20.01.2020: **Conference** – Shavendra Silva has been reported to have participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> IISS Fullerton Forum, known as the "Shangri-La Dialogue Sherpa Meeting" in Singapore. According to the SLA's website, several defence officials, high-ranking military officers, security think-tanks, research experts and non-governmental experts had participated in the conference. The topics discussed were reported to include; regional security concerns (including how nations could protect their interests while avoiding conflict), the implications of regional developments for counter-terrorism strategies, how security challenges at sea can be managed most effectively, and how states may find common ground on security challenges.

21.02.2020: **Japan** – Sri Lanka's Navy and Air Force conducted a joint exercise with Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force near Negombo. The topic of the exercise was reported to be "Search and Rescue".

21.01.2020: **Navy** – According to the SL Navy's website, Conex 20 ("The Colombo Naval Exercise 2020") had commenced and would be conducted until 31.01.2020. This exercise is reported to occur for the second time. SL naval ships and air force aircrafts will be participating in this exercise. Skills practiced include harbour and sea phases, replenishment at sea approaches, towing exercises and landing a helicopter on a ship.



21.01.2020: **Appointments** - According to News First LK, Justice A.H.M.D Nawaz had been appointed as the Acting President of SL's Court of Appeal and was sworn in before Gotabaya at SL's Presidential Secretariat.

22.01.2020: **Gazette** - According to Daily Mirror, Gotabaya had issued an Extraordinary Gazette notification directing SL military to maintain public order in the country with effect from 22.01.2020 until 22.02.2020. According to the gazette, SL's tri-forces were advised to maintain public order in all administrative districts and adjacent territorial waters.

22.01.2020: **Cyber** - According to MoD's website, the MoD is to introduce a law regarding cyber security. Reports indicate that the purpose of the law is to counter defamatory comments or posts on social media. Other cyber-crimes such as hacking or cyber fraud will also be addressed through this new law.

23.01.2020: **Corruption** - According to Colombo Gazette, Sri Lanka remains stagnant in its score of 38 as measured by the Corruptions Perceptions Index (CPI) in 2019 by Transparency International (TI).

24.01.2020: **Digitalisation** - According to MoD's website, SL's state mechanism will be digitalised through Information Communication Technology (ICT) under the supervision and

the management of the "Information and Communication Technology Agency".

24.01.2020: **Technology** - According to the SLA's website, their Commando Regiment has received its first Container-Installed Firing unit, which has been produced by the MoD's Centre for Research and Development.

25.01.2020: **Pakistan** - During his visit to Sri Lanka, the Naval Chief would meet SL Commanders of the Navy, Army, Air force and the Defence Secretary. According to Daily Mirror, he would also call on the PM of Sri Lanka.

26.01.2020: **Philippines** - According to MoD's website, two Philippine Naval ships had arrived at the port of Colombo for a three-day visit.

27.01.2020: **Pakistan** - Pakistan's Naval Commander, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi has been reported to have met SL's defence secretary. According to the MoD, the commander had agreed to assist SL to combat drug trafficking and human smuggling activities. It was reported that during this meeting, Abbasi had also expressed the necessity to enhance existing cooperation between the 2 countries to improve the distribution of shared information and defence ties.

27.01.2020: **Defence** - According to Tamil Guardian, Gotabaya has further expanded

SL's defence ministry by assigning his brother, Chamal to the additional role of heading the Immigration and Emigration Department.

29.01.2020: **Regulation** - According to MoD's website, SL's defence ministry is going to regulate private security agencies through the introduction of; a minimum wage, the registration of new security firms and the renewal of licenses.

29.01.2020: **Australia** - According to the SL Navy's website, an Australian naval delegation had met the commander of the Sri Lankan Navy. The meeting was reported to have primarily focused on collaboration in anti-narcotic and counter-terrorism operations.

29.01.2020: **Technology** - According to the SL Navy's website, they have developed and designed a Naval Propulsion and Steering Control System which has been tested successfully and will be expanded to other ships.

30.01.2020: **Pakistan** - According to MoD's website, the Pakistani High commissioner had met SL's defence secretary. In this meeting, Pakistan has pledged its complete support to SL to combat drug trafficking, terrorism, and extremist activities through intelligence sharing.



## Economic News

01.01.2020: **Import** – According to Colombo Gazette, SL's Finance Ministry had mentioned that the import of ethanol to manufacture liquor would immediately cease to allow ethanol to be produced locally.

02.01.2020: **Debt** – News First LK had reported that Gotabaya's government was due to pay back LKR 875 billion of foreign debt by October of 2020.

07.01.2020: **Tourism** – According to Tamil Guardian, Sri Lanka's tourist arrival levels had decreased by 18% from 2018 to 2019.

08.01.2020: **SL Airlines** - Due to the prevailing tense situation in the Persian Gulf region, Sri Lankan Airlines has altered the route of its Colombo – London – Colombo flights to avoid the airspace of Iran and Iraq with immediate effect, as a precautionary measure reports News First LK.

13.01.2020: **SL Airlines** - According to News First LK, a New Chairman, Ashok Pathirage (a prominent businessman) and board directors; Ashroff Omar (CEO of Brandix), Malik Fernando (Group director of Dilmah Tea), PC Manohara De Silva (SL Presidential Adviser) and Sanjaya Mahottala (Asia Pacific node for Boston Consulting Group), were appointed to the board of SL Airlines.

16.01.2020: **Korea** – According to Tamil Guardian, Korea has pledged to grant SL with USD 10.96 million for tourism development.

19.01.2020: **Tourism** - According to News First LK, the Ministry of Ports and

Shipping stated that the Trincomalee port and surrounding areas were expected to be converted into an industrial and tourism zones under a new project.

19.01.2020: **EU** – According to Azzam Ameen, the EU had assured the continuation of GSP+ and the tax concessions for Sri Lanka until 2023.

24.01.2020: **Technology** – According to Azzam Ameen the first floating solar panel has been opened in Kilinochchi. This product is reported to be a result of a collaboration between Jaffna University and a Norwegian University of Applied Science.

26.01.2020: **Environment** - According to PMD News, Qatar had offered to assist Sri Lanka to establish a reliable network for clean energy production. It was reported that a consortium of top-tier companies from the energy sector would be provided. Saad Sherida Al Kaabi, the Minister of State for Energy Affairs of the State of Qatar was reported to have made this pledge when he met Gotabaya at the Presidential Secretariat this morning.

29.01.2020: **UK** - SL's Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister on Economic Affairs, Ajith Nivard Cabraal has been reported to have met with UK's State Minister for Trade Policy, Conor Burns at the Department of International Trade on 28.01.2020. According to News First LK, Burns assured Cabraal that the UK would not make any changes to its GSP+ concession policy framework until 31.02.2020.

30.01.2020: **Employment:** According to PMD News, the objective of the SL government is to provide employment

opportunities to citizens in accordance with their university degrees and existing vacancies in government and semi-government bodies and departments. It was also reported that the recruitment of 53,000 graduates would commence from 01.03.2020.

30.01.2020: **IMF** – SL's Central Bank declared that an IMF delegation was in discussion with SL to talk continued engagement and economic progression, reports Colombo Gazette.

31.01.2020: **Inflation** – According to Colombo Page, Sri Lanka's inflation has increased to 5.4% in January 2020.

31.01.2020: **Agriculture** – A national consultation was conducted by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) with SL government representatives in preparation for the 35<sup>th</sup> regional conference for the Asia Pacific, reports Colombo Gazette. It is reported that this was the first of any such consultation of this nature between the 2 parties.

31.01.2020: **World Bank** - According to PMD News, World Bank and the SL government had identified several new areas of cooperation during a meeting between the 2 parties at SL's Presidential Secretariat. The areas of development were identified in addition to existing projects which were funded by World Bank. These areas include; renewable energy, garbage disposal, watershed management, plantation for export, easing traffic congestion and pedestrian and road safety.

31.01.2020: **Bribe** – According to newswire.lk Airbus company paid bribes to Sri Lanka.



## News about Oppression & Resistance

01.01.2020: **Protest** – According to Tamilwin, the families of forcibly disappeared persons protested in Vavuniya to condemn the assault of Rajkumar (a civil society representative) by members of the paramilitary group EPDP. The assault occurred following a protest held by the families on 30.12.2019 to condemn Douglas Devananda's appearance at a meeting about the disappeared. It is noteworthy that, Rajkumar was one of the coordinators of the protest in December.

02.01.2020: **Protest** – Families of forcibly disappeared persons protested before EPDP's Jaffna office demanding the immediate arrest of its leader, Douglas Devananda, reports Tamilwin.

02.01.2020: **Law** – According to Daily Mirror, Dinesh Gunawardena's proposal to withdraw the Counter Terrorism Bill in favour of the Prevention of Terrorism Act was approved by SL's cabinet.

03.01.2020: **Buddhism** – According to Tamilwin, Gotabaya mentioned that he would protect the Buddhist principles through making relevant changes to SL's constitution thus safeguarding security, sovereignty, stability and integrity.

04.01.2020: **Remembrance** – According to Tamil Guardian, a Tamil journalist, Ganapathipillai Devaraja, who was murdered by the genocidal SLA in 1985, was commemorated by Tamil journalist unions in Amparai.

04.01.2020: **Charge** – S. Nilanthan, a Batticaloa-based journalist has been charged after he had reported alleged corruption allegations

regarding the Chenkalady divisional secretary reports Tamil Guardian.

05.01.2020: **Political Prisoner** – The longest serving Tamil political prisoner, Sellapillai Mahendran who was arrested in 1993 at the age of 17 had passed away at the age of 45 at Colombo National Hospital due to severe illnesses on 01.01.2020.

06.01.2020: **White Van** – According to News First LK, alleged white van drivers and the former chairman of SL's State Pharmaceuticals Corporation, Rummy Mohammed, were granted bail on 06.01.2020 by Colombo's Chief Magistrate, Lanka Jayaratne. They were reportedly released on three sureties of LKR 500,000 with the case to be readdressed on 25.02.2020.

07.01.2020: **Politics** – According to Colombo Gazette, TNA's Sumanthiran had encouraged Gotabaya to draft a new Constitution to establish a promised political solution for the Tamils' national issue.

07.01.2020: **Remembrance** – According to Tamil Guardian, Mannar Tamils commemorated the 35<sup>th</sup> remembrance day of the 1985 Vankalai Church Massacre, in which occupational SL soldiers shot a Tamil Christian father and other Tamils in Vankalai.

07.01.2020: **Disappearances** – Soosaipillai Rajenthiran, a Tamil father protesting the disappearance of his son, had passed away in Mannar this week, reports Tamil Guardian.

09.01.2020: **Bail** – S. Nilanthan was granted bail during a hearing at Eravur Circuit Magistrate's Court on

07.01.2020, reports Tamil Guardian.

10.01.2020: **Art** – According to Tamil Guardian, SL's intelligence officers had removed a mural of a tiger in Valvettithurai which had been expressed as a part of local Tamil youth's street art initiatives.

10.01.2020: **Disappearances** – According to Tamil Guardian, SL's TID had summoned Jeyavanitha Kaasipillai, the head of the local families of the disappeared organisation, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time. It was reported that she had been summoned to appear at the TID's HQ in Colombo with her husband on 13.01.2020.

10.01.2020: **PTA** – HRW released a statement calling SL to repeal the PTA.

10.01.2020: **TNA** – According to Tamil Guardian, TNA's R. Sampanthan had praised Gotabaya in a speech that he had made in SL Parliament. He had praised Gotabaya for fulfilling his commitments and outlined the international community's role in assisting the military defeat of the LTTE.

11.01.2020: **Remembrance** – The 1974 World Tamil Research Conference Massacre in Jaffna was commemorated at the Jaffna monument, reports Tamil Guardian.

11.01.2020: **Protest** – Following the demise of Sellapillai Mahendran, locals protested in Jaffna demanding the release of Tamil political prisoners. The protest was conducted under the coordination of Selvarajah Kajendran and the TNPF, reports Tamil Guardian.



12.01.2020: **Release** – According to Tamil Guardian, the SL government had indicated that the SL soldier, Sergeant Sunil Rathnayake (who was involved in the Mirusuvil Massacre of 2000), may be released in the near future.

13.01.2020: **Arrest** – A young Tamil from Batticaloa, Kumarapodi Thanujan, has been reported to have been arrested by occupational SL police for the alleged possession of a T-56 rifle and bullets, reports Tamil Guardian.

13.01.2020: **Arrest** – According to Tamil Guardian, 2 Tamil men had been arrested by occupational SL police from Puthukudiyiruppu police station following instructions from SL's TID that the 2 men had links to a previously arrested LTTE cadre.

15.01.2020: **Celebration** – Tamil New Year or Thai Pongal was celebrated across Tamil Eelam.

16.01.2020: **Search** – According to Tamil Guardian, the occupational SL army had launched an investigation to locate a group of young Tamils who were involved in an alleged clash with occupational SL soldiers in Point Pedro, Jaffna.

16.01.2020: **Threat** – According to Tamil Guardian, occupational SL police and SL intelligence officers intimidated and monitored locals involved in pongal preparations at Neeraviyadi Pillaiyaar Temple in Mullaitivu. The officials repeatedly engaged in such activities on 15.01.2020 through patrols and surveillance.

16.01.2020: **Remembrance** – Col. Kittu was commemorated across Tamil Eelam.

16.01.2020: **Amnesty** – Amnesty International released a public statement condemning the recent attacks on human rights organisations, media organisations and journalists in Sri Lanka between May 2019 and January 2020.

17.01.2020: **Arrest** – Following a clash between local Tamils and occupational SL soldiers in Vadamarachchi East, Nagarkovil on 15.01.2020, 4 Tamils were arrested. The area was put into lockdown as the occupational SL military conducted a search operation, reports Tamil Guardian.

17.01.2020: **Festival** - The annual kite festival that takes place in Jaffna was held in Valvettithurai on 14.01.2020 where many kites portrayed Tamil culture and Tamil resistance.

19.01.2020: **Remembrance** – Tamil Guardian reports that the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pongu Tamil was commemorated at Jaffna University by staff and students this week.

20.01.2020: **Torture** – Occupational SL police officers in Jaffna have been accused of torturing 2 men allegedly arrested by Kayts police for theft, resulting in their broken limbs. The officers have been condemned by local Tamil civil society organisations reports Tamil Guardian.

20.01.2020: **Intimidation** – A young Tamil from Chulipuram who had supposedly led initiatives calling for the removal of an occupational SL military base from the area had been interrogated by occupational military forces on 18.01.2020 and reportedly asked to sign a letter stating that he did not wish the army to leave the area reports Tamil Guardian.

21.01.2020: **Attack** – According to Tamil Guardian, a Manipay Tamil journalist, I. Rajasekaran's home had been vandalised by unidentified persons on 19.01.2020.

22.01.2020: **Protest** – Tamil families of forcibly disappeared persons protested outside the OMP office in Batticaloa demanding the implementation of an international mechanism to establish accountability and justice on 21.01.2020, reports Tamil Guardian.

22.01.2020: **Hearing** – According to Tamil Guardian, a ruling was made by Judge M. Abdullah at Batticaloa High Court adjourning Joseph Pararajasingham's assassination case hearing to 25.02.2020.

23.01.2020: **Media** – Multiple Tamil journalists in Batticaloa were issued with death threats. It was reported that pamphlets were distributed with their photographs, with claims that they would be executed, reports Tamil Guardian.

24.01.2020: **Bail** – According to Tamil Guardian, around 13 SL officers who were convicted for the abduction and murder of Tamils had been released on bail by a 3-member SL Permanent High Court Panel.

25.01.2020: **Disappearances** - According to statement released by the SL president's website, Gotabaya had not acknowledged nor made reference to a number of missing or deceased persons. Furthermore, Daily Mirror had reported that the SL government had mentioned that it would make a fresh presentation to the UNHRC with the support of Russia and China, to request an investigation of the Sri Lankan civil war against the LTTE in its



entirety rather than merely focussing on the final stages.

**26.01.2020: Arrest** – According to Tamil Guardian, Padmanabhan Sindhuraj had been reported to have been arrested by occupational SL military during raids in Valvettithurai on 23.01.2020 for alleged links to a clash earlier this month with occupational soldiers in Nagarkovil.

**26.01.2020: Backlash** – Vavuniya locals attacked an occupational SL soldier attached to Poowewa camp for sexually harassing a woman in Nochchimoddai, reports Tamil Guardian.

**26.01.2020: Law** – According to Tamil Guardian, of 2 men arrested for the purchase and

distribution of a CD with LTTE songs on 14.01.2019, the seller, Kanthasamy Ariharan was granted bail on 23.01.2020 whilst the consumer remains in detention.

**27.01.2020: Remembrance** – Tamil journalist, Subramaniyam Sugirdharajan, who was shot in Trincomalee for exposing the STF's massacre of 5 Tamil students, was remembered in Batticaloa on 25.01.2020, reports Tamilwin.

**28.01.2020: Protest** – Families of disappeared Tamils held a protest in Vavuniya on 27.01.2020 demanding security for Tamil journalists who continue to be harassed by government officials, reports Tamil Guardian.

**28.01.2020: Arrest** – Former NPC Councillor, M.K. Shivajilingam has been issued an arrest warrant by a Mullaitivu court for his failure to appear to a hearing regarding his involvement in a land grab protest from 2019, reports Tamilwin.

**28.01.2020: Museum** – According to Tamil Guardian, a museum showcasing Tamil history and identity has been unveiled in Navatkuli, Jaffna.

**29.01.2020: Remembrance** – According to Tamil Guardian, local Tamils of Batticaloa commemorated the 33<sup>rd</sup> remembrance day of the Kakkadichcholai massacre which may have been conducted by genocidal SL forces with the assistance of Britain.

## Signs of Structural Genocide

**10.01.2020: Buddhicisation** – A Buddhist Vihara and multiple residencies for Sinhala Buddhist monks are reportedly being constructed hastily within Jaffna University's Ariviyal Nagar campus in Killinochchi, reports Tamil Guardian.

**13.01.2020: Buddhicisation** – A Buddhist religious flag was reportedly hoisted on a make-shift pole by unidentified persons in front of a bus station in the centre of Jaffna city. The flag was raised without any notice and was re-hoisted despite being removed by local TNPF activists.

**22.01.2020: Sinhalisation** – SL parliamentarian and leader of NFF, Wimal Weerawansa had forced government officials to remove a signboard in Mannar for a Palmyrah Fibre Production Centre and display the Sinhala description above the Tamil on 18.01.2020. He had made the instruction following his attendance at the centre's inauguration ceremony resulting in the immediate change of the sign by local officials by 20.01.2020.

**22.01.2020: Buddhicisation** – According to Tamil Guardian, Sinhala Buddhist monks from the extremist group, Ravana Balaya visited a Tamil temple in Mullaitivu and inspected the areas surrounding it, including a forcibly constructed vihara within the temple compounds. They were further reported to have engaged in discussion with occupational SL armed officials stationed at an army camp opposite the temple.