



Akkinip Parabaikal

**MARCH ISSUE
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Puradsi Media.
Phoenix - the Next
Generation



Coordinators' Comments for AP20

In a time where the collective narrative of an unwavering struggle and the current genocidal undertakings of various players continue to be diluted across the diaspora and occupied homeland, AP emerged 20 months ago as an uncensored counter-narrative to stabilise the political ground of Tamil liberation. The coordinators of Phoenix-the Next Generation explore its effect further in celebrating our official newsletter's 20th issue.

Proceed to page 04 for more.

The Psychology of Genocidal Regimes (Vithusa)

While Sri Lanka remains in a constant state of victimization, the ongoing agitation across the Tamil Homeland chips away at GoSL and its leaders' sanity. Through understanding the psychological composition of the Sinhala-Buddhist Nation, Eela Tamils have the capacity to break the insanity that is Sri Lanka.

Proceed to page 09 for more.

The "Justice" Conundrum (Nitharsan & Senchudar Gemini)

Following the decimation of the independent Tamil state in 2009, a solution for the Tamils' grievances has permanently been shifted from one of self-rule to Western-imposed ideals of "justice". When such falsities become the crux of activities pursued by a struggling community, it becomes crucial for such mirages to be shattered. Yet what will ensue when masses become complacent with following orders from oppressors?

Proceed to page 15 for more.

Solidarity Statement

International Solidarity engagements form a crucial component of Phoenix-TNG's activities.

Proceed to page 31 for the full conjoined statement released with the Rojava Komitee - Basel.

Demonstration in Solidarity with Tamil Eelam

Phoenix-TNG conducted a demonstration in solidarity with Tamil Eelam despite COVID-19 restrictions in Switzerland.

Proceed to page 36 for more insight into the event.



**“பிரபாகரன் என்றிடும் காவிய நாயகன்
போற்றிடும் கொடியிது - தமிழ்த்
தேசத்தின் கொடியிது - எங்கள்
தேசியக் கொடியிது.”**

Symbols of Tamil Eelam



Tamil Eelam, our national flag and the national leader of Tamil Eelam are the symbols of our struggle and the foundations of Phoenix TNG. However, such values do not promote the glorification of an individual or an organisation but rather facilitate the absorption of the ideas which these three symbols represent - the valour, conviction and loyalty towards our people and homeland.

However, following 2009, several attempts have been undertaken to discredit and remove these symbols from the Tamils - especially across the diaspora. In recent times, these tendencies have been accelerated again by external powers. Through the removal and discrediting of our symbols, our enemies will be successful in destroying the militant and uncompromising attitude of the Tamil nation. Consequently, the Tamils will be effectively reduced to a tool of the powers rather than being a player themselves. Through discrediting these symbols, the blame for 2009 can be transferred onto these symbols hence nullifying Tamil genocide and all forms of international involvement in it.

Seven years after the emergence of Phoenix TNG, after several rebirths, several fights and clashes, several successful projects and operations, we remain true to our core-belief - the legacy and the continuity of the Tamil struggle.

மொழியாகி, எங்கள் மூச்சாகி, நாளை முடிஞ்சும் தமிழ்மீது உறுதி!
வழிகாட்டி எம்மை, உருவாக்கும் தலைவன் வரலாறு மீதிலும் உறுதி!
விழிமூடி, இங்கே துயில்கின்ற வேங்கை வீரர்கள் மீதிலும் உறுதி!
இழிவாக வாழோம்! தமிழீழப் போரில் இனிமேலும் ஓயோம், உறுதி!

வெல்வது உறுதி

Coordinators' Comments for AP20

PHOENIX TNG

Akkinip Paravaikal Newsletter's Coordinator - Kayalvizhi

It is an honour for me to be the coordinator of AP today. This branch of Phoenix - TNG has seen its evolution through these 20 issues - whether in its form or substance.

AP is an example which indicates that the determination of each individual can pull us up. Like all other organisations, ours too has had its ups and downs but none have given up on this struggle as each of us carries in our hearts the symbols of our struggle: our homeland - Tamil Eelam, our national flag and our national leader. That can be seen in our articles. The aim of this project is not only to cite the facts, but also denounce and fight against the eradication of our identity and our symbols whilst warning the next generation about what is occurring around us.

It seems important to me to mention here, the effort and work provided by our members, as without them, there would have been no development. Members, whether from the branch of Puradsi Media or the other branches of Phoenix - TNG, remain loyal, devoted and committed to this fight. Consequently, despite the circumstances of life they still find time to devote to setting up projects. Together.

Our goal is not to gain notoriety, but rather to make sure we lead this fight on the right path and fulfill the dreams of our Maveerar: Tamil Eelam - Tamil sovereignty.

Tamil Economic Forum's (TEF) Coordinator - Avinash

Akkinipparavaikal is very important for the Tamil people around the world. It seems to be complicated at first, but as soon as we understand the message between the lines, the agenda of the oppressors can be easily comprehended. The 20th issue of AP is now released by a group of very talented people. This should be an inspiration for all Tamil youth out there to believe that everyone has the capacity in them to stand for the rights of Tamil people and lay a small stone on the path to Tamil Eelam.

SC Phoenix's Coordinator - Biranavan

On behalf of SC Phoenix, I would firstly like to commend the Puradsi Media team. As the coordinator of SC Phoenix, I have the privilege of commenting on the AP magazine.

In my eyes, AP is more than just a newspaper. Through it, we get to share the latest and most important information and news about occurrences concerning Tamil Eelam and

Phoenix TNG. The newsletter is similar to the famous newspapers such as Kalathil and Viduthalaipulikal. AP takes on an important role in the Tamil liberation struggle and is the link between the events and people.

Young Phoenix's Acting Coordinator - Saina

The AP Newsletter is extremely informative and a trustable source for the young generation as well as the elder ones. It is wonderfully created with a clear layout, matching quotes, personal thoughts about certain topics in relation with Tamil Eelam and more. On the whole, the readers gain insight into every important news about the current situation all over the world that is related with Tamil Eelam in a summarised manner which saves individuals the time required for self-research. As a result, this wakes up the readers' interest more. It is also written in a way which is easy to understand and every months' central points are well represented. On behalf of Young Phoenix, I wish for the AP Newsletter to grow and reach more readers with their great creativity.

Puradsi Media's Coordinator - Nitharsan

In 2017 we had attempted to establish a monthly newsletter. However, that attempt failed. It took Phoenix TNG two years to analyse the mistakes made in that first attempt and to relaunch the monthly newsletter. Now, after 20 months, the AP ("Akkinip Paravaikal Newsletter") is still growing and each issue is better than the last one.

Yet the main success of AP is not the work ethics, discipline or conviction. It is the creation of a space, where the globally dispersed Eelam Tamils in the diaspora can work without any external interference. This environment from Phoenix TNG led to a unique political space where a group of young Eelam Tamil women are leading and working together.

Our enemies may have occupied our homeland and may have killed our heroes. But Tamil Eelam is not only the name of our soil. It is also a way of life. This AP-Team reminds me of that way of life which existed once.

Phoenix - the Next Generation's Founder & Coordinator - Jathuram

AP is an important project and part of Phoenix TNG. This is not merely a collection of news. I am proud to say that this project will help all generations to frame the ongoing structural Tamil genocide and remains a significant tool for the entire movement. The AP Team has been working efficiently (a part of the Puradsi Media division) - something that we can witness in every issue. It is crucial that this motivation and discipline is followed by every activist.

வெல்வது உறுதி

International News

08.03.2021: **Canada** - According to Colombo Gazette, Canada's High Commissioner to SL, David McKinnon tweeted questioning whether he was under surveillance by GoSL in response to the publication of the details of individuals who had visited Canada House in Colombo by 2 newspapers. The Colombo Gazette issued an update from SL's DIG Ajith Rohana that diplomats are not placed under surveillance in SL.

08.03.2021: **LTTE** - During the 7th Biennial Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, SL's Permanent Representative to the UN, Mohan Peiris victimised the Tamil population and highlighted GoSL's tactics to liberate those in the final stages of the armed conflict, reports Colombo Gazette. It is notable that the LTTE were also excessively villainised by Peiris as indicated in the direct quote below:

"Regrettably all these efforts did not work. Innocent men, women and children continued to be terrorized, lost their lives and we witnessed the loss of public assets. Their distorted ideologies continued to incite hatred along ethnic lines even as I speak sitting in the comfort of jurisdictions outside. Finally, the Government had no choice but to carry out the humanitarian operation in 2009 that finally liberated the people of Sri Lanka from the clutches of that group of non-state actors."

10.03.2021: **Myanmar** - GoSL has been subject to mass outcry following the government's open support for the coup

in Myanmar. Such dissent emerged following SL's invitation of the latter's authorities to participate in the Bay of Bengal Initiative of the Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) which is scheduled to occur on 01.04.2021 and earlier meetings between GoSL's Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena and Myanmar's Wunna Maung Lwin on 31.03.2021. Subsequently on 12.03.2021, Colombo Gazette went onto report UNP's call to GoSL to apply pressure on Myanmar to resume democratic governance as the ongoing militarised violence between state forces and protestors does not supposedly reflect the values of Theravada Buddhism.

14.03.2021: **Intellectual Property Rights** - The SL Embassy in US has engaged in initiatives to contact US entities to remove any products which misused the SL national flag for "decorative purposes". According to Virakesari, doormats and other products with the SL flag were cited to be disrespectful and a violation of SL's intellectual property by the embassy.

Embassy contacted the following:

- ◆ Amazon HQ
- ◆ US Department of Commerce
- ◆ Office of US Trade Representative
- ◆ US State Department

15.03.2021: **DMK** - DMK's M.K. Stalin had outlined in their party's manifesto that upcountry Tamils, as well as Eelam Tamils & upcountry Tamils who remain in refugee camps in India for over 30 years

that DMK would urge the Indian government to grant them Indian citizenship, reports Virakesari. Further reports indicate that the DMK would urge the Indian government to call for an international investigation into SL's war crimes and genocide and the UN to conduct a supervised referendum for Tamils.

17.03.2021: **HRW** - Meenakshi Ganguly - the South Asia Director at HRW noted that the GoSL must remove PTA's Regulation No. 01 of 2021 issued on 09.03.2021 which declared two-years of detention without trial for causing "religious, racial or communal disharmony", reports Colombo Gazette.

"Instead of addressing the UN's concerns by repealing the notorious Prevention of Terrorism Act, the Rajapaksa administration is embracing it with a vengeance."

19.03.2021: **Ban** - According to Colombo Gazette, the Press Trust of India had reported that the United Ulama Council of South Africa had sought intervention from South Africa's Foreign Minister of International Relations and Cooperation - Naledi Pandor into SL's ban of the burqa and closure of Islamic schools across the island. It is notable that Pakistan's Ambassador to SL - Saad Khattak had also expressed concerns via Twitter on 15.03.2021 regarding the impending impacts on the lives of Muslims if the ban was to be imposed.

24.03.2021: **OHCHR** - The Office of UN high Commissioner for Human Rights will appoint a legal advisor and criminal investigator on SL following the adoption of the resolution on 23.03.2021 with plans to recruit 12 new employees to work on SL, reports Colombo Gazette.

26.03.2021: **IORA - WGMSS** - SL's Foreign Secretary Admiral Professor Jayanath Colombage noted trends relating to the Indian Ocean. According to Colombo Gazette, he had called on the implementation of international rules based on order and enhanced trade connectivity during the 2nd Meeting of the IORA Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security which was chaired by SL and conducted virtually.

Trends:

- ◆ Politicisation of maritime trade
- ◆ Politicisation of maritime-related infrastructure
- ◆ Increased militarisation of the Indian Ocean

Areas of Discussion:

- ◆ Drug Trafficking
- ◆ Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing
- ◆ 60,000 km² of dead zone in Bay of Bengal
- ◆ Garbage patch in Southern part of Indian Ocean
- ◆ Reiteration of SL's confidence of extension of leadership role in IORA – WGMSS

Bilateral Discussions

04.03.2021: Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force - Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria & Commander of the SL Navy - Nishantha Ulugetenne at the Navy Headquarters.

04.03.2021: US Pacific Air Forces Commander - General Kenneth S. Wilsbach, Kamal Gunaratne & Commander of SLAF - Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana at SL's Ministry of Defence in light of SLAF's upcoming 70th Anniversary.

Kenneth S. Wilsbach

- ◆ Commander of the US Pacific Regional Air Force
- ◆ Commanding Officer of the US Indo-Pacific Command for aircraft and associated logistics

05.03.2021: SL and Pakistan's PM to expand trade ties.

13.03.2021: Modi and G. Rajapaksa regarding UN Resolution against SL and extension of COVID-19 support.

17.03.2021: Egyptian President - Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi and G. Rajapaksa to extend economic development.

19.03.2021: Dinesh Gunawardena and Romania's Chargé d'affaires Ambassador - Victor Chiujea at SL's Foreign Ministry.

Areas of discussion:

- ◆ Trade
- ◆ Investment
- ◆ Tourism

- ◆ Foreign employment
- ◆ Agriculture
- ◆ Opening a Mission of SL in Romania.

20.03.2021: India's High Commissioner to SL - Gopal Baglay and Dinesh Gunawardena on 19.03.2021 to discuss COVID-19 measures.

Bangladesh - While in Bangladesh to celebrate the country's independence, M. Rajapaksa spoke at the Golden Jubilee event noting the historical trade between the two countries. On 20.03.2021, a joint statement was issued between the two countries where Bangladesh's PM Sheikh Hasina expressed gratitude towards SL's defeat of terrorism and extended support for SL on an international level.

Areas of collaboration:

- ◆ Investments
- ◆ Swaps
- ◆ Technical Issues
- ◆ MoU for economic partnership signed
- ◆ FTA with non-tariff barriers and improved shipping planned

21.03.2021: Afghanistan's Ambassador - M. Ashraf Haidari and Dinesh Gunawardena. Afghanistan sought SL's support for the 76th Session of the UNGA 2021-2022.

Areas of discussion:

- ◆ War to peace transition
- ◆ Afghan's progress with the Taliban
- ◆ Review of bilateral relationships
- ◆ Status of MOUs and Agreements regarding:

- ◆ Defense
- ◆ Trade
- ◆ Protection
- ◆ Tourism
- ◆ Visa waivers

21.03.2021: G. and M. Rajapaksa made phone calls to Muslim world leaders before resolution vote at the UNHRC in Geneva to further interests.

Calls:

- ◆ G. Rajapaksa: Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) - Dr. Yousef. A. Othaimen.
- ◆ M. Rajapaksa: Deputy King Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa (Bahrain)

26.03.2021: Russian Ambassador and SL's defence secretary.

26.03.2021: UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme Senior Instructor - Craig Lunn regarding UNODC-sponsored training courses scheduled to commence at the Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG) Advance Training Centre (ATC) in Mirissa during 2021.

30.03.2021: Newly appointed Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam - Ho Thi Thanh Truc and G. Rajapaksa.

31.03.2021: Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis commence diplomatic relations with SL following the signing of a joint communique by Mohan Peiris and Federation representative - Ian McDonald Luburd.

The Psychology of Genocidal Regimes

VITHUSA

Genocidal regimes have a unique psycho-social markup that dismisses humanity and subordinates' other citizens strictly based on ethnic divides. Historically, these regimes have experienced internalized inferiority through colonial invasion and social capacity to maintain and collaborate with colonial forces. Rooted in this deep lack of recognition, from occupying colonists, a fortified sense of self, sown in the destructive ideology of a constant state of inferiority is epigenetically passed.

Genocidal regimes are institutional or non-institutional bodies that intrinsically focus on the demise of the ethnic social fabric of an identified group of people. A meticulous process undertaken through many institutionalized means including but not limited to:

- ◆ mass murders
- ◆ forced sterilization
- ◆ prevention of accountability and justice mechanisms
- ◆ prevention of memorialization and remembrance by victim-survivor communities
- ◆ environmental degradation

These regimes' continual upholding of genocidal mechanisms irrespective of change in governance fortifies the intrinsic psychological elitism rooted in the states' constant presentation of individual and national victimization. Adhering to a psychological understanding of inferiority complex, one can conclude that such actions by various leaders within genocidal regimes has influenced social spheres of existence where prioritization of absolute control is the only satisfying answer. To challenge this notion, the lack thereof in attaining complete control leaves institutions in a state of irritation - a vexation us Eelam Tamils should understand and welcome.

Histrionic 'State' Disorder

In the context of GoSL, historical neglect by colonial forces has created a sense of deep harm on the Sinhala-Buddhist South where maternal deprivation by the Crown has turned the people hailing from the region and the government, to uphold their positionality as solely righteous. The failure of recognition from the Crown brought forth an alternative push for solidifying a distinctive call to action embedded in the divisive ideology of Sinhala-Buddhist nationalism which was reintroduced by Anagarika Dharmapala during British occupation. The gaining of independence from the Crown and transfer of power has resulted in patterned behaviour of imitation by the Sinhala-Buddhist nation. Through colonial nation-building tactics, the GoSL seeks validation and recognition from global powers. Simply put, GoSL replicates the colonial projects and ideological frameworks that it was once deprived of by the Crown - to gain acceptance on the international playing field. This brief historical analysis sets the stage for developing a criminal profile of Genocidal Sri Lanka.

Current ideological frameworks upheld by the SL State include however are not limited to the unification of the country, oppressing other communities and upholding Sinhala-Buddhist nationalism. These ideological frameworks are ingrained in the inferiority complex where some common traits have been displayed over time. Some common and notable inferiority complex traits are:

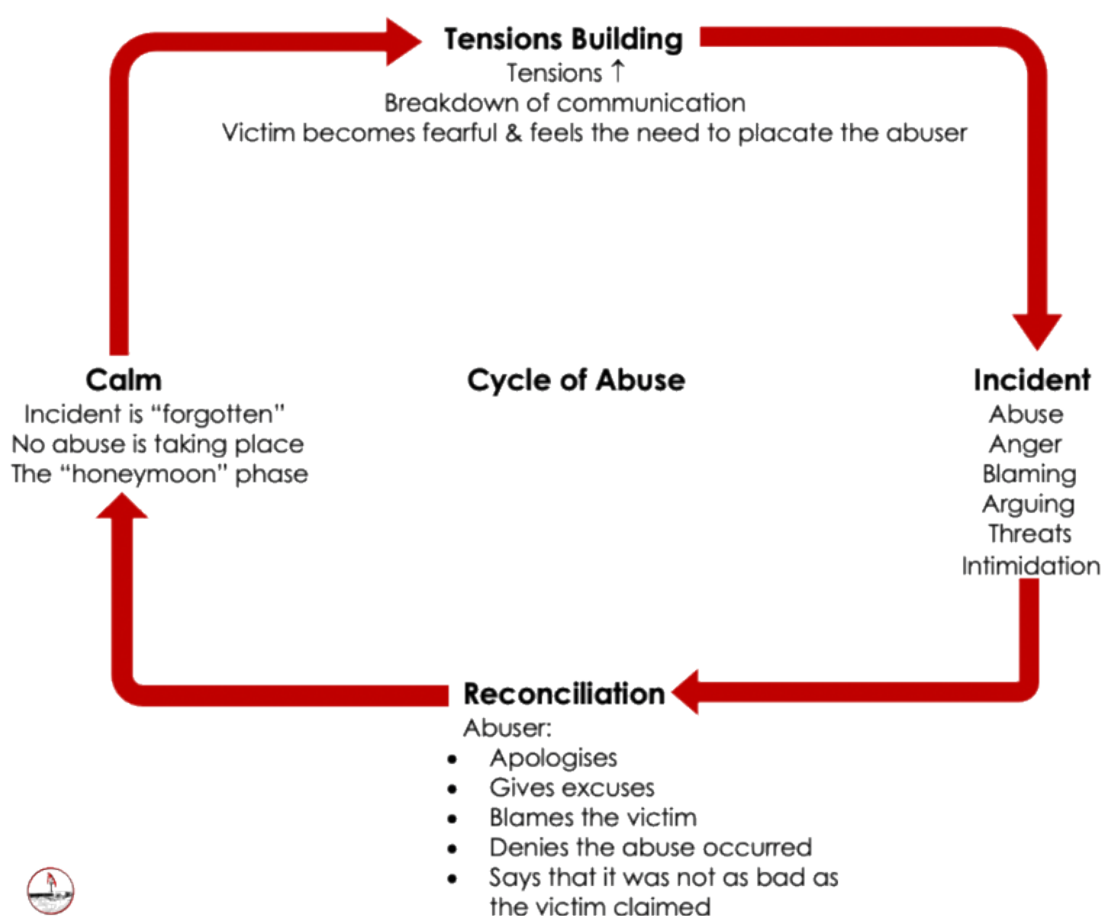
- ◆ Seeking validation
- ◆ Instill insecurity in others
- ◆ Over mention of achievements
- ◆ Sensitivity to criticism but quick to critique others
- ◆ Struggle to admitting to mistakes

Some of these traits will be covered briefly in this article. These traits are significant as they reinforce continued acts of genocide across the island.

Cycle of Abuse

Assessing behavioural tendencies following the end of the armed conflict, GoSL makes it a point to showcase and reiterate the states' violent means in squashing the anti-state resistance. GoSL has habitually delayed, denied and deviated from claims of human

rights abuses, war crimes and impunity. To counter this, every criticism against the GoSL is internalized by its leader and produces an action that aims at regaining control. The P2P demonstration is a poignant recent example where mass resistance was confronted by increased state force presence, surveillance, and legally-binding court orders against those involved in the action. In assessing GoSL through the most basic pattern of Cycle of Abuse we see the following:



1. Tension Building - Failure to meet the demands of the Tamil and Muslim community.
2. Incident - People march on the streets, collaboration of the collective action catches media attention, creates governmental unrest.
3. Reconciliation - In the case of GoSL, there is never an apology, rather there is a colonial process of divide and conquer. We have GoSL considering the possibility of burials which would predominately benefit the Muslim community.
4. Calm - Radio silence from the island as SL state begins surveillance and detention yet agrees to burials through re-implementing the divide and conquer techniques in this agreement.

Repeat.

This cyclical process has also been directly seen with the introduction of the UNHRC Resolution earlier this month where GoSL - realizing the mounting pressure began scrambling to establish ties with nations such as Pakistan, Bahrain and Afghanistan ahead of the vote on 23.03.2021.

Need for Control

GoSL's need to exert authority and control is a direct by-product of an in-built ethnic inferiority complex. Both GoSL and its representing leaders have repeatedly displayed at every opportunity, the demise of the LTTE as a means to justify its positionality of righteousness and capacity to rule a nation. Through the utilization of language in a distinctive way, the SL State misdirects responsibility and ownership for war crimes committed. Additionally, the failure to consider the experiences of other communities is a reflection of its own values, needs and defensiveness concerning the people directly impacted by structural violence. When Gotabaya and other GoSL leaders speak of righteous actions, the language and the expression of moralistic judgments conflict with the inherent teachings of Buddhism - a supposed way of life they follow.

Meanwhile, this inferiority complex can be interpreted as a fear response of the SL State. By reminding the people of the end of the armed conflict, there is an expectation that it will force compliance from civilians. Evidently, GoSL perceives every action by other communities on the island as a direct threat to its stability. Therefore, Gotabaya and friends rely on nepotism and militarisation to strengthen such foundations of this complex.

The ongoing environmental concerns regarding the Sinharaja Forest Reserve and speculations by GoSL's Opposition SJB concerning deforestation is a prime example of nepotism and the leader/State feeling threatened. To counter this allegation, Gotabaya shared with the public that he revamped Colombo when he was the Defence Secretary under his brother's presidency - this was subsequently reported by the Colombo Gazette on 22.03.2021. Meanwhile, the public remained concerned regarding the environmental harm and Gotabaya's friends from SLPP determined on 25.03.2021 that an investigation was undertaken and no such harm was present. It is clear the State is cracking under pressure, although not visible to the eye, actions undertaken reflect the destruction that awaits the genocidal regime. However stable this complex may appear, the instability of state ideology and one's personal capacity to confront challenges pushes the state and its leaders towards a cliff - awaiting the gust of wind that tips them into oblivion.

As for Tamils, we urge you to continue to agitate and disrupt the comfort of the State. Make it unbearably infuriating for the GoSL to exist without being challenged. Whether these actions are visible or covert, continue applying that pressure. As Abbie Hoffman, American Social and Political Activist and Co-Founder of Youth International Party suggested, an egg gone bad does the trick.

Military News

Training

06.03.2021: Sri Lanka and Indian Naval forces conducted bilateral observation training in the southern coast on a Dornier aircraft of the Indian Navy from 02.03.2021 - 05.03.2021. To date, a series of four trainings were carried out covering the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the southern coast by 7 air members of the SLN and 4 from SLAF with the intent of responding to distress calls from fishing and naval communities, reports Colombo Gazette.

11.03.2021: According to navy.lk, 1 officer and 36 sailors were bestowed with insignia at the parade grounds of the RABS HQ in Gagewadiya, Puttalm following their successful completion of the Rapid Action Boat Squadron (RABS) Qualifying Course-25, on 10.03.2021.

19.03.2021: A joint bilateral Field Training Exercise (FTX) titled "Shake Hands - 1" was undertaken between SL's Pakistan's Armies at the Saliyapura Gajaba Regiment HQ and has been scheduled to occur until 31.03.2021. According to defence.lk, a total of 41 Pakistani officials and 44 SL officials were reported to have participated. Involved in the training were Pakistan's Army of 6 officers and 35 Other Ranks including 4 officers and 40 Other Ranks from Sri Lanka's Army.

Areas of focus:

- ◆ Tactical Military Operations
- ◆ Internal Security
- ◆ Counter Revolutionary Warfare Tactics
- ◆ Joint Military Offenses
- ◆ Survival
- ◆ Tracking
- ◆ Mock Attacks
- ◆ Identifying Suicide Bombers and Explosives
- ◆ Intelligence Collection

28.03.2021: According to navy.lk, 377 recruits of 241st intake of SLN's Regular and Volunteer Forces, had passed on 27.03.2021 at Poonewa following the completion of their training.

01.03.2021: **Trilateral allyship** - The necessity of the continuation of National Security Adviser (NSA) level meeting between India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives was reaffirmed and a secretariat for Trilateral National Security Advisers on Maritime Security Cooperation was formed under Kamal Gunaratne at SL's Navy Headquarters on 01.03.2021, reports navy.lk

04.03.2021: **SLAF** - According to army.lk, the SLAF inaugurated an air show to mark its 70th anniversary. The air show was launched in collaboration with the Indian Air Force until 05.03.2021.

17.03.2021: **MINUSMA** - Colombo Page reported that the SL Combat Convoy Company (LKACCC) serving the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali had performed 21 combat convoy escort operations by 15.03.2021 and recovered 15 IEDS.

20.03.2021: **Ruling overturned** - Colombo Gazette reported that the UK High Court had overturned the initial ruling against SL's Major General Priyanka Fernando on 19.03.2021 and overridden the Westminster Magistrates' Court conviction on 06.03.2019 thus acquitting him of all charges. The courts determined the following:

"The interpretation of the treaty should not be an exercise in 'pedantic literalism'. It should be read in the context of its object and purpose."

21.03.2021: **Pakistan** - According to army.lk, Shavendra Silva visited Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff - General Qamar Javed Bajwa at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi on 19.03.2021.

Areas of discussion:

- ◆ Regional security
- ◆ Enhanced defence co-operation
- ◆ Pakistan's support for SL at UNHRC

22.03.2021: **Appointment** - G. Rajapaksa has appointed Read Admiral Ruwan Perera as SL's Navy Chief of Staff on 21.03.2021 through SLN Commander of Navy, Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne at SL's Navy HQ reports, Colombo Gazette.

31.03.2021: **Security** - SL's Military Spokesman - Brigadier Nilantha Premaratne informed Colombo Gazette that a special security plan will be implemented between 01.04.2021 - 05.04.2021 ahead of Easter Sunday to include the security of churches and hotels. Further reports indicate that SL's Army HQ had issued instructions to SL's Security Force Commanders to survey and identify potential security concerns assuring that SL's military would provide necessary assistance.

Areas of assistance from SL's military:

- ◆ Surveillance
- ◆ Mobile patrols
- ◆ Deployments

WHAM

14.03.2021: SLN donated school supplies to local children from Mandaitheevu, Punguditheevu and Kayts.

15.03.2021: SLN planted 700 saplings of mangroves along Ponnalai Lagoon on 14.03.2021 under a program by SL's Northern Naval Commander Rear Admiral Senarath Wijesooriya.

16.03.2021: SLA initiated a project to sell Jaffna-grown vegetables and fruits to all occupational Army personnel across Jaffna peninsula with future plans to distribute in Colombo as a wider part of the normalisation of military presence in the region. The program was initiated by Security Forces Jaffna Commander Maj. General Priyantha Perera.

21.03.2021: A program to conserve and clean rivers in the Northern Province were held near Kanagarayan Aaru, Kilinochchi.

27.03.2021: The SL Nippon Educational and Cultural Centre (SLNECC) in collaboration with the occupational Security Force HQ - Jaffna awarded scholarships for 12 more students in Jaffna after inviting

them to the Naga Viharaya in Jaffna on 28.03.2021, reports army.lk.

27.03.2021: Jaffna's Occupational Security Force HQ gifted 11 wheelchairs to most deserving civilians in Jaffna as another civil-military cooperation project on 28.03.2021 at Velanai Central College, Jaffna.

The “Justice” Conundrum

NITHARSAN & SENCHUDAR GEMINI

Introduction

Following SL's constitutional crisis of 2018 where transitional justice had effectively crumbled, the return of the Rajapaksas provided Tamils a window of opportunity in realising our collective shortcomings in which many Tamils had pursued “justice” as a viable means to address decades of Tamils' grievances. However, the tendency to spiral into Western-ideals of justice have been recently strengthened. As a result, it was exactly 1 year ago that we had published articles addressing the negative effects that the IIM would have upon the Eelam Tamils' struggle for liberation if pursued. Nonetheless, within the year itself, the IIM has been ardently pursued by many Tamil representatives, hence consciously and subconsciously entrapping the wider Tamil population into the pursuit. Thus, in light of our special edition release of AP20, it is with great disappointment that we are re-publishing these previously published articles with further historical and political contextualisation in this 3-part article. If Eelam Tamils continue to ignore the warnings and tendencies surrounding us, they must also be prepared to face the dire consequences which await.

1. The Pepper Effect - Nitharsan

“Nature is my friend, life is my philosopher and history is my guide”, was the answer provided when the National Leader of Tamil Eelam was asked who his friend, philosopher and guide were. History especially remains an important guide for people who wage a struggle. Nowadays, intellectual studies and certificates are seen as the ultimate guide for directing the struggle forward. Whilst these studied intellectuals

have moved directly into the trap laid for us and have been trapped since like moths to a flame, those who have studied history, remain safe.

From self-governance to seeking justice

The best way to comprehend our current situation, is to seek an answer to the question - "how did the chilli gain its name, 'milagai'?" Traditionally, Tamils spiced their food with pepper. During the Middle Ages, pepper was a very expensive commodity. Hence, a lot of merchants gained large amounts of profits in the trade of pepper. It is notable that pepper was even a motivating factor for Marco Polo's attempts to establish his own European Karavane enterprise towards Asia. Thus to extort the valuable pepper from the Tamils, chilli was introduced to them as a substitute - hence the name *miliagai* [milagu (pepper) + ai].

Similarly, the "justice" issue is used to extort a valuable commodity which is distinct to Tamils. Besides projects such as "development" and "capacity - building" on the ground, this justice subject is used to divert the struggle away from self-governance.

The continuity of the struggle

The armed struggle of the Tamils under the leadership of the LTTE was a unique time in the history of the Eelam Tamils. However, the Tamils' struggle did not commence nor end with the LTTE. Since the introduction of the Colebrook-Cameron constitution in 1833, the Tamils' resistance had a continuity, which progressed with time. Starting with the demand of equal rights under the reign of the British crown, Tamils continued the struggle with demanding their rights within the frameworks of the Sri Lankan state after the so-called independence. Whilst the Sri Lankan state refused to listen to the demands of the Tamils and responded with state-sponsored violence, the Tamils demanded an independent and sovereign state, which was accepted democratically by the Tamils. The following generation of militant youth established a sovereign Tamil state in the most part of the Tamil homeland.

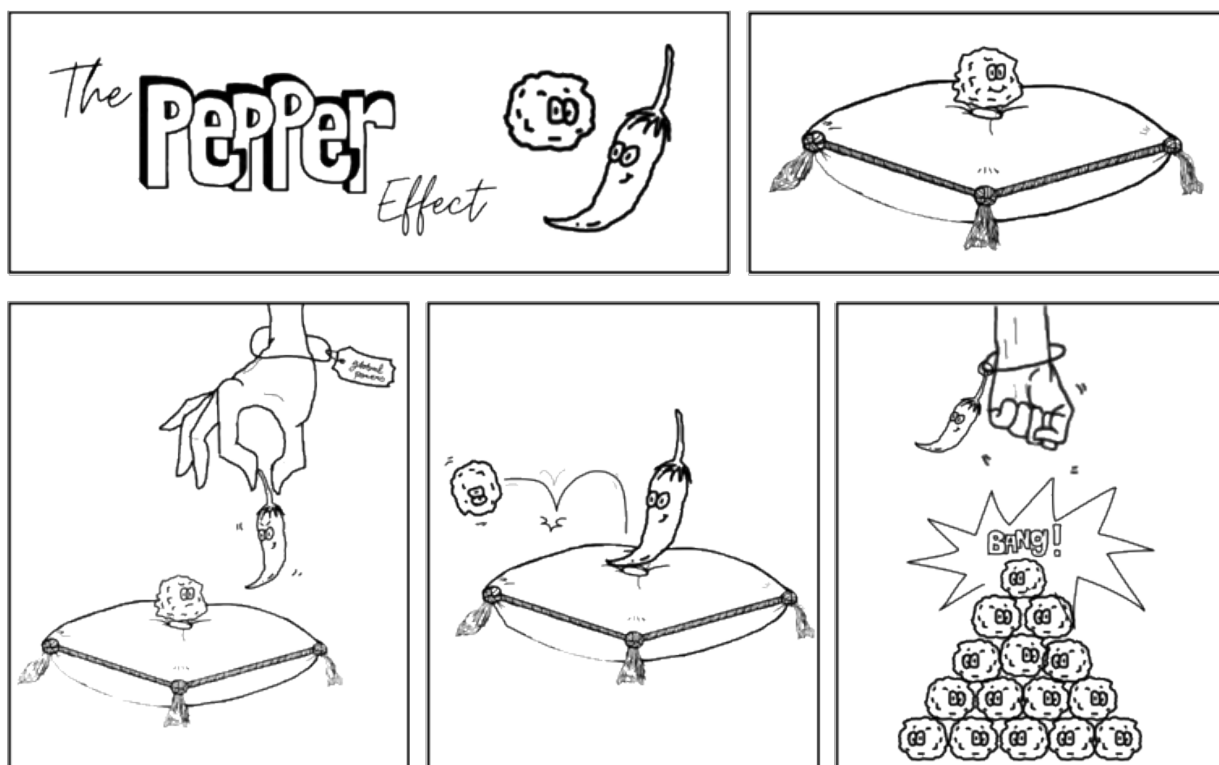
However, since the destruction of the Tamil state in 2009, the continuity of the Tamil struggle remains questionable. Rather than picking up the struggle from that point, where the Tamils under the LTTE moved with great sacrifice, nowadays the Tamils act in accordance with what is expected from them. Rather than considering how cease the ongoing genocide, the Tamils are wasting time and resources in platforms such as the UN, to gain justice for the atrocities committed in 2009. However, the point is not to completely withdraw from a justice platform like the UN.

We must ask ourselves, what is going to happen if we attain genocide recognition for Tamil genocide? Are these states, which are not capable of accepting the Tamil grievances at the moment, capable of providing us with a political solution? As in the

last 12 years, Tamils have only fought for justice and did not even think about a political solution for our issues.

For that, it is important we Tamils come back onto the right track. We should understand that justice-platforms such the UN are merely one of our many battle-fields and it is not our main-objective. Our main objective is to re-establish Tamil sovereignty, which will be capable of permanently ending Tamil genocide - even the ongoing structural genocide.

We should change our perception to one that cements that justice for us will be through the re-establishment of Tamil sovereignty in our homeland on our own terms. So let us challenge the Sri Lankan state and its allies again.



REPLACE PEPPER CORN WITH TAMIL EELAM AND CHILLI PEPPER WITH 'JUSTICE'.
REREAD COMIC.



2. Misdirected goal - a flock's confusion - Senchudar Gemini (Issue 8, March 2020)

Editor's note - corrections made in accordance with additional research.

Through the Vaddukoddai Resolution of 1976, the Eelam Tamils' collectively established their democratic mandate for an independent and sovereign Tamil

Eelam. This was a goal which was sustainably pursued and established by the LTTE as a political solution to the systematic genocide that the Tamils were continually subject to by Sri Lanka and their multiple allies.

However, in a post-2009 Mullivakkal genocide context, many Tamil parties have drastically converted their vision to advocate the establishment of justice and accountability for Tamils, through various platforms. However as evident through the history of the struggle, a solution within the framework of a Sinhala chauvinist Sri Lanka, is unviable and detrimental to the struggle. Nonetheless, the Tamils' endeavour had primarily focused upon gaining justice and accountability from the western apparatus, the UN. Following the introduction of the UN Resolution 30/1 in 2015, advocacy for transitional justice was pursued as an avenue for accountability by many Tamil organisations. As many Tamil representatives hung onto the Sirisena administration's broken promises for justice, the subsequent setbacks for the Tamil struggle for liberation have been multifold.

Yet, with the return of the Rajapakse brothers, a tendency to pursue "alternative pathways to justice" has emerged amongst such Tamil organisations. These pathways are supposedly pursued with the belief that they would function as an independent mechanism.

A failure of Tamils to expressly convey their ideal for justice, will in turn have a cyclical effect of misinterpretation. A lack of specificity will lead towards the implementation of mechanisms which would deepen the plight of Tamils and often strip them of their ability to gain genocide recognition and any subsequent substantial measure of justice. One such mechanism is the International Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) which was introduced in 2016 to investigate crimes committed in the Syrian Arab Republic. This measure was later implemented in Myanmar to investigate the Rohingya genocide in 2018. In both instances, the mechanism had deepened the plight of the victims. A comparative study of the effect of the IIIM upon victims will be explored in a subsequent editorial through the case studies of Syria and Myanmar.

Similarly, the Tamils' tendency to loosely identify solutions for our plight, often creates a vacuum which allows external parties to exploit the space. This void allows a window for mechanisms such as the IIIM to be imposed upon the Eelam Tamils. In the absence of the Tamils' leadership, the current uncertainty in ascertaining a concrete political demand for the establishment of justice and accountability for the continuing Tamil genocide, will further deteriorate the struggle for justice, autonomy and liberation for Tamils. A frantic flurry to seek any sliver of justice as hope, further undermines the Tamils' unwavering disposition and ultimately reels back the progress of the struggle down a rabbit hole and into a diminished beggar- esque state - but until then, who's to say otherwise?

3. Out of the fire and into the frying pan - Senchudar Gemini

Issue 9, April 2020

Introduction

Whilst the course of the Tamil struggle for liberation has evolved over time, its fundamental basis revolved around the establishment of a sustainable political solution. With the emergence of the armed struggle, the Tamils' ideal of justice was conceptualised through the LTTE's establishment of a sovereign Tamil Eelam. This subversion of the concept of justice was cohesively pursued by Tamils. However, with the destruction of the Tamil Eelam state through the combined efforts of the genocidal Sri Lankan government and its global co-conspirators, the Tamils' definition of justice was distorted through the influence of Western hegemons. The mirage of international accountability and justice lured the Tamils away from their pursuit of a political solution. Such avenues were encouraged through the broken promises for transitional justice which emerged with the Sirisena administration. The dissolution of the guise of accountability and justice for Tamils through avenues of transitional justice, with the return of the Rajapakse brothers in November of 2019 opened a window for the Tamils to realign the course of their struggle. However, the emergence of a tendency to advocate for "alternative pathways of justice" is an implicit reference to the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) which has had a detrimental impact upon the victims' pursuit of justice in Syria and Myanmar. As a result, it becomes crucial to contextualise the impacts of the model to redirect the course of the Tamil struggle away from its self-immolation.

Illusion of Impartiality

The IIIM was introduced in December 2016 as a subsidiary body of the UN to conduct investigations and collect evidence regarding crimes committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since 2011. The mechanism has an intermediary function where it bridges recent crimes with uncertain future prosecutions through the collation of evidence regarding serious crimes committed under international law. As a result, the mechanism exists as a central repository for the preservation of evidential material through cooperation with local NGOs and civil society groups and thus assists in the process of criminal law case file building. Catherine Marchi – Uhel (the head of Syria's IIIM) explains how criminal accountability functions as a component of the wider transitional justice process where evidence would be collated within the context of transitional justice objectives. In a state where avenues for transitional justice had failed and backtracked the progress of the Tamils' struggle for liberation, the pursuit of yet another band-aid solution of criminal accountability emphasises that Western ideals for justice introduced by global oppressors cannot substitute a political solution. Nonetheless, an examination of the shortcomings of the mechanism as a tool of justice as well as its inability to substitute a sustainable political solution are essential for us to comprehend the future of the struggle.

Whilst the IIM has no authority to prosecute as it is not a tribunal, its mandate theoretically facilitates the identification of individual perpetrators and the role of state structures in facilitating such international crimes. A press release published by the Global Justice Center on 27.09.2018, establishes the shortcomings of such models for justice due to its non-prosecutorial nature. However, Marchi-Uhel further established state accountability as neither a primary nor practical process due to the IIM's limitations in universal jurisdiction despite the mechanism's claims. A lack of definition regarding operational processing in the absence of the availability of jurisdiction would result in the preparation of case files within a vacuum thus extending a state of evidentiary limbo – a time frame within which the victims' plight may deepen due to continuing oppression. Underutilised data would further generate an opportunity for the international community to continue to procrastinate in its establishment of criminal accountability and thus diminish the public psyche of subjugated communities – an advantage for global oppressors

The Syria Mechanism: A Geopolitical Arena

This becomes evident with the implementation of the IIM in Syria. As no courts have jurisdiction over war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Syria, the IIM's jurisdiction becomes limited to courts in Europe and North America. These courts only allow the possible prosecution of low perpetrators thus leaving the remaining victims open to further systematised repression by aggravated state officials. Hohler and Pederson, establish the mechanism's inability to predict the occurrence of prosecutions, and diminishes its scope of analysing evidence which falls beyond its non-prosecutorial mandate. An ICTJ briefing from 2018 regarding the possibility of justice for Syrian victims displays the magnified effect that limitations in jurisdiction may have upon victims who remain on the ground. Self-censorship due to fear of persecution would fail to expose the true plight of the victims. Thus, the crucial concerns of consent and witness protection are discarded within a supposedly victim-centred approach. Subsequently, Hohler and Pederson explain the ensuing excessive reliance upon other states. Whilst such reliance would delay the process towards conventional justice, it becomes evident that such dependence would provide geopolitical agendas an outlet to exploit the victims.

Moreover, the inconsistencies in communication and peculiarities in funding for the IIM in Syria, raise concerns about the legitimacy of the mechanism. Whilst the IIM had initially relied on voluntary funding, Marchi-Uhel mentioned that funds for the IIM had been received from the European Union and 38 other countries by 2018. It is noteworthy that Switzerland had donated USD 2.4 million as funds for the IIM since its inception. A failure to satisfy the requests of civil societies resulted in the establishment of an externally-funded platform known as the "Lausanne process". These semi-annual meetings were funded by Swiss and Dutch donors to encourage Syrian civil societies to engage with the IIM. Furthermore, an analysis of the mechanism by the Ferencz International Justice Institute exposes the lack of transparency regarding the mechanism's prosecution strategies with Syrian stakeholders thus questioning the

scope of the IIM. In addition, the heavy political and economic influence of the Swiss government raises concerns regarding the extent of their influence upon the process and thus projects the possibility of such geopolitical exploitation of spaces for justice with the implementation of the mechanism in various contexts. This establishes the geopolitical dimension of such models for justice as one bent upon asserting the repressive authority of global order.

Mirage for Myanmar

On the other hand, the IIM was established in Myanmar as the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) in September 2018. Introduced following the conclusion of the investigative work of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar (FFM), the Myanmar mechanism had the widest scope of judicial proceedings and investigations in Myanmar, as it spanned from 2011 to an unspecified time in the future. Whilst Myanmar had been referred to the ICJ and the federal court of Argentina for violations of the 1948 Genocide Convention and crimes against humanity, limitations of jurisdiction and Myanmar's obligations, restrict the efficacy of such avenues for accountability. The integration of the confidential work of the mechanism with other UN investigative measures also affects the influence of such avenues. The role of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (COI) and FFM affect possibilities for diplomatic leverage. Limited and complete denial of access to territory in both Syrian and Myanmar result in a one-dimensional account of evidence thus disregarding the victims' plight. A similar sentiment was extended in the IIMM's first report to the UN's General Assembly which established such investigations as a complex feat without the support of states within the region and the international community. The attribution further addresses the geopolitical context within which these mechanisms are introduced, thus exposing their intent.

Tamils' Trepidations

Whilst the mechanism is within its early stages of implementation, the multitude of inconsistencies raises concerns regarding the legitimacy of the mechanism in remaining true to its impartiality. As a methodology which functions as both an informal and formal transitional justice process, the model of the mechanism can be established as another dead end in the pursuit for justice. Furthermore, the ambiguities in the definition of funding for the mechanism establishes the IIMM as a platform for global actors to exert their political agendas through financial and geopolitical leverage.

As Tamil genocide continues to be systematised through the Sri Lankan government's state structures, 11 years on from its pinnacle, we have been reminded that avenues for justice paved by the West will never substitute the legitimacy of a political solution in the Tamils' struggle for liberation. A political solution universally remains as the only secure mechanism to safeguard the wellbeing of subjugated communities and

preserve their distinct sovereignty. In a time where global order is indoctrinated with the interests of global oppressors, the legitimacy of avenues for international justice void of geopolitical exploitation, remain slim. With many predominant Tamil representatives pursuing a new form of an old tool, it becomes apparent that once again, the progress of the struggle may be shifted out of the fire and into the frying pan. Yet, a timely collective awakening guided by the Nandhikadal principles, will permanently liberate the oppressed from the oppressors through dismantling the foundations of global order.

Conclusion

Whilst we have historically been reminded of the oppressors' role in misguiding resisting communities away from their main objectives, it is tragic that the Eelam Tamils continue to operate like hand puppets on the line. As a people who have a history of responding to internal and external instructions and orders, a failure to act independently in times of crises in accordance with the rightful path time and time again may have been a mistake which we could have eluded for almost 12 years. However, a failure to decode the "justice" conundrum in time may leave a renowned self-sufficient community to wither into the passive confines of permanent servitude.

Domestic News

Tamil Eelam

02.03.2021: **Land clearance** - Reports from Virakesari indicate that during the Vavuniya District Secretariat Development Committee meeting which was held on 02.03.2021, officials from SL's Forestry Department had reported to Vavuniya's District Governor that the release of 4,245 acres of forests under Vavuniya's District Secretariat was in progress.

04.03.2021: **Explosives** - Occupational SL troops were informed of the recovery of an unexploded motor and RPG shell at a private plantation site in the Kanakarayankulam, Mannakulam - Kunchukulam areas of Vavuniya. Further

reports from Virakesari indicate that occupational troops and police were engaged in the removal and deactivation of the explosives.

05.03.2021: **Arrest** - Occupational Vavuniya police had arrested 3 individuals with 2 tractors for illegally excavating soil from the Manmunai West area in Batticaloa and had reported that arrangements were underway to produce the individuals, and their vehicles before a local court on 06.03.2021, reports Virakesari.

06.03.2021: **Arrest** - A 32-year-old youth from Palamottai was arrested by the STF

and handed over to occupational Omanthai Police following a tip-off received by Puliyanukulam's STF, for the illegal possession of a firearm. Further reports from Virakesari indicate that the youth is set to be produced before Vavuniya's District Magistrate's Court following investigations.

08.03.2021: **Explosives** - STF and occupational SL army personnel were deployed to the Semmani Cemetery in Jaffna to investigate the presence of dangerous ammunition following information retrieved from SL's military intelligence and have indicated that investigations are in progress, reports Virakesari.

10.03.2021: **Harvest** - 2 youth had successfully harvested mushrooms for the first time in Gayathri Village, Thirukovil within the Amparai District on 09.03.2021, reports Virakesari.

11.03.2021: **Detainment** - 24 Tamils comprising 20 males, 1 female, 2 girls and 1 boy have been detained by SLN following an attempt to flee Sri Lanka near Kalpitiya lagoon while waiting in a lorry, reports Colombo Gazette.

Demographics of detained residents:

- ◆ 9 from Batticaloa
- ◆ 6 from Jaffna
- ◆ 5 from Mullaitivu
- ◆ 3 from Trincomalee
- ◆ 1 from Puttalam

13.03.2021: **Regional Consular Office** - According to Virakesari, SL's Ministry of External Affairs had opened a Regional Consular Office at the Chief Minister's

Complex in Trincomalee on 13.03.2021 to provide consular services to locals.

Timeline India's High Commissioner to SL, Gopal Baglay's visit to occupational Tamil Eelam (Primary Source: Virakesari)

- ▶ **10.03.2021:** G. Baglay visited Thiruketheeswaram on the eve of Sivarathiri to inspect reconstruction work funded by India as a part of the Indian Assistance Program. Further reports indicate that the cost of the reconstruction was estimated to be around INR 326 million.
- ▶ **11.03.2021:** G. Baglay met with the Governor of the Northern Province, NSM Charles and other officials.

Issues discussed:

- ◆ Education
- ◆ Personality development
- ◆ Health
- ◆ Agriculture
- ◆ Water
- ◆ Fisheries

▶ **12.03.2021**

G. Baglay visited various people and sites in Jaffna.

Locations:

- ◆ Nallur Kandaswamy Kovil
- ◆ Jaffna Cultural Centre - to supervise construction efforts supported by India
- ◆ Jaffna Public Library

Individuals:

- ◆ Nallai Atheena Gurumuthalvar
- ◆ Attorney-at-Law Vishwalingam Manivannan

Protestors participating in the rotational hunger strike demanding the referral of SL to the ICC in Nallur expressed discontent that G. Baglay had not met with them.

G. Baglay met with Jaffna's trade, business and industry leaders to discuss trade-related activities in Jaffna. Further reports indicate that proposals regarding the enhancement of mutual investment and cooperation within the following areas were made during the meeting:

- ◆ Air communication
- ◆ Sea communication
- ◆ Information technology
- ◆ Power
- ◆ Tourism
- ◆ Personality development
- ◆ Manufacturing

► **xx.03.2021:** G. Baglay laid foundation stones for 144 transit housing units for pilgrims at St. Madhu Matha Church in Mannar with SL Minister Prasanna Ranatunga. Project is funded with around INR 300 million by the Government of India.

► **xx.03.2021:** G. Baglay met with India's Consul General for Jaffna, S. Balachandran.

► **13.03.2021**

According to TNA MP Chanakyan, G. Baglay had engaged in meetings with key members in Trincomalee on 13.03.2021.

Issues Discussed:

- ◆ Land appropriation
- ◆ Archaeology
- ◆ Mahaweli Project
- ◆ Establishment of IT sector in Tamil Eelam
- ◆ Development of ports in Tamil Eelam
- ◆ Transformation of Batticaloa Airport into an International Airport

G. Baglay met with Tamil politicians during a meeting which was held at a guest house in Kokuvil, Jaffna. Further reports from Colombo Gazette indicate that Baglay had reiterated India's commitments towards the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil community during the meeting.

Attendees:

- ◆ Tamil National Alliance (TNA)
 - ◆ Mavai Senathirajah
 - ◆ M A Sumanthiran
 - ◆ Dharmalingam Siddharthan
 - ◆ Sivagnanam Sriharan
 - ◆ Charles Nirmalathan
 - ◆ Selvam Adaikalanath
- ◆ Tamil People's National Alliance (TPNA)
 - ◆ C V Wigneswaran
 - ◆ Suresh Premachandran
 - ◆ N Sirikantha
 - ◆ M K Sivajilingam
 - ◆ Ananthi Sasitharan
- ◆ Tamil National People's Front (TNPF)
 - ◆ Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam
 - ◆ Selvarasa Gajendran

► **14.03.2021**

Baglay handed over several training equipment from the Indian Navy to

Naval & Maritime Academy (NMA) in Trincomalee. This handover comes from a pledge made in 2019, when The Chief of Indian Naval Staff - Admiral Karambir Singh visited NMA. Torpedo and Gas Turbine Cut Modules as well as several other training aids which would benefit officers and sailors under trainees of Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Seamanship, Navigation and Engineering Schools were amongst the donations.

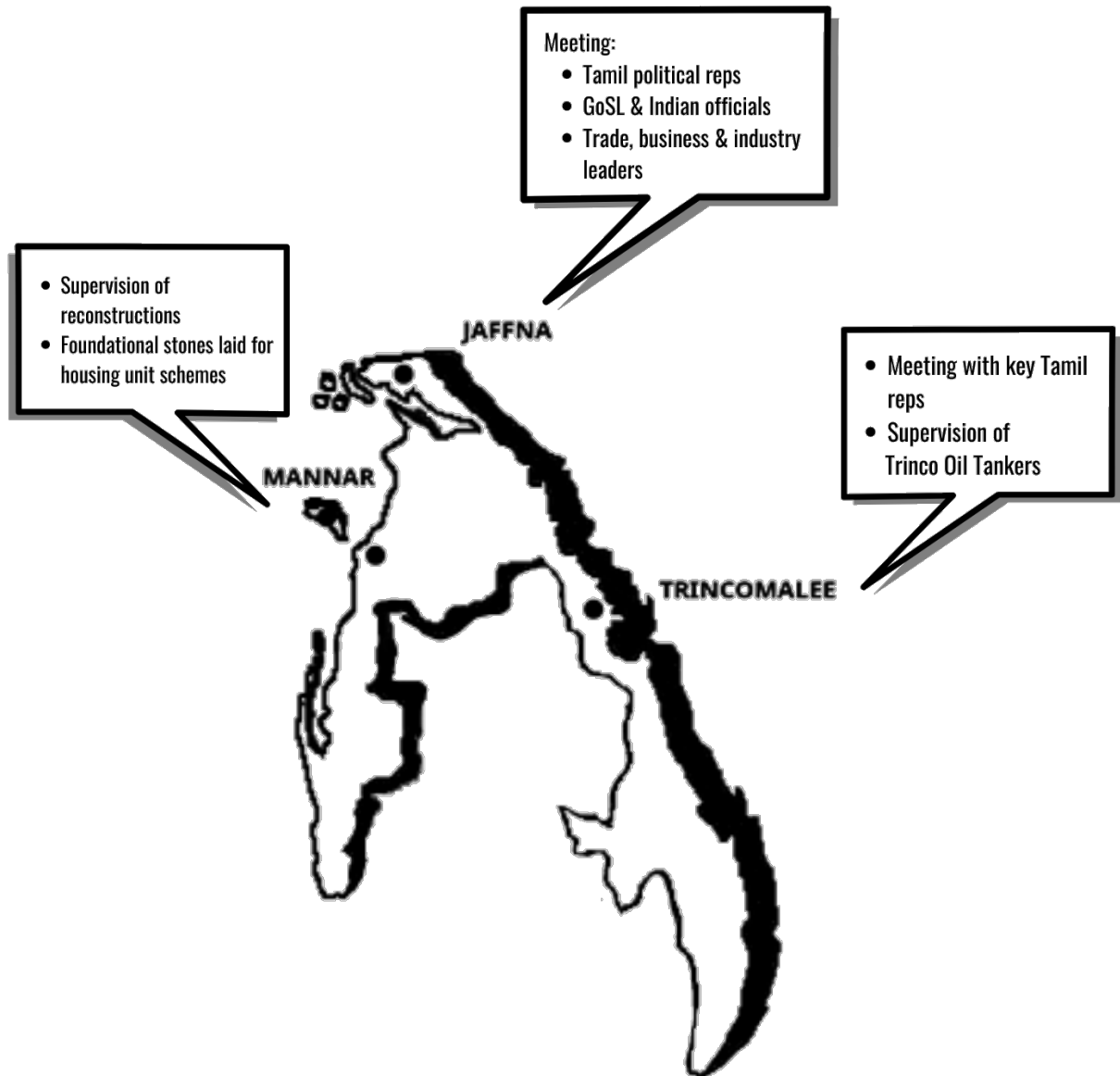
G. Baglay had visited the SL - India Oil Corporation Tanks in Trincomalee during his visit to the North of Tamil Eelam. Further reports indicate that he had also held discussions regarding developments with engineers.

25.03.2021: **13th Amendment** - Sajith Premadasa informed SL Parliament regarding the SJB's backing of the 13th Amendment and urged GoSL to listen to the people of Tamil Eelam. According to Colombo Gazette, he further encouraged the implementation of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) which was initially introduced by M. Rajapaksa and further highlighted the extremism promoted in the country resulted in positive votes against SL at the UNHRC.

25.03.2021: **Japan** - According to the Japanese Embassy in Colombo, the Government of Japan has provided a grant of approximately USD 36, 759 through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects which will provide refurbished ambulances to the Moolai Co-Operative Hospital in Jaffna, reports Colombo Page. The grant was signed on 24.03.2021 at the Ambassador's Residence in Colombo by Japan's Ambassador - Akira Sugiyama and M. Gnaneswaran, the President of the Co-Operative Hospital Society Ltd. Moolai.

26.03.2021: **Canada** - According to Virakesari, Canada's David McGinnon was reported to have made a courtesy call at Jaffna University to gauge the progress of the National Languages Equality Advancement Project which is currently funded by the Canadian government.

31.03.2021: **Arrest** - SL's Police Spokesman - DIG Ajith Rohana reported that a 41-year-old suspect was arrested by the CID in Chavakachcheri following the alleged appropriation of approximately LKR 13.4 Million into private banking accounts from US banks, reports Colombo Gazette.



INDIA IN THE

Gopal Baglay's Strategic Visit

Sri Lanka

02.03.2021: **Deforestation** - Ajith Rohana announced that the SL police have determined deforestation to be a criminal activity following multiple reports of suspected activities across the country and will be conducting special operations in the future to prevent environmental crimes, reports Colombo Gazette.

02.03.2021: **Ports** - SL's Cabinet has approved the development of the West Container Terminal of the Colombo South Port by India's Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd. in collaboration with SL's Ports Authority and APSEZ Consortium, reports Colombo Gazette. Reports indicate that the development will be undertaken over a period of 35 years. According to Virakesari, Keheliya Rambukwella had indicated at a press conference on 16.03.2021 that whilst Adani India sought 51% in ownership the Colombo Port's West Terminal, discussions were in progress to collaborate with SL's Ports Authority and other national partners to develop the remaining 49% domestically.

05.03.2021: **DMPPF** - According to Daily Mirror, the Dead and Missing Persons' Parents' Front (DMPPF) had handed over a memorandum to the UK High Commission of, UN office in Colombo and the Presidential Secretariat regarding the publication of a report on alleged war crimes. Protesters were reported to have mentioned that "UK representatives had never visited the Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim victims of LTTE terror".

08.03.2021: **Seize** - According to The Hindu, 3 SL boats had been seized by the Indian Coast Guard and brought to Viginjam Port in Thiruvananthapuram on 07.03.2021 for further investigations, reports Virakesari. It was reported that the boats were intercepted with 19 individuals, unauthorised telecommunications devices and drugs 7 nm odd the island of Minicoy on 05.03.2021.

Boats Seized:

- ◆ Agarsha Dua
- ◆ Sadhu Rani 03
- ◆ Sadhu Rani 08

08.03.2021: **PCol** - Final reports of decisions drawn through 2 PCols were submitted to SL's Speaker, Mahindha Yapa Abeywardena on 08.03.2021 by the SL President's Legal Director General, Harigupta Rohanadeera, reports Virakesari.

PCols:

- ◆ 3-part report on PCol appointed to examine GoSL misconduct between 14.01.2015 - 16.11.2019. Concerning GoSL:
 - ◆ Officials
 - ◆ Corporation employees
 - ◆ Troops
 - ◆ Police Officers
- ◆ PCol appointed to investigate corruption and fraud between 14.01.2015 - 31.12.2018

10.03.2021: **CID** - All Ceylon Makkal Congress Leader - MP Rishad Bathiudeen has been reported to have filed a formal complaint with SL's CID against SL

Minister Wimal Weerawansa regarding a public statement made by the latter on 09.03.2021 that claimed Bathiudeen and brothers' ties to Zahran Hashim who had coordinated the Easter Attacks, reports Colombo Gazette.

10.03.2021: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, a protest is to be staged by Buddhist monks against Islamic and Christian fundamentalism on 11.03.2021 in Colombo's Independence Square. Further reports indicate that Gnanasara Thero had pledged his support for the protests as the foundations of the Buddhist community was under threat due to the rise of fundamentalist.

11.03.2021: **Protest** - Hambantota farmers blocked Matara main road in Colombo as they demonstrated against the GoSL's broken promises regarding the release of confiscated farmlands, reports Virakesari. Further reports indicate that the farmers had been conducting a hunger - strike for over 53 days after the confiscation of lands and had temporarily halted it following promises made by Chamal Rajapaksa - which they found to be void on 11.03.2021. It is notable that a protest had also been held in Ambalantota on 10.03.2021 as 2 women embarked upon a hunger strike accusing the GoSL of deceiving them.

13.03.2021: **Deradicalisation** - G. Rajapaksa had issued a gazette notification to deradicalise individuals detained under the PTA and those taken into custody for causing or intending to cause religious, racial or communal disharmony, reports Colombo Gazette. SL's Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister has been bestowed with the

responsibility to approve "reintegration centres" for the purposes of rehabilitating individuals. However, this will be dependent upon the offence committed. Earlier reports indicate that the GoSL had informed the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights that the plan to revise the provisions of the PTA.

13.03.2021: **Arrest** - Ajith Rohana announces arrest of former president of Jamaat-e-Islami - Rasheed Akbar by SL's TID under the PTA for the suspected promotion of Jihad and Wahhabism, reports Colombo Gazette.

14.03.2021: **Terrorism** - Dinesh Gunawardena spoke at an opening ceremony of the Eastern Provincial Regional consular Office for SL's Foreign Ministry in Trincomalee ensuring the current government's commitment to an independent state free from terrorism. According to Colombo Gazette, Gunawardena shared plans of resuming development activities are currently underway to improve the living standards of the people in Trincomalee following their victory in 2009.

17.03.2021: **Digitalisation** - SL's Postal Department unveiled digitised postage stamps with QR codes at SL's Ministry of Mass Media and Information on 16.03.2021, reports Virakesari.

22.03.2021: **Rivers** - G. Rajapaksa launched the Surakimu Ganga national program in accordance with SL's Environmental Ministry to clean and conserve rivers in the island by end of the year with LKR 23 Billion allocated to the program, reports Colombo Gazette.

Accordingly, an inauguration event was held on the banks of Menik River within Kathirkamam (Kataragama Sacred Area) with SL's Central Environmental Authority's regional offices leading the preliminary survey of 103 rivers on the island.

24.03.2021: **Hacker** - Ajith Rohana reported that SL's CID had received complaints regarding bank accounts being hacked from Visa International, reports Colombo Gazette. Consequently, he had mentioned that a 29-year-old suspect from Vavuniya had been detained along with 36 others.

26.03.2021: **Arrest** - SL's Attorney General - Dappula De Livera advised the arrest of two teachers in Puttalam by the CID following suspicions regarding the provision of training in the use of weapons to school children, reports Colombo Gazette. This arrest follows recent discussion regarding the closure of over 2 000 Madrasas across the islands.

27.03.2021: **Security** - Following discussions held in Colombo regarding the Colombo Port City Project, it was determined by the Institute of National Security Studies that an integrated national security approach would be necessary. The public lecture on 26.03.2021 saw participation from experts of SL's triformes, academics in diplomatic fields and representatives from the Urban Development Authority. However, no security plan was developed at this time.

29.03.2021: **STF** - According to the Colombo Page, reports from SL DIG Waruna Jayasundara - the Commanding Officer of the STF indicate that STF forces had been deployed to investigate deforestation across the country with instructions to protect the forest resources with raids throughout the day in order to safeguard conserved lands and ecological zones.

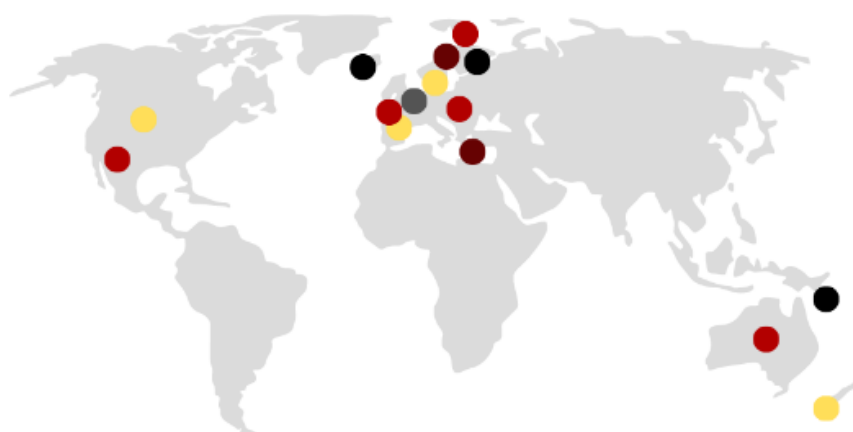
UN

27.03.2021: **Geneva** - G. Gotabaya reported that a stance of fearless confrontation will be undertaken by SL in response to the UN Resolution against the country, reports Colombo Page. Earlier reports from 19.03.2021 by Colombo Gazette indicate that Dinesh Gunawardena had accused Canada, the UK and Germany for concealing the truth and involvement regarding human rights abuses in SL. Following the passing of the resolution against SL at the UNHRC, GoSL claimed that it has majority backing with veto powers at the UN Security Council. Dinesh Gunawardena contested the resolution on SL at the UNHRC in Geneva and expressed that the 14 abstained nations voted as such to reflect the poor timeliness to introduce a country-specific resolution and further thanked Japan and India. He was further reported to have announced in SL Parliament that the country will continue to work with UN agencies irrespective of withdrawing from the resolution.

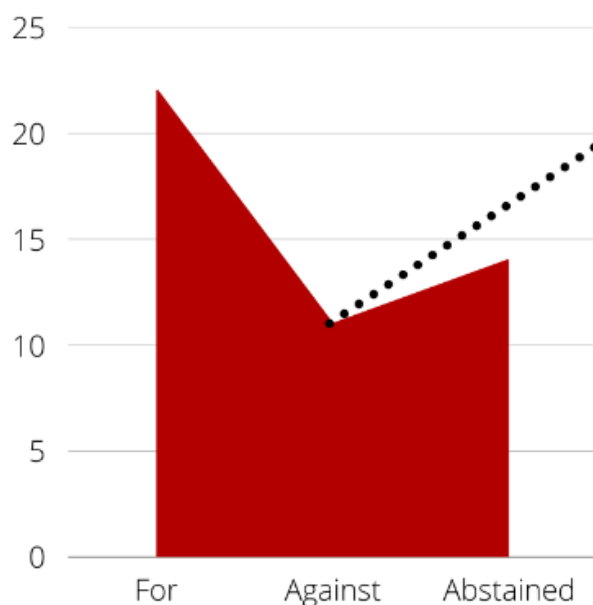
UNHRC RESOLUTION A/ HRC/ 46 / L.1 ON SRI LANKA - 23.03.2021

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VOTES



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Venezuela

Statement to ZAD and Lafarge-Holcim

Attached below is the English translation of the full text statement which Phoenix-TNG released with the Rojava Komitee - Basel.

We call out for the support for the Zone A defender in Eclepens. Activists have occupied the terrain of the large corporation Lafarge-Holcim for over a year. This corporation is one of the largest cement-manufacturers. Thereby it is the most environmentally harmful Swiss corporation. This fight is part of the cardinal fight of the ecological movement: confronting the responsible corporations, banks and systems. It is not surprising for us, that this corporation is involved in violations of workers rights and human rights. Here are two examples.



On the 18th May of 2009, the Tamil resistance under the leadership of the LTTE was destroyed militarily. After 26 years, the Sri Lankan state destroyed the Tamil armed resistance with the help of states such as; the USA, Great-Britain, China, India and the EU. 1/3 of the civil population that lived in Tamil areas during the last months of the war, have been forcibly disappeared since. The vacuum, that the Tamil self-governing system has left, has been filled by the Sri Lankan military. Since then, the Tamil areas have been militarised, and the Sri Lankan military, which is the main-culprit of Tamil genocide, is involved in most of the civil affairs. After the war, Holcim invested in Sri Lanka. For that, Holcim has worked actively with the Sri Lankan military and has sponsored cement for the construction of war monuments and museums.

Further, Holcim has supported the so-called rehabilitation programs where individuals have been tortured and raped under these programs.

When the deals between Holcim and the Sri Lankan military came to light, Holcim published a statement. Although Holcim accepted some mistakes, the statement is problematic as the term "post conflict" was used. This mentality is also used by the Swiss state. The end of the war is used as a justification for gaining profits on the backs of Tamils.

This corporation's intent to gain profits without morals is evident in the Northern part of Syria. After IS gained control of a large portion of territory there, Holcim paid millions to IS. IS financed their reign of terror with the funds. With this financial support, Holcim is also responsible for the genocide and oppression of the people in Syria. It was with the assistance of the Kurdish rebels that IS was defeated on a territorial basis. However, the enemies of the ecological and feminist revolution have not disappeared. On the one hand, NATO-member, Turkey is attempting to commence a new invasion. On the other hand, the Islamists are regrouping. It does not matter if it is the IS or the Turkish dictator. Corporations and states have no issues in providing money or weapons when the profit is awaiting them in the end.

As internationalists and revolutionaries, we call out to defend the ZAD. Then another world is possible and Lafarge-Holcim has no place in it. From Tamil Eelam to Rojava and until ZAD in the Roman die. For Social and Ecological Revolution.

Rojava Komitee Basel - Phoenix TNG



Economic News

SL's Economic Profile – March 2021		
GDP	4 th quarter, 2020	↑ 1.3 %
Forecasts	1 st quarter, 2021	3.0 % – 3.5 %
Economic growth	2021	5.5 % – 6.0 %
Forecasts		
FOREX Reserves	March, 2021	↓ to USD 4.6 billion
Collection (Estimates)		USD 125 million / month
Foreign Debt	Mar – Dec 2021	USD 3.5 billion
Inflation	March, 2021	↑ to 4.1 %
Exports		
Goods	February, 2021	↓ 9.64 %
Services	Jan 2020 – Jan 2021	↓ 6.94 %
Annual Growth	2020	↓ 3.60 %
Liquidity (Net Excess)		↓ to LKR 100 billion
Borrowing (SL Central Bank)		↑ to LKR 32 billion
Unemployment	3 rd quarter, 2020	↑ to 5.8 %
Currency Swap	People's Bank of China	USD 1.5 billion
Investment	Norfund	9.9 %
		unsold shares
	MITES Ltd. (India)	10 / 160 passenger Coaches
	US – Mine clearing	USD 5.5 million p.a
	Japan	USD 36, 759

SL's economic developments reported within the month of March, 2021.

02.03.2021: **Technology** - SL intends to digitise their banking system and invest in technology. Partnerships have also been established with digital wallets - Upay and FriMi, Economy Next reports.

17.03.2021: **Fitch** - SL, Maldives and Laos are CCC - rated countries whose financing support is mainly characterised by bilateral loans from China and India. This plays a significant role in the debt sustainability dynamics of these three countries and can lead to liquidity constraints. According to Fitch, IMF financing arrangements remain more

optimal, Economy Next reports. Earlier reports indicate that Fitch forecasts that SL will face many challenges and that the risk appetite of all SL banks has increased following a downgrade in their rating. Fitch has also been reported to have cited that this was due to a high loan book concentration and unsustainable balance sheet expansion. Economy Next further reported that asset quality had decreased at all banks.

15.03.2021: **Daily wage** - Twenty plantation companies have initiated legal action following the enforced

implementation of paying estate workers a daily wage of LRK 1 000. According to the Colombo Gazette, a written application to SL's Court of Appeal had also been filed. Companies highlighted the challenges experienced in SL's current economy which hinders the affordability to pay a set wage on a daily basis with Planters' Association Media Spokesperson - Dr. Roshan Rajadurai stated that there is no capacity to pay in such a manner.

16.03 2021: **Mortgage law** - M. Rajapaksa is to appoint a foreclosure ombudsman to review the sales of assets provided as collateral for loans from banks. The necessary legislation is still to be drafted, Economy Next reports.

International

01.03.2021: An MoU was signed between India's Sagarmala Development Company Ltd. and Indsril Ferry Services Pvt. Ltd. on 01.03.2021 to facilitate passenger shipping services between Kankesanthurai, Tamil Eelam and Karaikal, India, reports Virakesari.

12.03.2021: Cooperation between the IMF and SL is difficult as SL is pursuing alternative strategies to repay its debt. It is notable that SL is attempting to solve issues with open market operations and yield curve alignment. SL Minister Cabraal had mentioned that they were able to maintain the economy without the help of IMF, Economy Next reports. Cabraal further refused a deal with the IMF on 23.03.2021 as it would

require the devaluation of the rupee causing multiple consequences.

Consequences:

- ◆ Higher taxes
- ◆ Lowering of the real wages of the working class
- ◆ Rising prices
- ◆ Destruction of capital and savings

17.03.2021: **Russia** - Russian billionaire and global industrialist, Andrey Melnichenko has been reported to be in SL to gauge investment opportunities. According to Virakesari, he has been involved in high-level discussions with M. Rajapaksa and other SL government officials and has been scheduled to visit Colombo's Port City on 17.03.2021.

24.03.2021: **Colombo Port City** -Reports indicate that a special economic zone will be regulated on the reclaimed land, to be established in cooperation with China Harbour Engineering Corporation. It is estimated that the investment would generate over 15 billion dollars, Economy Next reports. Further reports indicate that the port is to be dollarised to protect its workers and businesses from devaluation and monetary instability. Such problems are often triggered by currency fluctuations, reports Economy Next. The zones are expected to include offshore banks.

25.03.2021: **Odel PLC** - GoSL has determined that the management of Arcade Independence Square falls under the responsibility of Odel PLC, following an announcement in SL Parliament by SL's State Minister of

Urban Development - Dr. Nalaka Godahewa, reports Colombo Gazette. The leasing of the facility following a decline in shops was a decision that projects the generation of LKR 10 Million a month in revenue.

29.03.2021: **China** - The President of China - Xi Jinping spoke with G. Rajapaksa citing continued interest to work with SL in enhancing the Belt and Road (BIR) cooperation and contribute to the economic revival of the country post-pandemic, reports Colombo Gazette. At present, reports indicate that the GoSL is willing to work in collaboration with China to expand infrastructure and tourism as well as major projects.

30.03.2021: **Japan** - The Government of Japan has supported SL's cold chain system through a UNICEF grant of USD 3 Million to aid in the storage and transport of COVID-19 vaccines, reports Colombo Gazette. Further, Colombo Page reported that financial aid from Japan had been provided to strengthen local access to sexual and reproductive health services through a UNFPA project titled "PROMISES". Reports indicate that USD 1.5 Million in medical equipment was provided to SL on 29.03.2021.

18.02.2021: **FOREX** - The forex surrender requirement from remittances and export earnings to SL's central bank have been suspended. Due to a record 202/203 rupees and if the return requirement were to apply, the dollars available to repay rupees (liquidity) will be taken away, reports Economy Next.

21.03.2021: **Bank Purchases** - To contain exchange rate pressures and reduce foreign exchange outflows, a ban on domestic bank purchases of international government bonds had been introduced. In addition, the lifting of the dollar return requirement for banks continues to apply, Economy Next reports.

24.03.2021: **Import controls**: Import substitution encouraged by import controls has strengthened monopolies and sanitary ware has increased by more than 300 percent. Similarly, tiles are no longer available in the right variety and quality, causing over 100,000 jobs to be at risk in the construction industry, Economy Next reports. Further reports from 01.03.2021 indicate that due to import controls, new vehicle registrations had dropped, causing the SL Rupee to depreciate to around 194 to the US Dollar in January, 2021. Economy Next indicates that the strict import controls could solve foreign exchange and balance of payment issues.

24.03.2021: **Land** - It is proposed that unused condominiums, land and assets could be used by state-owned enterprises. This may also attract more foreign investment. According to Economy Next, SL already had a bad reputation due to their active role in state expropriation.

26.03.2021: **Suez Canal** - With the Suez Canal blocked, exports and imports could be delayed. Global supply chains are also at risk of disruption and supply delays are driving up costs, Economy Next reports.

Demonstration in Solidarity with Tamil Eelam



A protest action was organised by Phoenix-the Next Generation in Bern, Switzerland on Wednesday, 17.03.2021 between 17.00 - 19.00 local time. Further, this demonstration was held in support of mass uprisings across the Tamil diaspora and occupied Tamil Eelam. Despite Switzerland's strict COVID-19 regulations, it is notable that the public had amassed at the demonstrations in numbers surpassing the regulated limit - hence strengthening the movement. Amidst our current problematic circumstances, essential demands pertaining the Tamils'

struggle for liberation were put forth at this demonstration.

Demand 1

All of the Eelam Tamil political prisoners who were arrested under the draconian PTA must be released.

Demand 2

The Sinhalese colonisation and occupation of the Tamils' homeland, Tamil Eelam should be terminated.

Demand 3

The Swiss government should cease to engage in any form of migration partnerships with the Sri Lankan government and should withdraw from any such existing agreements.

Demand 4

The Swiss government must recognise Eelam Tamil nationalism and Tamil Eelam as the sovereign traditional homeland of the Eelam Tamils.



**Demand 5**

An international investigation must be initiated by the international community regarding all missing and forcibly disappeared persons who were deemed as missing as a result of all the conflicts between Tamil Eelam and Sri Lanka. Such an investigation should especially focus upon the systematic actions of the Sri Lankan government regarding such matters.

Demand 6

The international community must pressure the Sri Lankan state to release the Eelam Tamils' expropriated private properties. Moreover, representatives of the international community must

contact the Eelam Tamils protesting before the Sri Lankan Army's camps.

Demand 7

The international community must recognise the Sri Lankan armed officials stationed within Tamil Eelam as an invasive force enacting the agenda of militarisation.

Demand 8

An independent international investigation should be launched to address the issues of contention arising across all of the conflicts which occurred between the Eelam Tamils and the Sri Lankan state. Such an indictment should be identified as genocide. The inquiry must examine the influence of the intentions and actions of; British colonial powers, the Mahavamsa ideology and the geopolitical significance of the island of Sri Lanka must be closely examined. Furthermore, this investigation must expose the inhumane conspiracy enacted through the 2009 Mullivaikkal genocide by; the USA, Great Britain, India, China and the European Union.

Demand 9

An international referendum regarding the independence of Tamil Eelam must be initiated. The referendum must be based upon the Vaddukoddai resolution. Furthermore, the referendum must facilitate credible mechanisms whereby Eelam Tamils who reside within and outside of their traditional homeland may vote for or against the establishment of Tamil Eelam as an independent, sovereign state.

Obituary

கண்ணீர் அஞ்சலி

DATE OF DEMISE: MARCH 2021



MR. KANAGAIYA RANJANAMURTHY

SEEKING HIS FORCIBLY DISAPPEARED
SON - SELVANATHAN FOR OVER A DECADE & PARTICIPATED
IN THE ROTATIONAL HUNGER STRIKE WHICH HAS BEEN
CONDUCTED IN VAVUNIYA FOR OVER 1,465 DAYS

VINAYAGAPURAM, VAVUNIYA

DATE OF DEMISE: 18.03.2021



MR. RASANAYAKAM BARATHAN

FIRST COORDINATOR OF NITHARSANAM
AND PULIKALINKURAL



DATE OF DEMISE: MARCH 2021



MR. GNANAPIRAKASAM (GNANAM ANNAI)

TAMIL PATRIOT AND AVID PHOENIX TNG SUPPORTER. A CARING INDIVIDUAL WHO TAUGHT ENGLISH TO MANY YOUTH AND TRAVELLED FAR TO ATTEND MANY EVENTS CONDUCTED BY PHOENIX TNG.

BIRSFELDEN, BASEL



துயர் பகிர்வு ஞானப்பிரகாசம் (ஞானம்)

எல்லோராலும் ஞானம் அண்ணை, அங்கிள், ஐயா என்று அழைக்கப்பட்டவர். நாங்கள் வாழும் Birsfelden (Baselland) என்ற இடத்தில், ஆரம்பகாலம் தொட்டு இன்றுவரை அன்புடனும் பண்புடனும் வாழ்ந்து, எல்லோர் மனதிலும் நீங்காத இடம் பிடித்து வாழ்ந்த நல்ல மனிதர். எல்லோருடைய பிள்ளைகளுக்கும் ஆங்கிலம் கற்பித்த ஆசான். எல்லோர் வீட்டிலும் நடைபெறும் எல்லா நிகழ்வுகளிலும் உடன் இருப்பார். ஒரு தந்தையை இழந்த துயரில் Birsfelden வாழ் மக்கள் அனைவரும் கலங்கி நிற்கின்றோம். அவரது ஆத்மா சாந்தியடைய வேண்டி நிற்கின்றோம்.

News about Oppression & Resistance

freedom in the South
Repression in the North

Protests across TE

28.02.2021: **Rotational hunger strike** - Jaffna University & East University students commence rotational hunger strike in Nallur.

- ◆ 14.03.2021: **Amparai** - Amparai youth join in support.
- ◆ 06.03.2021: **Vavuniya** - Vavuniya's relatives of forcibly disappeared persons join in support.

01.03.2021: **Protest** - Missing persons' relatives, North & East - from Nallur Sankiliyan Park to UN High Commissioner, Jaffna

03.03.2021: **Batticaloa** - Rotational hunger strike commenced in support of Jaffna University students opposite Batticaloa Mamankappillaiyaar Kovil - the site where Annai Poopathy passed away.

03.03.2021: **Protest** - Iranaitivu locals jointly-organised a protest which commenced at 9am local time at Iranamadanagar - an islet off Iranaitivu, condemning the use of Iranaitivu as a COVID-19 burial site. The contents of a letter demanding the revocation of the decision were read at the protest and later submitted to

officials. According to Virakesari, local discontent escalated when the media and public were denied access to return to Iranaitivu via boat following the protest.

Letter submitted to:

- ◆ Poonakeri Divisional Secretary
- ◆ Jaffna Diocesan Bishop
- ◆ Jaffna Human Rights Commission

04.03.2021: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, a protest blocking the entrance of Jaffna's District Secretariat was held on 04.03.2021 against the transfer of Northern Provincial land documents to the Anuradhapura Office of Land Reforms Commission.

08.03.2021: **Protest** - Mothers of forcibly disappeared persons conducted a mass rally from Mullaitivu's St. Rajapaksa Temple to Mullaitivu's District Secretariat declaring International Women's Day as a Black Day as they continued to struggle for their rights, reports Virakesari.

12.03.2021: **Amparai** - Local Muslims join rotational hunger strike conducted opposite Amparai Pandiruppu Draupadi Amman Kovil.

15.03.2021: **Batticaloa** - Occupational police intimidate protesters after

forcibly removing their hunger strike hut overnight.

15.03.2021: **Trincomalee** - Relatives of forcibly disappeared persons commence hunger strike opposite Trincomalee Sivan Kovil. It is notable that 2 mothers - Mrs. N. Asha and Mrs. R. Kosalathevi had commenced a hunger strike unto death at the same location alongside the other hunger strikers.

16.03.2021: **Protest** - A sit-in protest was held at the Gandhi Park in Batticaloa condemning the SL's association with Myanmar's military which fails to uphold democracy, reports Virakesari.

16.03.2021: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, Deeman Ananda - a Kandy native, staged a protest opposite Subramaniam Park, Jaffna calling for answers regarding forcibly disappeared persons citing that he had evidence regarding various murders and kidnappings which he would submit to Geneva.

17.03.2021: **Mass protest** - Mass rally organised by Jaffna University students and others from Kittu Park, Jaffna. Rally also organised from Batticaloa to Polikandy.

17.03.2021: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, Vaddakkachchi locals had staged a protest rally towards the local District Secretariat. The rally was in protest of the illegal activities which ensued due to substance-abuse and corruption. A petition was reportedly submitted by the locals to the District State Agent and SL's Police High

Commissioner. Reports indicate that the protest was held following the alleged murder of a local 31-year-old father of two and activist, Mr. Arulambalam Thusyanthan who was stabbed to death on 10.03.2021. It is notable that an arson attack was also conducted on Arulambalam's residence on 15.03.2021 where his relatives were harassed by occupational police when confronted regarding their lack of action.

Cause of murder:

- ♦ Cannabis
- ♦ Chewing gum
- ♦ Illegal sand mining

19.03.2021: **Protest** - Awareness protest from Batticaloa Gandhi Park scheduled to occur.

05.03.2021: **Burial** - According to Virakesari, suitable land had been identified for the burial of COVID-19 victims in Majma Nagar under the Kagitha Nagar Grama Sevakar Division, Oddamavadi, Batticaloa following inspections held by local and occupational officials on 04.03.2021. Subsequently, approval for the burial site was retrieved swiftly from SL's Ministry of Health resulting in the burial of 9 at the site on 05.03.2021 itself. Further reports indicate that approval had also been granted for burials to be conducted at Irakaamam, Amparai. It is notable that an armed military official is stationed at the Oddamavadi site. A site had also been identified for COVID-19 burials at Makamaru, Kinniya within the Trincomalee district, reports Virakesari.

07.03.2021: **Commemoration** - Catholics marked "Black Sunday" alongside Buddhist and Muslim faith leader's reports, Colombo Gazette.

08.03.2021: **Attack** - Shivalingam Kalidas - a 22-year-old youth from Uduvil Aladi has been reported to be admitted at the Tellipalai Base Hospital after being assaulted by occupational soldiers who were travelling on a motorcycle along a road under the occupational Chunnakam police, reports Virakesari. Accordingly, reports indicate that the Chunnakam police are conducting investigations into the incident. Earlier reports from Virakesari indicate that a 50-year-old man - Arumugam Balakrishnan, who had been arrested by occupational Puliyanakulam police on 04.03.2021 was released around midnight after being heavily assaulted. Consequently, he had been admitted to Vavuniya General hospital on 05.03.2021 to treat his sustained injuries.

12.03.2021: **Kurunthoormalai** - According to Virakesari, Sivarathiri celebrations were conducted at Kurunthoormalai's Pillaiyaar Kovil after 30 years. Kurunthoormalai has been a site of heavy militarisation and Sinhalisation for decades.

13.03.2021: **Ban** - GoSL Minister of Public Security Rear Admiral Sarath Weerasekara signed SL's Cabinet paper to formalise the ban on burqas and has subsequently added the ban of 1000 Madrasas across the island citing that the wearing of the burqa and institutional teaching facilities were a threat to SL's national security and furthers religious extremism, reports

Colombo Gazette. Following this, Colombo Gazette reported on 15.03.2021 that he had further submitted documentation for an approval to ban the wearing of veils in SL to include the niqab.

15.03.2021: **Protest** - British protestors standing in solidarity with hunger striker Ambigai Selvakumar were confronted by local London police on 14.03.2021 leading to police violence in attempts to arrest flag-wielding protestors, reports Colombo Gazette. It is notable that the Tamil protestors were carrying the national flag of Tamil Eelam.

Land

20.03.2021: **Sand mining** - Mannar's District Court had dismissed a case seeking permission for sand mining activities on 19.03.2021, reports Virakesari. Reports indicate that the case was filed by Rojan Stalin - an individual claiming that his sand mining permit had not been renewed hence citing the inadequate execution of duties by officials after the District Coordinating Committee had banned all sand mining activities last month.

24.03.2021: **Excavations** - Locals in Uruthirapuram, Kilinochchi had engaged in their 3rd day of protest in condemning excavations in the area by SL's Archaeological department, causing attempts to be suspended, reports Virakesari. It is notable that the locals had closed the gates of the temple to prevent the officials access to the temple premises to commence excavation activities.

25.03.2021: **Intimidation** - Reports from Virakesari indicate that occupational army officers and officials from SL's Wildlife Department had threatened and arrested locals from Andankulam in Kumalamunai, Mullaitivu in an attempt to appropriate land. Further reports indicate that locals had been historically evicted from their native lands by occupational forces.

26.03.2021: **Excavation** - A team of occupational army officials and SL's Presidential Archaeological department who attempted to commence excavations in Jaffna, Nilavarai were intercepted by Jaffna's Valikaamam-East Pradeshiya Sabha Chairman - Thiyagarajah Nirosh and various others, reports Virakesari.

26.03.2021: **Excavation** - Excavations by SL's Archaeological department which had been halted due to local protests last month had resumed causing locals to amass at the site in Puttur causing excavations to be temporarily halted, reports Virakesari.

26.03.2021: **Assault** - According to Virakesari, CCTV footage had been retrieved depicting the attack of Jaffna District MP, Sreedharan's son - Sarangan, by an unidentified group of 8 individuals in Jaffna.

29.03.2021: **Terrorism** - The GoSL has banned a list of Tamil diaspora organisations and individuals following the passing of the resolution against SL at the UN in Geneva, reports Colombo Gazette. Many of the organisations listed were banned in 2014 and delisted in 2015 with the implementation of the ban

signed by Kamal Gunaratne. SL's TID later arrested a 35-year-old woman and 36-year-old man for operating a website and YouTube channel which supposedly promoted the LTTE and terrorism-related activities. According to Ajith Rohana, the arrests were made following a special raid at the individual's office on Nawalar Street, reports Colombo Gazette. He further noted that the platform had created disharmony amongst ethnic groups noting five laptops were confiscated and that both individuals would be charged under the PTA and transferred to Colombo for further investigation. Further reports from Colombo Gazette indicate that the GoSL plans to continue to ban groups who promote the LTTE whilst the current ban extends to anyone who furthers ideologies of separatism in the country and in the diaspora. SL's Cabinet Co-Spokesman - Udaya Gammanpila cited that the country is not prepared to engage with such groups or individuals. According to the Colombo Gazette, he reiterated: "The LTTE is prohibited in Sri Lanka and separatism is banned under our Constitution".

30.03.2021: **Assault** - According to Ajith Rohana, a Traffic Policeman from SL's police force had been arrested following the release of viral footage on 29.03.2021 where a lorry driver had been thrown with force and jumped on by the police officer, reports Colombo Gazette. At present an investigation is underway and the individual at fault had been remanded until 05.04.2021 where he will be produced before Nugegoda Magistrate's Court.

31.03.2021: **Deportations** - According to Virakesari, 24 Tamils deported from Germany had arrived at SL's Bandaranaike International Airport from Dusseldorf Airport. Reports indicate that 20 individuals were from Germany and 4 from Switzerland. Virakesari further

reported that they had been detained in those countries following a violation of local immigration laws. It is notable that local diaspora Tamils had protested the planned deportation of around 100 Tamils at the airport.

Signs of Structural Genocide

12.03.2021: **Land** - Locals claim that they were barred from entering privately-owned lands in North Nedunkerni Vedaithakal village in Vavuniya by occupational SL military and SL's Forestry Department, reports Virakesari.

Prevention of Entry:

- ◆ Barring entry
- ◆ Land clearance

16.03.2021: **Militarisation** - Attempts have been made to establish SL's Police Special Task Force camps in areas which are supposedly at a high-risk of deforestation. The militarisation of Tamil lands is a component of structural Tamil genocide.

Identified locations:

- Somwathiya Forest
- Kinniya
- Vanni region

17.03.2021: **Land appropriation** - Land surveying activities conducted in Parippanjan, Kilinochchi by authorities from SL's Survey Department were halted due to local landowners' intervention. Reports from Virakesari indicate that the authorities intended to measure lands

used in Kilinochchi by occupational SL police as the SL state's lands. However, local landowners produced documents claiming that the land was privately-owned with some land owned by individuals who were abroad hence establishing that the land could not be measured until they arrived.

17.03.2021: **Ninthavoor** - According to defence.lk, this year's Poson festival will be at Deegawapiya temple located at Ninthavoor, Amaparai. While addressing the media when SL Defence secretary and Chairperson of 'Archaeological Heritage Management Presidential Task Force' (PTF) for Eastern Province, Kamal Gunaratne mentioned that the "former glory" of the Buddhist temple would be restored within three years. SLA and CSD are reported to produce and supply bricks for it. It is noteworthy that a lot of former cadres are engaged in work for the CSD. Coinciding with this announcement, the STF has also built camps at the Ninthavoor and Allimalai junction. According to the local sources of *Akkinip Paravaikal*, the STF had also built camps in Thirukovil and Thambattai in the Ampara region.

25.03.2021: **Kathirkamam** - Under G. Rajapaksa's "Vision of Prosperity", the historical Tamil site of worship - Kathirkamam will undergo site and infrastructural development following the launch by M. Rajapaksa. According to Colombo Page, LKR 120 Million is to be invested into the supposed site where a Sinhala King Dutugemunu had built the racial and religious names of political parties and the constitution of such parties. As such, the Election Commission has also determined other community's

structures. According to the report, the site had not been renovated since 1947 with projections of the project completions set in 2030 with LKR 200 Million.

31.03.2021: **Scrutiny** - Sri Lanka's National Election Commission has established a special five-member committee to study racial or religious names will no longer be registered in the future, reports Colombo Gazette.



) Akkinip Parabaikal

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



Abhinav Darshakhal

China's diplomacy: growing empire or geopolitical limbo?

limbo?

SENOLGUR

The rise of the Chinese empire has caused a significant shift in geopolitical strategy where US India relations have been fused to counter the political giant's impending domination. Whilst China has sustainably expanded its economic footing within its

major exposure of alternatives. Two of such techniques in China's diplomatic practice include the debt and petroleum diplomacy. With China's 'debt trap' viewed as a significant pressure point upon many key developing and highly influential countries crucial to assess the state of the hegemon's efficiency in countering a geopolitical stalemate – especially concerning foreign competition to establish a footing in Southeast Asia with the Rapprochement family have proven to reflect the empire's dependence through diplomacy to exert their geopolitical influence. The return of neo-imperial Rajapaksa regime combined with the effect of the COVID-19 outbreak assisted in exposing a tendency for China's empire to slide into a geopolitical stall within the region thus raising questions regarding how this would impact Tamil sovereignty.

China and the Rajpaksas

allowed China to enter the region with a 'preference multiplier' strategy. As a result China was not required to pressure their ideas onto Sri Lanka as they had walked the gauntlet of China willingly. As Mahinda's short-term economic plans aligned with China's long-term economic goals, the bilateral ties were coordinated. Whilst there is a growing distrust towards China as Chinese projects such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are often funded by Chinese-owned state banks, the election of the Sirisena government did not see the annulment of ties with China. This was evident through regime's tender balance of interactions with geopolitical powers thus continuing to allow China access to the region. The Hambantota port lease which has allowed

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26



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