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Velupillai Prabhakaran – Embrace the idea not the symbol

NITHARSAN

The National Leader of Tamil Eelam founded the LTTE and commenced the armed struggle for Tamil Eelam. As a result, he is the symbol of the Tamils' conviction, loyalty and valour in the quest for re-establishing Tamil sovereignty in Tamil Eelam. However, a decade after 2009, the ideas, which he symbolises are vanished by friends and foes. Additionally, his legacy remains stagnant within the Tamils instead of circling around the world to motivate other struggling masses to take up the fight - even if the odds are against you.

Rise of the Tigers

When the TNT (the predecessor of the LTTE) was founded in 1972, the Tamil struggle was in a bad situation. The Tamils were betrayed through several agreements from the SL state. Besides the implementation of genocidal laws, the Tamils' non-violent protests were dealt with brutal state-sponsored violence. When the oppression directly hit the Tamil students through the policy of standardisation and the incapability of the Tamil political party, the Tamil militant youth rose in rebellion.

Amongst them was Velupillai Prabhakaran. They all referred to him amorously as "Thambi", as he was the youngest amongst the militant youth. However, his young age was not an obstacle to commit the first violent act of resistance through the killing of the then mayor of Jaffna – Alfred Duraiappa. No one would have imagined at that time that the mayor of Jaffna was only the first obstacle, which was to be removed to facilitate the re-establishment of Tamil sovereignty in Tamil Eelam. In the next three decades, Velupillai Prabhakaran built up the Tamils' ability to resist the genocidal state through conventional warfare capabilities, whilst simultaneously creating a situation, where Tamils had a large portion of their homeland within their own control.

Legacy of the Tigers

When the SL state was on the brink of collapse, the system of states came to its assistance. Through peace talks they were able to shift the balance of power between Tamil Eelam and Sri Lanka. Slowly and steadily the balance started to change in favour of the SL state. Never before in the history of the Tamils, was the Sri Lankan state's genocidal intention unleashed in such a force against the Tamils. Even then, maximum effort for resistance against the genocidal onslaught was mobilised by the Tamils under Velupillai Prabhakaran. However, in the end it was not enough. Thus, there were only two

options - capitulation or total destruction. Through the decision of the latter, the idea which was symbolised by Velupillai Prabhakaran and the LTTE was safeguarded.

Now, a decade later, there is a fight which continues within the Tamil community. Besides those, who are attempting to whitewash the Tamil struggle, so that it can appease their masters, there are Tamil fundamentalists, who are attacking fellow Tamils. Instead of fighting for what the Tigers and Prabhakaran stood for, petty squabbles have emerged about it. What was achieved through it? A lot of Tamils were demotivated, which caused them to depart from the struggle. On the other hand, an alternative was created instead of continuing the struggle - to become a watchman over your fellow community without paying attention to the genocide which is continuing within our homeland. If there are any Tamils who have understood the idea for what the LTTE and Prabhakaran stood for, let us embrace it. Let us move together towards liberation.

As Velupillai Prabhakaran had mentioned in 1985, "I'm not interested in winning or losing. If I have to fight, I will fight". Let us embrace this spirit and challenge the Sri Lankan state again. It is also crucial that we spread our symbol of resistance around the world, so that other struggling masses can profit from such a great individual.

International News

05.11.2020: **Australia** - Arsalan Tariq Khawaja has been jailed for 2 years and 6 months for providing false claims regarding a colleague in relation to terrorism, reports Colombo Gazette. Khawaja is a brother of Australian cricketer, Usman Khawaja and had "pleaded guilty to preventing the course of justice and dishonestly influencing public officials."

05.11.2020: **Detainees** - The International Committee of the Red Cross in SL will support a pilot project for online phone calls to connect detainees with loved ones, reports Colombo Gazette. Reports indicate that detainees would also be provided with personal hygiene and safety products.

09.11.2020: **China** - China has denied previous reports by SL State media which claimed that Chinese President Xi Jinping had spoken with G. Rajapaksa via Zoom over the weekend. Colombo Gazette reported that the discussion was denied via Twitter by the Chinese Embassy in SL.

09.11.2020: **WHO** - According to SL's Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi and State Minister Channa Jayasumana, WHO Representative for Sri Lanka Dr. Razia Pendse had pledged that 20% of SL's population would be provided with the COVID-19 vaccine, reports Colombo Gazette.

11.11.2020: **India** - According to Sunday Times, SL and India have signed A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

to implement High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) under Indian grant assistance. It is the third phase of the project signed between the states. This project includes the establishment of the following constructions across all provinces in SL:

- ◆ primary schools and colleges
- ◆ vocational training institutes
- ◆ universities
- ◆ hospitals
- ◆ rural sanitation
- ◆ cultural heritage
- ◆ rainwater harvesting
- ◆ social housing for poor
- ◆ agricultural warehousing
- ◆ tourism and civil aviation infrastructure support

According to The Island, expected expenditure for this project is up to LKR 5 billion.

11.11.2020: **ISIS** - According to Colombo Gazette, a British newspaper, the SUN, has reported that SL has dozens of deprived ISIS soldiers returning back to the country following the collapse of the group. It was also reported that ISIS claimed responsibility for the Easter Attacks in 2019 which killed 321 people.

12.11.2020: **India** – According to Sunday Times, trade unions against the privatisation of the East Container Terminal have confirmed that the terminal operations would be handed over to India. It is believed that SL would lose USD 12 million, on a monthly basis. There are also allegations that the best offer was torn down as there was no commission in it.

13.11.2020: **Facebook** – Reports from Colombo Gazette indicate that former Facebook employee, Mark. S. Luckie (the manager for the social media platform's Global Influencers department between October 2017 - November 2018) had reported interferences by top officials of the Facebook team, which compromised the platform's core community standards. Luckie was reported to have mentioned to the Delhi Assembly's peace and harmony committee that certain global events such as; the Delhi clashes, Myanmar genocide and Sri Lanka's Communal violence in 2018 could have been averted if Facebook had acted in a proactive manner.

13.11.2020: **India** - According to Sunday Times, India had encouraged the UK to extend the ban against the LTTE and had also shared information with them as to why the ban should remain in place.

14.11.2020: **Funny Boy** - Deepa Mehta - director of the movie, Funny Boy had reported in an interview to Daily Mirror that it had taken a year to obtain permission to shoot the film in Sri Lanka. According to Colombo Gazette, the film based on Shyam Selvadurai's book accounts the bildungsroman of a young queer and highlights the anti-Tamil pogroms. Tamils have globally commented on the lack of Tamil casting that fails to depict authentic Tamil representation.

15.11.2020: **UK** - The UK Foreign Office has been reported to resist the publishing of files related to British mercenary support provided to SL during the '80s, reports Colombo Gazette.

19.11.2020: **China** - According to PMD news, during a meeting with the newly appointed Ambassador of China to SL, the ambassador had notified G.Rajapaksa that China is prepared to contribute to their utmost abilities to the success of SL's economic and social development endeavours, such as; Colombo Port City, Hambantota Port, Southern Expressway etc. G.Rajapaksa was reported to have mentioned that SL seeks China's assistance through investments rather than loans.

23.11.2020: **LTTE** - M. Rajapaksa had turned down an offer by a "powerful country" to evacuate Tamil civilians via ships fearing the escape of the Tamils' Leader, Vellupillai Pirapaharan during the final stages of the war, reports the Colombo Page. SL Minister for Disaster Management and Human Rights, Mahinda Samarasinghe had informed SL parliament that M. Rajapaksa had informed the diplomat that another country had offered the ship and would consider the matter. Samarasinghe considered this to be the characteristics of a strong leader.

25.11.2020: **Obama** - Former US President, Barack Obama had referred to SL in his book, 'A Promised Land', reports Colombo Gazette. He was reported to have cited that he had urged the LTTE to release civilians and the GoSL to stop the use of heavy weapons during the final stages of the war. The news comes

following disclosure on 23.11.2020 regarding M. Rajapaksa's refusal to evacuate Tamil civilians.

26.11.2020: **Russia** - At the ceremony for foreign ambassadors, Vladimir Putin had mentioned that Russia and Sri Lanka, one of the dialogue partners of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, were determined to further expand mutually beneficial cooperation in trade, the economy and culture, reports Daily Mirror.

27.11.2020: **Disappeared** - Amnesty International has called on the GoSL to act in a manner that delivers justice, truth and reparation to families of the disappeared following the release of the list of missing persons filed at the Office of Missing Persons on 26.11.2020, reports the Colombo Gazette. This request has come after earlier reports from 16.11.2020 which indicate that Amnesty International had requested the Government of Sri Lanka to reallocate funds towards the transitional justice process.

27.11.2020: **India** - SL has called on India to readjust its focus on the Southern province during a meeting between Indian National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval and M. Rajapaksa. Reports from Colombo Gazette cited that further talks would take place to address concerns pertaining to the region.

Military News

01.11.2020: **Promotion** - According to army.lk, four more senior Brigadiers of the SL Army had been promoted to the rank of Major General by G.Rajapaksa upon recommendations from Shavendra Silva.

03.11.2020: **Air force death** - SLAF Spokesman, Group Captain Dushantha Wijesinghe informed the Colombo Gazette that an Air Force corporal had fallen to his death from the 3rd floor of his accommodation in the China Bay Air Force Base in Trincomalee at 2 AM. Reports indicate that the corporal was a part of the Provost Branch - SL's Police Branch of the Air Force, and that investigations are underway.

03.11.2020: **STF Infection** - Colombo Page reported that 23 members of SL's Police Special Task Force (STF) have contracted COVID-19 according to the National Operation Centre (NOCPCO) on Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak's disclosure on 02.11.2020. To date NOCPCO has reported that approximately 150 police officers have been infected by the virus.

03.11.2020: **Air Force** – SL's new Air Force Commander assumed duties at the Air Force HQ in Colombo following his inauguration on 02.11.2020. In his brief to the Air Force, he outlined four key goals with the intention of raising the Air Force to new heights, reports Colombo Page. According to Colombo Gazette, Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana took over command of the SLAF following appointment by G. Rajapaksa on

30.10.2020. Pathirana was reported to have called on Kamal Gunaratne at SL's Defence Ministry by Defence LK. Reports further indicate that he was the first SLAF Officer to obtain a master's degree in Operational Art and Science from the Air University in Alabama, USA. Prior to being appointed as the SL Air Force Chief, Air Marshal Pathirana had been serving as the SLAF Chief of Staff.



Sri Lanka's Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana looks over Air Defence during inauguration to post.
Source: Colombo Gazette

04.11.2020: **STF** - Three Police STF camps in SL have been isolated due to COVID-19 outbreaks. According to Colombo Gazette, the STF camps in Kalubowila, Rajagiriya and Kelaniya were isolated with a total of 179 Police officers who contracted the virus - 23 of

09.11.2020: **Maritime security** - According to Colombo Gazette, SL will join US, Japan and representatives from other nations to discuss maritime security. This is a follow up to bilateral and multilateral conferences held in 2017 and 2018 with Trincomalee Consultations on the Bay of

Bengal and an International Advisory Group Meeting led by Ambassador Shivshankar Menon in 2019. The webinar titled "Pathfinder Indian Ocean Security Conference" is set to run 10.11.2020 until 12.11.2020 accordingly. Japan had highlighted SL's geolocation in the Indian Ocean and the advantage of the country to ensure free and open Indo-Pacific partnership, during the conference. Colombo Gazette had further reported that the US Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Alaina B. Teplitz had stated that the country seeks to promote an inclusive approach to national sovereignty, independence and sustainable development in SL and that bilateral and multilateral discussions would be set to continue, during the Pathfinder Foundation webinar. SL's Foreign Secretary, Admiral Jayanath Colombage reported that 575 war ships from 29 countries visited SL between 2008 to 2020. During the conference, he had noted that the increased arms dynamic of the Indian Ocean citing it to be "one of the most militarised oceans in the world", reports Colombo Gazette. Further reports indicate that he had noted during the talks that SL welcomed investment to SL, yet was not prepared to release control to other nations and had stated that SL should not be a strategic concern to India.

12.11.2020: **Drones** – SL's Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana had announced that drones have been launched to monitor the movement of people within areas under lockdown. According to inquiry and reports by the Colombo Gazette, 6 to 9 drones have been deployed by the SLAF with three Air

Force teams and one helicopter to carry out the operation.

12.11.2020: **MINUSMA** - The UN praised SL's Combat Convoy Company for the successful recovery of IEDs along the main road in Mali. The MINUSMA Force Monnader in Mali highlighted the performance reported on the Colombo Page. The SL Combat Convoy Company is led by Lt. Col. Srinath Gallage who assumed duties on 13.11.2019.

13.11.2020: **UN** - According to army.lk, the 7th contingent of the SL Army Medical Corps (SLAMC), bound for United Nations Peace-Keeping Mission in South Sudan's Level-2 Hospital (UNMISS) presented a ceremonial salute to Shavendra Silva on the eve of their departure.

18.11.2020: **Training** - The Government of India has provided military training to SL according to the Indian High Commission in SL. Colombo Gazette reported that 1200 Sri Lankan Armed Forces undergo training in India annually with 250 belonging to SLAF.

18.11.2020: **Engineers** - According to army.lk, the multi-skilled and multi-faceted Corps of Sri Lanka Army Engineers (SLE) raised its first Army Engineers Division, aimed at centralising; coordination, undertaking distribution and execution of all nation-building engineering tasks during a brief ceremony, in which the foundation-stone was also laid for the construction of a new Division HQ at SLE Regimental HQ premises in Mattegoda.

20.11.2020: **WHO** – The WHO will be supporting SL's disaster management sector according to SL's MoD, reports the Colombo Page. Equipment was handed over to Kamal Gunaratne at the Ministry on 19.11.2020 following a meeting with Dr. Razia Pendse of the WHO.



Kamal Gunaratne stands with WHO representative Dr. Razia Pendse at the Ministry of Defence.
Source: Colombo Page

25.11.2020: **SLN Marine** - According to navy.lk, 4 officers and 50 sailors passed out a Marine Basic Qualifying Course conducted by SL Navy Marine Battalion at SLNS Vidura in Sampoor, Trincomalee on 24.11.2020.

28.11.2020: **Tracking** - According to SL police spokesman, DIG Ajith Rohana, a special air operation is to be conducted over the isolated Western Province, reports Colombo Gazette. An Air Force Helicopter will be used as a means to monitor the region to ensure that local quarantine laws are met.

29.11.2020: **Maritime security** - According to army.lk, the High Commissioner of

India, Gopal Baglay and SL's Shavendra Silva had welcomed Doval and his delegation at the Colombo International Airport on 27.11.2020. It is notable that the parties had arrived for the 4th National Security Adviser (NSA) Level Trilateral Maritime Security Meeting. Reports from PMD News indicate that, G. Rajapaksa and the Indian Security Advisor Ajit Doval met at the Presidential Secretariat on 28.11.2020 to discuss Indo-Lanka security cooperation, maintaining peace and security in the Indian Ocean region and infrastructure development in SL. The trilateral 4th NSA level meeting on 'Maritime Security Cooperation' was held on 28.11.2020 at Colombo Hotel Taj Samudra with the presence of National Security Adviser of India, Minister of Defence of Maldives and SL Secretary to Ministry of Defence to discuss cooperation in dealing with maritime challenges in the Indian ocean and to ensure peace and security in the region for common benefit. According to Colombo Gazette, Mauritius and Seychelles had joined virtually at a Senior Officials' level and discussions regarding common issues were discussed reported the Colombo Gazette. Issues discussed comprised of:

- ◆ Maritime Domain Awareness
- ◆ Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief
- ◆ Joint Exercises
- ◆ Capacity Building
- ◆ Maritime Security and Threats
- ◆ Marine Pollution
- ◆ Maritime Underwater Heritage



Ajit Doval, Kamal Gunaratne and Mariya Didi pictured at 4th Annual Maritime Security Cooperation Meeting in Sri Lanka.
Source: Colombo Page

Domestic News

Tamil Eelam

08.11.2020: **Jaffna** - N. Rajapaksa headed discussions in Jaffna addressing issues impacting the Jaffna and Kilinochchi districts, reports Colombo Gazette. According to a FB post by MP Angajan Ramanathan on Facebook, goals of developing schools in the districts to the national level and facilitating foreign youth employment in countries such as; Japan, Korea and Israel were among the issues discussed.

14.11.2020: **Vaddukoddai** - Two Tamils have been killed following clashes in Vaddukoddai, reports Colombo Gazette. According to occupational police, the clash involving 15 people resulted in the death of two individuals aged 34 and 56.

17.11.2020: **Thalaimannar** - According to Colombo Gazette, Thalaimannar has been considered as the appropriate location to bury COVID-19 victims with a Muslim background following the SL ministry's rejection of burial at the main

Muslim burial ground in Colombo. SL's health ministers reported fears of heavy rains permitting the virus to resurface and spread.

20.11.2020: **Jaffna** - Jaffna University Administration has suspended classes for 7 seniors who assaulted a group of students leading to injury on 08.10.2020. Colombo Page reported that ragging had resulted in the suspension of four of the seven students for 6 months and a year for the remaining three students following investigations by the Jaffna University Student and Disciplinary Committee head, Professor Nandakumaran.

30.11.2020: **India** - India's National Security Adviser, Ajit Doval met with R. Sampanthan on 29.11.2020 and discussed the development of SL in the context of the occupied Tamil homeland, reported the Colombo Gazette.

Sri Lanka

02.11.2020: **Land Rights** – SL's AG Dappula de Livera has written to SL's acting Inspector General of Police, C.D. Wickremeratne instructed him to launch an investigation into occupation of land owned by SL landowners living abroad. He further noted that CCTV footage showcases politicians using forged deeds to acquire property illegally, reports Colombo Gazette.

03.11.2020: **Divine intervention** – SL's Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi defended her decision to seek divine intervention in combating the COVID-19 spread stating that, "I am even willing to sacrifice myself if required" reports Colombo Gazette. In her briefing to the SL parliament, she reiterated that she was a strong Buddhist who follows the teachings ritualistically. M. Rajapaksa had also previously requested the Buddhist temples in SL to recite the 'Ratna Sutra' to circumvent the spread of COVID-19 on the island. Reports from Colombo Gazette on 01.11.2020 indicate that SL's PM Office had mentioned that a number of temples had already begun to recite the sermon.

03.11.2020: **Appointment** – SL's Minister of Fisheries, Douglas Devananda has been appointed by M. Rajapaksa to SL's Parliamentary Council on 02.11.2020, reports Colombo Gazette. Douglas Devananda is the leader of the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) and had also contested in SL's General Elections of 2020 from Jaffna.

03.11.2020: **Appointment** – SL's Former Chief of Justice, Mohan Peiris has been

appointed as the new Permanent Representative to the UN following the meeting of the Committee on High Posts which was held in SL parliament, reports Colombo Gazette.

04.11.2020: **Parliament** - Colombo Page reported that two regulations under Medical Ordinance were passed in parliament on 03.11.2020 according to the SL Parliament Communication Department. The regulations passed addressed issues of standardisation for practicing medical professionals and yearly review of the regulations.

04.11.2020: **Parliament council** - The inaugural meeting of the Parliament Council developed under the 20th Amendment met today at SL Speaker, Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena's official residence, reports Colombo Page. Discussions were underway to determine the functional aspects of the second meeting scheduled for 10.11.2020 at 11 AM.

04.11.2020: **China** - Colombo Gazette reported that Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and SLPP had held a joint seminar on governance to focus on developing institutional cooperation on a political and social level. N. Rajapaksa tweeted his hopes for youth engagement.

05.11.2020: **Application** – According to defence.lk, the "Stay Safe" digital device designed to contain the spread of the COVID – 19 pandemic under the guidance of the Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA) was introduced to G.

Rajapaksa on 04.11.2020. This project has been designed as a solution to tracing infected persons and the movement of the disease carriers.

07.11.2020: **US** - Joe Biden, US's 46th President elect receives well wishes from SL's leaders following win on 07.11.2020, reports Colombo Gazette. SJB leader Sajith Premadasa, TPA leader Mano Ganesan and M. Rajapaksa conveyed their wishes via Twitter.

10.11.2020: **Detainment** - The Fort Magistrate has ordered the detainment of MP Bathiudeen until 13.11.2020 following court proceeding, reports Colombo Gazette.

11.11.2020: **Burial** - The GoSL has been encouraged by Amnesty International to follow the WHO's guidelines pertaining to final rites during the pandemic. This comes following the Muslim communities' concerns regarding the forcible cremation of Muslim COVID-19 victims.

12.11.2020: **TNA** - TNA Parliamentarian M.A. Sumanthiran has planned to boycott the 2020 Appropriation Bill which was presented in SL Parliament citing it to be "strange" and an act to conceal illegalities perpetuated by the Sri Lankan state. According to Colombo Gazette, Sumanthiran has called for a debate on the bill prior to Executive approval. Reports indicate that the Appropriation Bill for 2020 with amendments was passed without votes in Parliament.

12.11.2020: **TMVP** - Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pullikal (TMVP) Secretary Pubalapillai Prasanthan was arrested by the CID in Batticaloa for a double

murder in 2008. The arrest comes following allegations of threats carried out by Prasanthan towards witnesses. Colombo Gazette further reported that Pillaiyan is currently remanded over the murder of TNA Parliamentarian Joseph Pararajasingham.

16.11.2020: **Proposal** – SL's President of the Buddhist Congress, Jagath Sumathipala has handed over a book identifying alternatives to the new constitution during a meeting with M. Rajapaksa. Representing the Buddhadasana Task Force and the All-Ceylon Buddhist Congress, the Maha Sangha presented a book which was compiled by the National Policy Council, Law, Public Administration, National Security and Foreign Policy Subcommittee of the All-Ceylon Buddhist Congress, reports Colombo Page.

18.11.2020: **Speech** - On the anniversary of G. Rajapaksa's election, he relayed a speech in which he cited the need to protect the nation and its goal of unity, reports Colombo Gazette. Notably he mentioned the following:

"It is no secret that the majority who voted for me then were Sinhalese. They rallied because they had legitimate fears that the Sinhala race, our religion, national resources and the heritage would be threatened with destruction in the face of various local and foreign forces and ideologies that support separatism, extremism and terrorism. The main appeal made

by the people to me was to,
"Protect the Country".

He went onto to speak to say:

"We were able to defeat the LTTE terrorism, which was a major threat for our country, as a result of a collective effort. At that time the majority of our country committed to achieve one goal. We faced the challenges with team spirit and in a disciplinary manner. We should be able to conquer the economic challenges that the country is facing in the future in the same manner we won the war when most were of the opinion that we would not be able to win it. We should understand that all of us have a common responsibility in this regard. In this context, not only the politicians and officials but also the public have the responsibility to actively contribute in increasing the production capacity of the country, to improve service efficiency and eliminate corruption."

20.11.2020: **Human trafficking** – SL's Embassy in Moscow warned Sri Lankans to be mindful of potential human trafficking scenarios operated under job and educational opportunities in Russia, reports the Colombo Gazette. The SL Embassy in Russia has advised that Russian authorities have apprehended 27 Sri Lankans and 17 have already been deported back to SL with the remainder

still detained in Russian detention centres.

22.11.2020: **Police** - SL has placed their police department under a new cabinet ministry. It has been divided into the Police Department, the Civil Security Department, the Police Training Academy and the Multi-Purpose Development Working Group, Economy Next reports.

21.11.2020: **Oligarchy** – SL's Parliamentary Council is set to consider the nomination of G. Rajapaksa for the position of Inspector General of Police reports the Colombo Gazette. The council is set to meet on 23.11.2020 at 4:00 PM.

22.11.2020: **Regulation** – SL's Minister of Mass Media Keheliya Rambukwella announced the SL Government's plans to introduce a mechanism to regulate websites within two weeks. Colombo Gazette further reported the need to amend the Press Council Act to protect the dignity of citizens.

23.11.2020: **Trade Union** - According to Sunday Times, a trade union has put forth accusations that SL's Budget for 2021 aims to alleviate the tax burdens of capitalists whilst sacrificing government sources for revenue.

24.11.2020: **Police Service** - According to Daily Mirror, in addition to SL's Technology Ministry a new Ministry for Public Security was created by G.Rajapaksa which placed the Police Service under its purview within the same gazette notification.

24.11.2020: **Pillaiyaan** - Decision was made by the Batticaloa High Court to grant bail to SL's Former Eastern Province Chief Minister Sivanesathirai Chandrakanthan alias Pillayan who murdered former TNA Parliamentarian Joseph Pararajasingham, reports Colombo Gazette. It is notable that Pillayan was permitted to attend a function in the East on 11.11.2020 following approval by SL's Department of Prisons. Colombo Gazette's reports from 12.11.2020 indicate that concerns were raised in SL Parliament by TNA Parliamentarian, Sumanthiran regarding remanded prisoners attending social events - highlighting that only parliamentary meetings could be attended.

26.11.2020: **Appointment** - Sarath Weerasekara was sworn in as SL's Minister of Public Security and C. Rajapaksa was sworn in as the State Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and Disaster Management, and Irrigation before G.Rajapaksa at the Presidential Secretariat, reports PMD News.

27.11.2020: **Facebook** - During a virtual media briefing on 26.11.2020 Facebook's Head of Safety Policy at Asia Pacific, Amber Hawkes noted that users' information is not freely available to SL police. Colombo Gazette further reported that she had mentioned that if law enforcement should require further information, they would be required to go through a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) process.

30.11.2020: **Prison** – SL's Opposition leader, Sajith Premadasa had mentioned during parliament that an investigation led by SL Government officials pertaining to the deaths inside Mahara Prison could not be accepted. He further called for an independent inquiry into the incident, reports Colombo Gazette. Subsequently, Kamal Gunaratne had instructed SL's IGP, C.D. Wickramaratne to conduct a special investigation into the situation.

30.11.2020: **Acquitted** - According to Daily Mirror, the overseas travel ban on former SL Minister B. Rajapaksa was lifted by the Colombo High Court on 23.11.2020. The Colombo High Court further acquitted B. Rajapaksa and three others in connection to the Divi Neguma case where LKR 29.4 million was misappropriated during the 2015 Presidential Elections, reports the Colombo Gazette.

30.11.2020: **Refugees** - Tamil refugees who are seeking to return back to SL are on track to return following the Government's discussion with TNA Parliamentarian Charles Nirmalanathan and Sivagnanam Shriritharan in Parliament. The Colombo Gazette also reported during the meeting that SL's Foreign Minister had also noted that the LTTE had not given up violence and terrorism and given this, the GoSL would assume a diplomatic perspective.

A COVID Commemoration

Commemoration and memorialisation form a crucial role in bringing together the Eelam Tamil masses. Consequently, the legacy of the Tamils' struggle – especially that of our maaveerar, functions as a unifying factor which exudes revolutionary fervour and reinvigorates the struggling community's commitment and will for Tamil liberation. As a result, multiple attempts are unleashed by the genocidal SL state and their counterparts to dilute and decimate the cause for such cohesion. Whilst state intimidation has been a norm which the Eelam Tamils from our occupied Tamil homeland brave on a regular basis, the resistance portrayed by our brethren despite immediate threats are often a source of awe and inspiration for those of us from the diaspora. In a similar manner, Tamil Eelam's 31st Maaveerar Naal commemorations went on against government bans and intimidation. However, with the tightening of COVID-19 safety regulations across countless host countries, the Tamil diaspora was also introduced to the obstacle of seeking alternative options to commemorate our fallen heroes in a manner which is varied from the means adhered to in the past decades. As a result, the collective psyche of the Eelam Tamils was strengthened as the resolve between those of the diaspora and the occupied homeland had become one which mirrored the fervour which existed during the active years of the LTTE.

Tamil Eelam

Following the demise of Lt. Shankar (the LTTE's first cadre to lose his life in battle) on 27.11.1982, November the 27th was officially declared as Tamil Eelam's National Maaveerar Naal or National Uprising Day in 1989. From that day onwards, this day has been upheld and commemorated without fail in an annual manner across the globe. During the years of Tamil governance, thuyilum illangal were established as a site of commemoration throughout the Tamil homeland. Individual tombstones were erected at these sites for each LTTE cadre who had attained martyrdom and functioned as a site of resolve and invigoration. This veneration of the heroes deeply angered the genocidal SL state thus causing such sites to be destructed and desecrated. Following the occurrence of such acts in 1997, Tamil Eelam's National Leader had mentioned the following during his annual Maaveerar Naal Address:

"I call this act of desecration of the graves of martyrs whom the Tamils venerate as their national heroes as wicked, immoral and uncivilised. This act cannot be dismissed as a wanton display of an occupying army. This is a grave act of terrorism which has left an indelible stain in the soul of the Tamil nation."



**Pictured are LTTE cadres lighting lamps in memory of fallen martyrs.
Source: Tamilnation.org**

Following the destruction of the LTTE in 2009, the genocidal SL state's forces completely ploughed through all of the thuyilum illangal which had been established across the Tamil homeland with bulldozers, leaving behind nothing but rubble. Such acts cannot be merely dismissed as acts of violence but rather a small move within the SL state's wider COIN program which is implemented with genocidal intent. Through depriving the Eelam Tamils of their ability to derive

resolve and determination from their martyrs, the state believes that they would be effective in neutralising the Tamils' will to struggle and resist for freedom. However, year after year, the Eelam Tamils continue to resist through commemorating our maaveerar. This is often achieved through the preparation of sites which had previously stood proudly as thuyilum illangal, where the debris is often collated and arranged as a collective site for commemoration.

This year, the SL state had cited countless legal provisions to obtain injunctions to prevent and criminalise commemoration. Some of which are as follows:

- ◆ Section 15 - Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act (No. 48 of 1979).
- ◆ Section 79(2) and 79(3) - Police Ordinance No. 16 of 1865.
- ◆ Section 3(1) and 3(2) - International Covenant On Civil and Political Rights Act 56 of 2007.
- ◆ Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance No 3 of 1897.



**Occupational SL Military and Police set up surveillance in Mannar.
Source: TamilNet**

The occupational police had also approached the courts of 8 districts from occupied Tamil Eelam to obtain temporary orders against activists.

It is notable that commemorations occurred within the occupied homeland despite increased militarisation, intimidation, arrests and threats. Despite the imposition of court bans preventing such commemorations from occurring – especially in Mannar and Vavuniya, Eelam Tamils continued to commemorate in any possible way. Some instances of intimidation in the instance of commemoration are as follows:

Act of Intimidation	Perpetrator(s)	Location	Targets
Shooting	Occupational SL soldiers	Elangkulam Thuyilum Illam, Vadamaradchi	Group of Tamil youth
3 layers of roadblocks (water tankers were also used)	Occupational SL military, SL police	Koappaay Thuyilum Illam, Jaffna	All Tamils
Harassment / Chasing	SL military intelligence operatives	Koappaay Thuyilum Illam, Jaffna	Journalists
Surveillance / intimidation	Occupational SL police	Hut in Vavuniya where protesting mothers had commemorated fallen heroes	Tamil mothers
Military deployment	Occupational SL soldiers	Kanakapuram Thuyilum Illam	All Tamils
Prevention	SL police	Mannar	Catholic Tamil priests attempting to plant tree saplings in commemoration

TE Diaspora

Whilst the Tamil Diaspora is not threatened or intimidated to the extent of the Tamil brethren within the homeland, social media censorship is often accelerated during such significant times of commemoration. However, in addition to this regular data destruction and censorship, COVID-19 health regulations had prevented commemorations from being held in a mass scale. As a result, many events were conducted on a smaller level in accordance with COVID-19 regulations whilst a majority of commemorations were digitalised and shifted online. As a result, the difficulties and restrictions to remember had contributed a significant role in mobilising youth and reawakening many Tamils who had progressively began to drift away from the struggle following 2009. In addition, many of the physical commemorative events which were organised throughout the diaspora were minimised to the traditional structures of lighting a lamp and paying tribute with the screening of the national leader's previous Maaveerar Naal addresses. Consequently, it becomes evident that the dynamics of commemoration have inevitably shifted to redirect the focus of commemoration back to the core values of commitment and an unwavering resolve in upholding and reinstating Tamil sovereignty, thereby marking the beginning of a new era. In that regard, Phoenix - the Next Generation's commemorations had also witnessed a turning point at this juncture, hence reflective of the need for a similar and more expansive switch within our struggle for liberation.

Maaveerar Naal arranged by P-TNG in Switzerland



Image pictured on 27.11.2020 from Phoenix-TNG's Maaveerar Naal commemoration in Bern, Switzerland.

Source: Phoenix the Next Generation

Phoenix TNG had arranged Maaveerar Naal commemorations in Switzerland for the first time. On the 27th November 2020, the commemorative event was held at Tamilar Kalari in Bern. This event was part of a broader coalition of Tamil organisations, which arranged events at various locations in accordance with the current pandemic situation. The event commenced at 13.20 Swiss time. After the speech of the National Leader of Tamil Eelam had been screened, the commemoration event began at 13.35. All ceremonies had concluded by 14.00. From that point onwards, the public arrived to the location in batches and paid their respect to the Maaveerar. It is noteworthy that Phoenix had established strict security measures based on Swiss COVID-19 regulations.

Puradsi Media's second publication, "Rise of the Tigers" was also officially launched on the same day at Tamilar Kalari. The public were able to see and order the book after they had paid respects to the Maaveerar. Maaveerar Naal is usually commemorated at Fribourg, where at least 10,000 individuals would gather. However, due to the pandemic the events were spread across Switzerland. It is noteworthy that many Tamil political and non-political organisations worked together to arrange these different events. A large portion of the Tamil community had also commemorated the Maaveerar from their homes. This was facilitated through the prior distribution of candles and images to Tamil households.

Rise of the Tigers – Interactive Exhibition

Puradsi Media's second publication, "Rise of the Tigers" was featured through an interactive exhibition which was conducted in Australia on the 22nd of November 2020. The exhibition was put together by the combined efforts of youth from Sydney, Melbourne and New Zealand and engaged the attendees through multi-sensory displays. Whilst the event was scheduled to occur from 14:00 – 16:00 Australian time at Yaarl Function Centre in Sydney, the exhibition remained open until 17:30 due to the inflow of attendees. It is notable that this exhibition will be held again in early 2021 across various other locations.



Images pictured on 22.11.2020 from Phoenix-TNG's interactive exhibition, "Rise of the Tigers" in Sydney, Australia.
Source: Phoenix the Next Generation

This year's Maaveerar Naal commemorations denote a decisive shift in commemorations as resistance cannot be merely confined to the acts of remembrance. The loyalty, conviction and resolve of our martyrs must drive us in every action that we take and should not be an ideal that we merely remember for one day, one week or one month of a year. For that it becomes evident that whilst the spaces for remembrance must be created and preserved, active resistance against the desecration and dilution of such unwavering doctrines and legacies must be implemented in a decisive manner to ensure the progression of the Tamils' struggle for liberation. A failure to do so may leave us without anything to remember.

Economic News

01.11.2020: **Stock market** - According to the Colombo Gazette, all stock market operations are set to continue as normal according to announcements made by the Colombo Stock Exchange. This news comes following the extension of the curfew in the Western Province until 09.11.2020.

01.11.20: **Forecast** - SL's GDP is expected to shrink by 1.7% in 2020 and increase by 5% in 2021. The central bank projects that the trade deficit will fall from 9.5% to 6.6%

of GDP. Inflation is also expected to rise from 4.3% to around 4.7%, Economy Next reports.

03.11.2020: **Raw material** - The GoSL has decided that they will use empty bullet shells and disposed armour plates as raw material for craftsmen, industries and the rural sector to empower people employed in those areas, reports Colombo Gazette. The material will be provided by SL's tri-forces.

06.11.2020: **Credits** - To overcome COVID-19, the Central Bank of SL extended the payment period from six months to nine months. This extension applies to cheap labour loans in order to encourage borrowers to continue borrowing, reports Sunday Times.

09.11.2020: **Foreign exchange** - SL has repaid bonds worth USD 5.8 billion. As a result, foreign exchange reserves fell from 807.8 million to 5,578.5 million. The Chinese Development Bank is making 700 million available to SL to replenish reserves and repay maturing debts, Economy Next reports.

09.11.2020: **Trade** - In the period between March – September, exports fell by 17.1 % and imports by 19%. However, in September, exports rose by 3.6 % due to the exports of personal protective equipment made of fabric, plastic and rubber. The trade deficit had also decreased by 1.3 billion compared to the previous year, Economy Next reports.

10.11.2020: **Pharmaceuticals** – Reports from Colombo Gazette indicate that according to GoSL, Hambantota is set to be the pharmaceutical manufacturing zone. SL's Cabinet of Ministers have approved the resolution put forth by SL's Minister of Health to establish 20 pharmaceutical manufacturing companies within 200 acres with another set of 20 facilities in another 200 acres of land.

10.11.2020: **Development** - The GoSL has reviewed the LKR 600 million Indo-Lanka Community Development Project Agreement for another five years, reports Colombo Page. The agreement was

signed by Finance Ministry Secretary SR Attygalle and Indian High Commissioner to SL, Gopal Baglay in the presence of M. Rajapaksa and two other SL Government Ministers.

10.11.2020: **COVID-19 Funds** – SL's Presidential Secretariat announced that LKR 400 million of the LKR 1.67 billion from the ITUKAMA COVID-19 Healthcare and Social Security Funds has been used to date. The Colombo Page reported that the fund which was established on 23.03.2020 had been used over the course of the pandemic and managed by a panel of "highly skilled professionals in the fields of administration, finance and banking".

12.11.2020: **External debt** - SL repaid its USD 4.2 billion foreign debt on time. It did not end up bankrupt and was able to prove itself against the downgrading of its credit rating by Fitch and Standard and Poor's in 2020, Economy Next reports.

17.11.2020: **Bonds** - Colombo Page reported that SL has received an amount of USD 86.8 million in relation to SL's Development Bonds (SLDBs). The Bonds for USD 75 million by the GoSL was held for auction between 10.11.2020 - 13.11.2020.

17.11.2020: **Banks** - M. Rajapaksa intends to merge small state banks into SL's National Development Banking Corporation. In this process, state-owned regional development banks and housing mortgage banks will be formed into a single entity, Economy Next reports.

18.11.2020: **Dividend tax** - In order to encourage exports by multinational companies, SL has offered to reduce taxes on dividends to increase their exports from 2021. However, these dividends are to be reinvested into SL's stock or money market or into the expansion of their businesses, Economy Next reports.

19.11.2020: **Tyres** - China will build a US\$ 300 million tyre plant in SL's Hambantota Port. Hambantota International Port Group (HIPG) will be provided to a unit of the Chinese CM Ports, which will operate the port and the adjacent industrial zone, Economy Next reports. Reports by Economy Next on 23.11.2020 indicate that SL's Rigid Tyre Corporation would commence the production of radial passenger car tyres in January 2021. The rubber required for this will be sourced locally, creating new jobs. European technology is expected to create qualities such as performance, efficiency and environmental friendliness.

19.11.2020: **EU** - In response to SL's import controls, the EU delegation has been reported to have declared that, "trade is not a one-way street." The EU has purchased more than EUR 1 billion (LKR 220 billion) worth of goods from SL within the year of 2020 alone. SL also benefits from the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP+) program. This makes SL competitive and gives it predominantly duty and quota free access to the EU market. SL's import ban, which restricts the import of raw materials and machinery, has had negative effects on the EU. The EU has reminded SL that the import ban is not in line WTO regulations, Economy Next reports.

21.11.2020: **Car industry** - The ban on the import of vehicles in SL is a threat to jobs there. Vehicles also generate income in the form of taxes for the GoSL, Economy Next reports.

21.11.2020: **Budget** – SL's Finance Minister and Prime Minister, M. Rajapaksa presented the 2021 budget in SL Parliament on 17.11.2020. Colombo Gazette reported that the budget's second reading would take place on 18.11.2020 to 21.11.2020 accordingly. According to the new budget, SL's Plantation workers could expect a wage increase to LKR 1,000, effective from January 2021, reports the Colombo Gazette. It is notable that during an online meeting with the Planters Association, the LKR 1,000 proposed wage was cited to be not possible. According to Colombo Gazette's reports from 24.11.2020, GoSL plans to re-evaluate or terminate agreements with plantation companies that refuse to pay the daily wage of LKR 1,000 to estate workers, reports Colombo Gazette. Plantation companies have noted that due to losses they will not be able to pay the full amount unless it's subsidized by the government. According to reports from 21.11.2020, the budget for 2021 aims at import substitution. Revenues and expenditure are also estimated to be higher in 2021 than in 2020, resulting in a deficit of 8.9 % of GDP, Economy Next reports. Moody's Investors Service were reported to mention that SL's budget is unlikely to boost economic growth. The rating agency Moody's further criticises the budget of SL. Moody's is more pessimistic about revenues and domestic demand than SL. Sri Lanka's debt burden

would rise to about 100 % of GDP in the period 2020-21, Economy Next reports.

22.11.2020: **Roads** - On G. Rajapaksa's full term as president, Johnston Fernando the Chief Government Whip and Minister of Highways inaugurated the development project to lay down 160 roads in 160 electorates of the country, reported the Colombo Page. Accordingly, the foundation stone was laid to construct the Kapuduwa Interchange under the Expressway Extension Project.

23.11.2020: **Cess tax** - The SL government has announced a new Cess tax in addition to the important taxes on 2,534 items. For 26 of these items, the Cess Tax will not be applicable under the Special Commodity Levy Act, reports Sunday Times. This move will increase the selling price of several products. It is noteworthy that this move was introduced as M. Rajapakse had not announced any revenue measures for SL's 2021 Budget.

26.11.2020: **Credit** - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will be providing a loan of USD 165 million to SL. This loan will support small businesses, tea smallholders and female-owned businesses affected by COVID-19, Economy Next reports.

27.11.2020: **Fitch** - Fitch Ratings have downgraded SL's sovereignty rating from "B-" to "CCC". This follows the planning of the 2021 budget, which is not credible and only contains limited information on the potential revenue impact of some of the announced measures, Economy Next reports. It is notable that reports indicate that SL did not agree with the downgrade.

30.11.2020: **Money** - SL printed money in 2020 to finance deficits due to the drop in tax revenues and the decline in foreign financing, Economy Next reports.

Wilful Ignorance and a Heaven for Control

VITHUSA

Lining the streets, a mother's wail is heard for her child - agony, followed by silence. As the days add on, the number of families searching on the ground dwindle. Aging and dying. Slowly with them, their fight for answers diminish. With barely a glance and with occupation in full force, governance in Sri Lanka continues. Intentional genocide.

Sri Lanka has one of the highest rates of enforced disappearances ranking second in the world according to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. With 6,117 outstanding cases that have formally been submitted and the number of undocumented cases greater than that recorded, Sri Lanka continues to deny any involvement. Prior to the end of the armed conflict, state sanctioned enforced

disappearances aided by security forces and paramilitary groups rendered Tamils at extreme risk. With the Mullivaikkal Massacre and the armed conflict coming to a vicious end, Tamils caught in the crossfires exponentially were disappeared by Sri Lanka's military - making that risk a reality. In addition to the countless lives that were stolen, among them were several members of the LTTE including senior leaders, their family members and young children.



Tamil mothers protesting roadside.
Source: Kumanan Kana

Genocide Convention

UNHR's Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the ongoing genocide of Tamils through the lack of response in relation to Families of the Disappeared can be considered a notable offence. These offences fall under Article II,

Section (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; and
Section (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.

The Search and Heartbreak

Tamil families have been protesting since the onslaught of the genocide by the Sri Lankan state. Tamil mothers, fathers and loved ones searched aimlessly for the

whereabouts of their loved ones before a collaborative initiative was undertaken. During the course of the search and to counter the international pressure, Sri Lanka established the Office of Missing Persons (OMP) where families were expected to file a report. Many Tamils were reluctant to file a report and those who did, failed to receive follow through from the futile institutional body. Organized roadside protest post armed conflict by Tamil Families of the Disappeared began on 19.02.2017 in Kilinochchi of occupied Tamil Eelam, igniting sister protests around the Tamil homeland.



Tamil families of the disappeared protest in front of Batticaloa OMP Office.
Source: Tamil Guardian



United Nations Resident Coordinator Hanna Singer meets with Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.
Source: Presidential Media Division

by directing the blame towards the same entity that was destroyed by them - making counter allegations of war crimes by the LTTE impossible. Yet, Tamils who witnessed the mass atrocities by the Sri Lankan state continue forward.

Rather slowly yet surely, life goes on and comes to an end. To date, 77 parents have lost their lives while searching for their kin and kith. 1,394 days have passed as families continue their protest with the looming presence of scrutiny and surveillance by SL forces. This carries the unbearable question of why the Sinhala state continues to play the ignorance card? This ultimately comes down to Sri Lanka's positionality in relation to the armed conflict whereby in maintaining the notion of victory, violations of human rights are further considered acceptable.

Strikingly, in a Human Rights Watch article released on 16.01.2020, it was cited that during a meeting with the UN Resident Coordinator on 17.01.2020 Gotabaya announced those who were forcibly disappeared were dead. He was cited stating that, "missing persons are actually dead" and had laid fault on the LTTE rather than addressing the state's acts of violence. Through this intentional process, the victor escapes accountability

Their state heroes are our terrorists.

A play on the common phrase, 'one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter', 'their state heroes are our terrorist' aims to give power and positionality back to repressed communities who face state sanctioned violations of human rights. The terror narrative following 09.11.2001 attacks on America's World Trade Centre, amplified the acceptability of national security bans towards non-state militaries that included revolutionary armed struggles. With the attacks came the need to address counter terror narratives in the 21st Century. America and recognised nations under the framework of counter terrorism engaged in dismantling rebel movements in ally nations.

During the 2002 LTTE Press Conference in Kilinochchi, a CBC Canadian Correspondent raised the question pertaining to the strategy and ideology of the Tigers following 9/11 and the global perception of terror. The following statement condemning the acts of 9/11 was made:

**"We strongly condemn the act of violence that was perpetrated under a religion that advocates peace. We too are in the process of engaging in peace talks through international bodies, therefore in relation we do not wish to further discuss the attacks. There is no need for us to talk about this."
– National Leader of Tamil Eelam, V. Prabhakaran**

However, using the 9/11 attacks as an opportunity, 30 countries internationally have formally banned the LTTE citing national and public threat to their respective countries and with pressure from Sri Lanka. To date, many of those global nations continue to place the LTTE on the national security ban list respectively.

Recently, on 21.10.2020 an appeal was put forth by diaspora Tamils to remove the LTTE from the list of banned entities. The appeal for judicial review was subsequently granted and due process is underway. However, Sri Lanka was swift to respond to this and noted information will be provided by GoSL pertaining to maintaining the ban. India has also noted the importance of maintaining the LTTE on the list of terrorist entities and noted collateral information will be provided.

With these bans in place and with the defeat of Tamil militancy, GoSL is effectively able to maintain and direct conversations regarding the state's positionality and issues related to Tamils on the ground. To date, the response by GoSL has been the same - one that eradicates and minimises the experiences of Tamils. Diaspora Tamils have the capacity and potential to apply pressure on global nations regarding serious genocidal actions carried out by GoSL and its allied nations. A collective undertaking by Diaspora Tamils needs to occur that looks past 2009 into the present genocidal actions that are occurring.

News about Oppression & Resistance

03.11.2020: **Cremation** - The GoSL has decided to review the decision to only cremate COVID-19 victims and not bury them following concerns raised by SJB leader, Sajith Premadasa in SL Parliament, reports Colombo Gazette. Premadasa noted that cremation of remains goes against religious practices of Muslims and further cited the targeting of Muslims using COVID-19 as a catalyst. SL's Health Minister, Pavithra Wanniarachchi noted the decision to cremate was based on scientific recommendations, however it would only be reviewed.

04.11.2020: **Killed** - According to Sunday Times, the GS of Manthai West died due to injuries resulting from an attack. It is believed that the GS was attacked because of his actions against illegal land mining in Manthai West.

12.11.2020: **UN** - The UN Resident Coordinator in SL, Ms. Hanaa Singer had written a letter to M. Rajapaksa concerning SL's Ministry of Health Guidelines which conflict with that introduced by the WHO on 24.03.2020, regarding cremation, reports the Colombo Gazette.

18.11.2020: **Martyrs** - The Colombo Gazette reported that according to SL Parliamentarian Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, the GoSL states that there are no martyrs and only terrorists and that it's army "**fought the war to defeat the terrorists**". He further noted that the National Leader of Tamil Eelam,

Vellupillai Prabhakaran harmed Tamils following concerns raised by TNA Parliamentarian, Sivagnanam Shrivatharan regarding the mass deaths of Tamils across occupied Tamil Eelam. Yapa was firm to say that the SL army took steps to "**protect the unity of the country to defeat terrorism**".

18.11.2020: **Protest** - 10 prisoners at Welikada prison in Colombo carried out a protest on the roof of the facility demanding officials to respond to the judicial process in a timely manner, reports Colombo Gazette.

19.11.2020: **LTTE** - According to Colombo Gazette and Daily Mirror, occupational police had obtained court order against the commemoration of Maaveerar Naal next week, reports Colombo Gazette. According, Ajith Rohana noted that orders had been obtained for Mannar and Vavuniya noting that "**stern action against those who violate the restraining order**" would be taken and was reported saying commemoration would only create a divisive community.



Prevention of Commemoration Meme
Source: Phoenix the Next Generation

20.11.2020: **Arrest:** Bakeer Markar, a former SL media minister, claims that the SL police should arrest media representatives who are critical of the GoSL. A list of 200 media representatives had been drawn up for prosecution. Arrests have already been made, Economy Next reports.

20.11.2020: **Commemoration** - According to Daily Mirror, the Jaffna High Court dismissed on 20.11.2020 four petitions filed in the court seeking a writ order to prevent Police and the health authorities' attempts to prevent Maaveerar Naal commemorations in Northern Tamil Eelam.

21.11.2020: **TNPF** - TNPF leader Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam commenced his speech during the 2021 budget debate by paying respects to the Maaveerar, reported Colombo Gazette. SL's former Army Commander, Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka objected to the commemorative moment to which Ponnambalam responded by calling him a war criminal. Following this,

Ponnambalam questioned GoSL's failure to declare occupied Tamil Eelam as a war-affected area and protect Tamils accordingly.

24.11.2020: **Human rights** - The Human Rights Commission of SL reported that detainees were forced to sign pre-prepared statements at SL Police HQ, reports Colombo Gazette. A letter underlining the characteristics of these statements and offenses have been directed to Acting Inspector General of Police, C.D.C. Wickremaratne with request to ensure the validity of the statements made to police officials.

27.11.2020.: **Arrest** - According to Daily Mirror, four suspects had been arrested by the Eravur Police in connection with sharing Maaveerar commemoration posts on social media.

27.11.2020: **OMP** - According to Sunday Times, the OMP is expected to release a list of complaints and information regarding missing and disappeared persons. This list will be made available at the OMP Head-Office in Colombo and the Regional Office in Jaffna, Mannar, Batticaloa and Matara. The list will contain information from received complaints, complaints forwarded to the OMP and information related to Missing in Actions submitted by armed forces at the request of the OMP.

27.11.2020: **Facebook** - According to Daily Mirror, Facebook had assured SL on 26.11.2020 that strict measures were in place to ensure the safety and security of users. Its officials said that there is a strict criterion to follow for the law

enforcement authorities seeking information.

29.11.2020: **Prison** - The Colombo Gazette reported that a prisoner was killed following a violent breakout from a prison at Mahara Prison. The Prison guards opened fire on the inmates resulting in the killing of one and injury of three. SL Police STF was deployed to control the situation and those injured were admitted to the hospital accordingly.

30.11.2020: **Arrest** - According to Virakesari, a Jaffna university student was arrested by occupational SL police and army troops for lighting a lamp for the Tamil festival of Karthikai Vilakkeedu. The student was released after Tamil MP Angajan Ramanthan had spoken about the arrest with the Senior Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police for the North.

Signs of Structural Genocide

13.11.2020: **Maaveerar Naal** - The TNA has appealed to the SL Government to allow families to commemorate Maaveerar Naal in the North. M.A. Sumanthiran cited that authorities may use COVID-19 regulations to prevent families from visiting cemeteries to remember and has urged the Government not to use the situation to prevent legitimate commemorations by loved ones, reports Colombo Gazette.

28.11.2020: **Maaveerar Naal** - A Catholic Priest in Jaffna has been arrested for commemorating Maaveerar Naal at the seminary reported, Ajith Rohana. The Colombo Gazette reported that occupational police arrived following a report of the congregation to commemorate where symbols of the resistance, including images of the national leader of Tamil Eelam were found. The priest is expected to be charged under SL's penal code for violating court orders including the instigation of racial tensions between communities.



Catholic Seminary in Jaffna commemorates Maaveerar Naal with display in front of church.

Source: Colombo Gazette



Local shop in Vavuniya commemorates Maaveerar Naal.
Source: TamilNet



Tamil Mothers of the Disappeared commemorate Maaveerar Naal in hut in Vavuniya.
Source: TamilNet



Velupillai Prabhakaran pays tribute to Maaveerar.

Akkinip Paravaikal

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