

April 2024

ISSUE 57

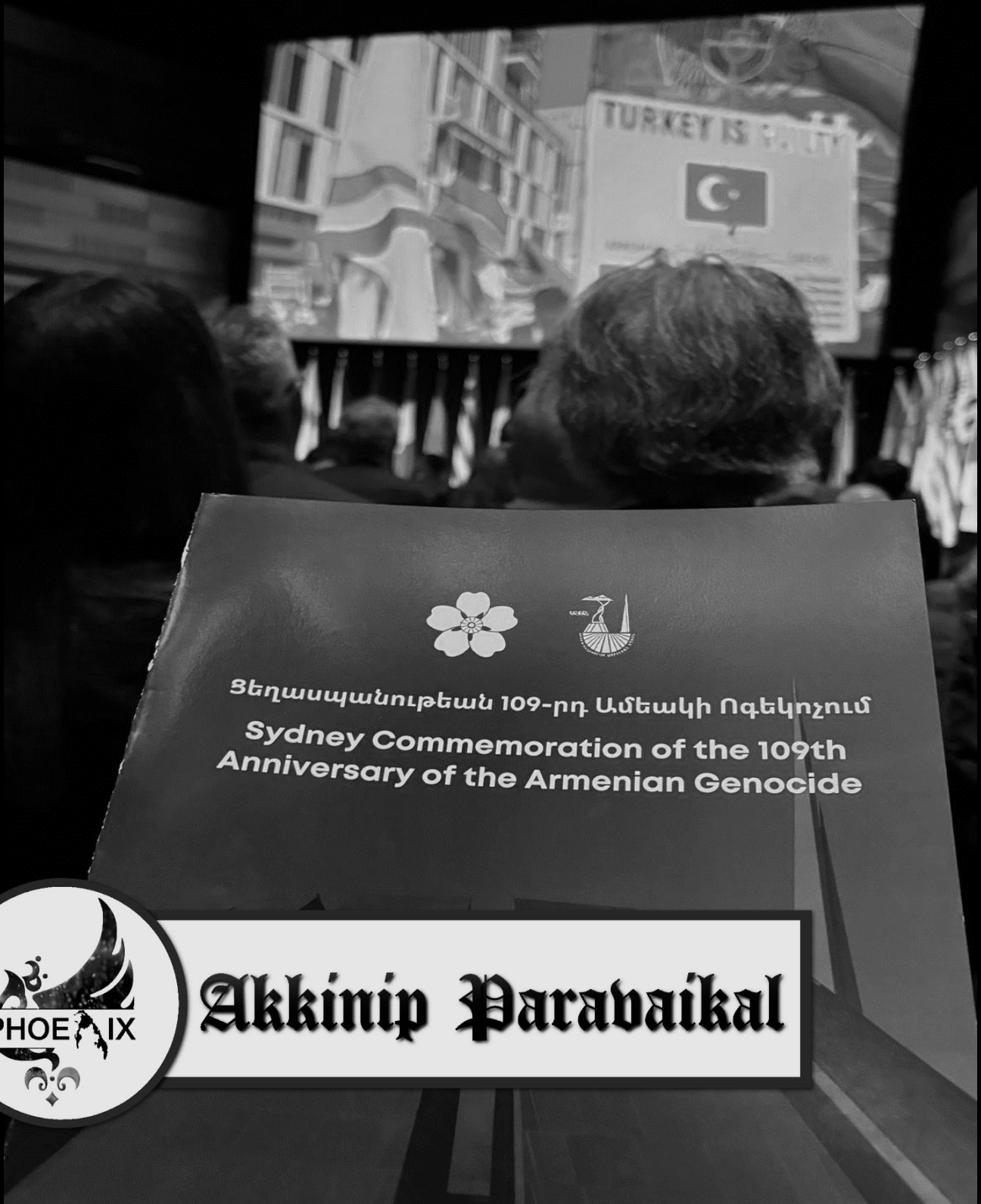
PHOENIX

Monthly Newsletter

ISSUE

57

April 2024



Յեղասպանութեան 109-րդ Ամեակի Ոգեկոչում
Sydney Commemoration of the 109th
Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide



Akkinip Parabaikal

“ “

*While the Tamils are busy with internal affairs,
Sri Lanka is continuing to develop its
international partnerships.*

” ”

Phoenix TNG

International <i>Bilateral</i>	03-05 03	Economic	09-11
Military	05	Oppression & Resistance	12-13
Domestic	07-08	Snapshot	14

24.04.2024: **Global South** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe emphasised during talks with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, a desire for the Global South to establish its identity and independence. Most countries in the Global South are commonly referred to as countries with inadequate living standards, characterised

by lower incomes, high levels of poverty, high population growth rates, inadequate housing, limited educational opportunities and poor health systems, among others.

29.04.2024: **World Economic Forum** - According to Economy Next, SL's Foreign Minister Ali Sabry said that the Global North

must "walk the talk" and work with the Global South to ensure access to low-cost finance, debt relief and bridging the digital divide. Sabry was speaking at a panel discussion on "North-South, East-West: Rebuilding Trust" at the Special Session on Global Cooperation, Growth and Energy for Development 2024.

Bilateral

01.04.2024: **Thailand** - According to Economy Next, the China-operated Hambantota Port in SL has briefed a delegation of the Thai Prime Minister on the planned container handling and an industrial park. The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between SL and Thailand, which is about to be signed, gives further impetus to these talks, and fosters HIP's intentions to engage with Thai companies and investors at various levels.

01.04.2024: **China** - According to Economy Next, SL Prime Minister D. Gunawardena met Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang in Beijing before attending the BOAO Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2024 in Hainan, China. No project was discussed and only the (debt) resolutions should have potentially been finalised.

02.04.2024: **Japan** - According to Economy Next, Japan has donated 517 bicycles to rural school children in SL to assist them to attend school every day.

The students, aged 12-16, were selected from 108 schools in 12 districts where there are transport difficulties - such as Monaragala, Puttalam and Mullaitivu.

02.04.2024: **Israel** - According to Economy Next, SL has donated USD 01 million to assist children affected by Israel's attack on Gaza. In addition, over LKR 20 million have been donated to the Children of Gaza Fund. These funds will be officially transferred to the Palestinian government.

04.04.2024: **South Korea** - According to Economy Next, South Korea will provide more employment opportunities to SL citizens and assist them with education and vocational training. During the discussions, the provincial government of South Korea agreed to offer numerous benefits for education, higher education, agriculture, fisheries, women and rural development in SL.

08.04.2024: **Singapore** - According to Economy Next, SL has commenced the implementation of an FTA with

Singapore to improve market access, diversify the market and attract investment. Under the agreement, 50 % of tariffs were liberalised to zero duty on day one.

08.04.2024: **Palestine** - According to Economy Next, SL remains firmly opposed to the dissolution of the Palestinian state and stands in solidarity to end the ongoing conflict. In light of this tragedy, SL has decided to forgo the national Ramadan festival in 2024 and allocate the funds to support the people of Gaza.

09.04.2024: **China** - According to Economy Next, SL's China-backed Hambantota International Port Group announced that it has entered the container handling business and partnered with Switzerland-based Mediterranean Shipping Company. The container ship MSC Ingrid called at the port for the first time on 09.04.2024 from Rotterdam and discharged 500 20-foot equivalents - marking the commencement of the trans-shipment service.

10.04.2024: **India** - According to Economy Next, Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha mentioned that the IndoLankan shared past, common heritage and strong cultural ties create a natural warmth in their interactions. India looks forward to working with SL to lead joint efforts to deepen and further strengthen our defence cooperation, he added.

11.04.2024: **Japan** - According to Economy Next, Japan has donated USD 8.4 million worth of equipment to SL to improve operations at SL's Bandaranaike International Airport and Colombo Port. This will enable the monitoring of health-threatening diseases such as epidemics and

infectious diseases brought into the country by foreign visitors.

15.04.2024: **Iran** - According to Economy Next, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi will arrive in SL on 24.04.2024 for a one-day official visit to inaugurate the Tehran-backed USD 529 million Uma Oya multi-purpose development project with a hydropower capacity of 120 megawatts. This is the first time an Iranian President is set to visit SL - after the visit of then President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in April 2008.

16.04.2024: **Kyrgyz Republic** - According to Economy Next, SL and the Kyrgyz Republic signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on bilateral cooperation at the Foreign Ministry consultations held in Bishkek on 15.04.2024. During the consultations, 'both sides placed emphasis on expanding economic cooperation, particularly in the areas of apparel, gems and jewellery, tea, food and beverages, wellness and Ayurvedic products, education services and ICT.

18.04.2024: **Iran** - According to Economy Next, the Iranian Maritime Rescue Service has rescued 21 SL sailors from an oil tanker that sank off the port of Jask. Storms have battered the Sea of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz, a major energy transport corridor at the eastern tip of which Jask is located, the report said.

18.04.2024: **Japan** - According to Economy Next, Japan has pledged to speed up SL's ongoing debt restructuring process. Fujii Daijo, the Japanese Deputy Minister of Finance for International Affairs acknowledged SL's excellent progress and congratulated the SL authorities under the leadership of R. Wickremesinghe for their strong leadership and economic management.

19.04.2024: **Canada** - According to Economy Next, Linda Ehrichs, Chargé d'Affaires of the Canadian High Commission, said that inclusive growth cannot be achieved without the full participation of women. The GRIT (Growth, Resilience, Investment and Training) programme aims to foster a gender-equitable entrepreneurial ecosystem in northern SL over a 06-year period. Building on the long-standing relationship between Canada and SL, Canada's support for the GRIT project will assist the promotion of women's empowerment and the achievement of economic growth.

20.04.2024: **Paris Club** - According to Economy Next, the Paris Club has pledged further support to SL to achieve debt sustainability for SL. The Paris Club, the group of major creditor countries that aims to find a sustainable way to solve debt problems in debtor countries, has actively supported SL in the restructuring of its national debt.

26.04.2024: **Germany** - According to Economy Next, SL has allowed a German research vessel to call at the port of Colombo for the second time after SL's foreign ministry issued a clarification following a Chinese protest. The Chinese embassy in Colombo had strongly protested against the authorisation of a German research vessel in early March 2024 after SL's authorities rejected a request from Beijing for a research vessel in February 2024. SL's Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that SL will allow research vessels from abroad to dock in its state's harbours despite the 01-year ban.



Global South
Source: Economy Next



China
Source: Economy Next

Military News

04.04.2024: Soldiers - According to Economy Next, SL's Ministry of Defence has declared a one-month general amnesty from April 20 to May 20 for absent soldiers of the three-armed forces, allowing them to obtain an official discharge from their respective services. Absent members of the army, navy and air force will be discharged from military service after they have settled all financial obligations or amounts due.

12.04.2024: Airforce India - According to Economy Next, the Indian High Commission in Colombo organised the seminar titled 'Identifying New Opportunities and Forging New Bonds' to promote Indian-made defence equipment and explore opportunities for collaboration in defence manufacturing. Indian privately-owned defence companies demonstrated the capabilities they have developed in manufacturing weapons and other products, including unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), the latest drones and the latest earth-moving equipment used in war zones.

26.04.2024: Tourism - According to Economy Next, the city of Colombo will be developed into a tourist destination by shifting various features. There is the potential to transform places such as Republic Square, the Navy Headquarters, the Old Jetty, the Customs House and the General Post Office into key components of the emerging tourist city of Colombo.



Soldiers
Source: Economy Next

Domestic News

Tamil Eelam

09.04.2024: **KKS** -

According to Economy Next, Kankesanthurai Port, owned by the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA), has acquired 23 acres and 12 perks of land belonging to SL's Cement Corporation (SLCC). According to the valuer general's valuation, the SLPA has paid an advance of LKR 52 million to the SLCC. India has recently pledged USD 61.5 million in grants for the development of the Kankesanthurai harbour in the Jaffna.

22.04.2024: **CARAT SL** -

According to Economy Next, the United States Navy, US Marine Corps and SL Navy will jointly-conduct Exercise CARAT SL 2024 (Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training) from 22.04.2024-26.04.2024 in Trincomalee. At CARAT SL, the US Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team (FAST), a US Marine Corps unit specialising in maritime security and counter-terrorism, will train the full spectrum of naval capabilities alongside SL Navy Marines.

22.04.2024: **Ramayana**

- According to Economy Next, the establishment of the Ramayana process, which includes a land bridge between SL and India, will be a 'game changer' for SL's tourism industry. SL has renewed its efforts to establish Ramayana Trails, which include all sites associated with the Ramayana. These include Sigiriya, Ashok Vatika, a garden in the town of Nuwara Eliya, which is believed to be the place where Ravana imprisoned Sita, the Ravana Ella Falls, the Koneswaram Temple in Trincomalee and the Divurumpola Temple in Bandarawela, which is believed to be the place where Sita underwent a trial by fire to prove her purity - among many other places.

Sri Lanka

01.04.2024: **Pilot**

project - According to Economy Next, we are extending a pilot project to allow visitors from seven countries to enter SL visa-free until 30.04.2024. A final

decision on the pilot project will be made in the coming weeks. In October 2023, SL's Cabinet approved a proposal to allow visa-free entry for nationals from India, China, Russia, Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia and Thailand.

03.04.2024: **SGBV** -

According to Economy Next, SL's National Guidelines for the Management of Shelters for Victims of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) were recently launched by SL's Ministry of Women, Children's Affairs and Social Empowerment following SL Cabinet approval. The guidelines are a joint effort of the SL Ministry and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in SL and a key component of the 'Enabling Access to Justice for Victim-Survivors of SGBV in SL' project, a joint-initiative with UNDP and UNFPA SL, funded by the Government of Canada.

09.04.2024: **Electricity**

Reform - According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet of Ministers has

approved a revised draft law to reform SL's electricity sector. The Electricity Reform Bill is related to a USD 100 million budget support loan from the ADB.

09.04.2024: Legal system - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe calls for a modernisation of the legal system to effectively implement the government's economic reforms to promote growth. Addressing a group of lawyers in Kandy on 07.04.2024, R. Wickremesinghe mentioned that working with the IMF is a crucial step to revive SL's economy, adding that legalising the agreements with the IMF will ensure that the benefits reach the people quickly.

17.04.2024: Fishermen - According to Economy Next, a total of 15 SL fishermen who were arrested in Myanmar and sentenced to 07 years' rigorous imprisonment have been released. 17.04.2024 is the first day of the traditional Burmese New Year, when the junta government released more than 3,000 prisoners, reports CGTN

- a Chinese state news channel in English.
19.04.2024: Visa fees - According to Economy Next, SL's Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa has questioned the decision to increase visa fees for tourists, claiming that increasing the fees by almost 50% could jeopardise SL's booming tourism industry. Premadasa also claimed that Russian airline Red Wings, which operates weekly charter flights carrying up to 800 tourists, has cancelled its flights to SL, citing the visa fee hike as one reason.

24.04.2024: Education reform - According to Economy Next, the planned education reforms in SL will not only involve education experts, but will also welcome input from other professionals. R. Wickremesinghe made these remarks at the 10th Biennial Conference of the All Island Professional Lecturers' Association (APLA) held at the Nelum Pokuna Theatre in Colombo on 23.04.2024.

26.04.2024: Airport - According to Economy Next, the management of Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport in

southern SL has been awarded to a Russian-Indian joint venture. The companies involved were India's Shaurya Aeronautics Pvt Ltd and Russia's Airports of Regions Management Company.

30.04.2024: Corporal punishment - According to Economy Next, SL will ban corporal punishment in all areas. This paves the way for legal protection to ensure that no child in SL suffers physical or mental violence and is in line with our commitment to protect the rights and welfare of every child. Dutch and British maps.

ECONOMIC PROFILE – April 2024

Remittances	March 2024	about USD 572.4 million
Gross FOREX Reserves	March 2024	↑ USD 431 million to USD 4,951 million
Credit	February 2024	
Private credit		↑ by LKR 22.9 billion
Trade	February 2024	
Exports		about USD 1,059 million
Imports		about USD 1,378 million
Trade deficit		USD 319 million
Current account surplus	by end 2023	USD 1,559 million
Financial account deficit		USD 1.3 billion
Inflation	in the 12 months to April 2024	1.5%
Tourism earnings	First quarter 2024	USD 1,025.9 million
Tax collection	Year 2023	LKR 2,750 billion

RANJINI
AP Economic Analyst
& Coordinator

01.04.2024: Export - According to Economy Next, SL's export associations have protested against the recent sharp appreciation of the LKR, claiming that foreign exchange conversion rules have been imposed on them and some costs are not falling in line with LKR profits, leading to a loss of cost competitiveness. SL's central bank applies a de-facto pegged exchange rate where the agency's domestic assets are reduced against dollar purchases.

03.04.2024: Investment Zone - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe has said that now that SL has stopped relying solely on its Central Bank to ensure economic stability and has chosen to work directly with the market, the next step is to develop into a competitive, export-oriented economy. He envisions a single investment zone encompassing the whole of SL, with investors assuming the role of licence holders. Within this framework, investors will have the autonomy to develop

and manage their own zones.

05.04.2024: IMF - According to Economy Next, SL expects the 3rd tranche of the IMF's extended fund facility by June 2024. Following a review, there is an agreement at a staff level between IMF officials and government representatives. A date will then be set for the IMF to present this agreement. Only then will SL receive the third instalment of USD 337 million.

09.04.2024: Indicative prices - According to Economy Next, SL's Consumer Affairs Authority will publish indicative prices for key imported daily necessities based on import data from customs authorities and domestic costs. The indicative prices are published due to public concern that traders are making large profit margins and that there are large gaps between import prices and retail prices.

16.04.2024: Government Bonds - According to Economy Next, SL has agreed to issue bonds linked to economic performance

(government conditional) in the restructuring of its non-performing government bonds. SL had also signalled willingness to consider a governance-linked bond.

17.04.2024: Rupee - According to Economy Next, the LKR will be brought to 270 to the USD, R. Wickremesinghe mentioned it during a visit to the hill state. SL's Central Bank can appreciate the LKR by pursuing a deflationary monetary policy (selling its securities portfolio to absorb liquidity) and purchasing dollars at a slightly higher rate through its ad hoc exchange rate policy.

21.04.2024: Debt Reduction - According to Economy Next, there was broad support for SL's debt restructuring and recognition of the progress made under the programme at a meeting of the IMF and the World Bank. SL remains firmly committed to achieving the restructuring targets and is confident that it will make smooth progress in its continued efforts to achieve a swift debt resolution that will ensure debt sustainability and

comparability of debt treatment.

25.04.2024: **Interest rates** - According to Economy Next, the 15 % interest rate offered to seniors has now dropped to 8-7 %, even lower in some places. Senior citizens are demanding government intervention to raise the interest rate back to 15 %. SL will require LKR 40 billion a year to increase the interest rate offered to senior citizens on their savings.

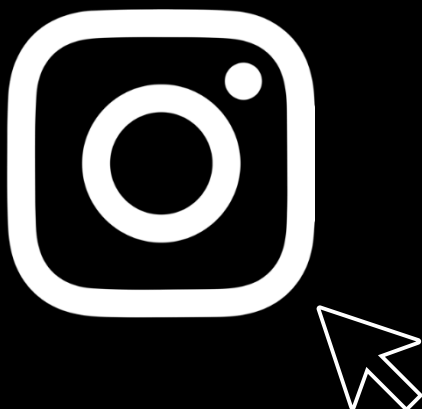


Investment Zone
Source: Economy Next

30.04.2024: **SOE** - According to Economy Next, SL's main state-owned enterprises (SOEs) have reversed their losses in 2022 and will make profits in 2023. SL is in the process of implementing comprehensive reforms in SOEs, including the sale and privatisation of some key companies and reducing the bloated SL state sector.



Debt Reduction
Source: Economy Next



Genocide

23.04.24: The former
Chair of VVT Citizens
Committee Selvendra
Sabaratnam released
' Structural Genocide
and Ethnic Cleansing
of Tamils in Sri
Lanka' in an event in
Jaffna, reports Lanka
Files.

Oppression & Resistance

01.04.2024: **Protest** - Tamil dairy farmers of Mayilathamadu, Mathavanai from Batticaloa continue their ongoing protest against land appropriation for the 200th consecutive day. According to Lanka Files, at least 300 cattle have been shot dead so far.

05.04.2024: **Factory** - SL Minister Douglas Devananda who went to Kilinochchi to open a Tokyo Cement factory in Ponnaveley, was forced to return without opening the factory by protesting locals who condemned damage to their environment and livelihood.

06.04.2024: **Mass Graves** - Investigations at Kokkuthoduvai mass graves have stagnated due to a delay in the approval of funds requested by an expert panel to resume excavations at the site.

07.04.2024: **LTTE** - SL's military has requested additional time from the Court to submit written opposition to a request made by a journalist against the SLA's refusal to provide information regarding LTTE members who surrendered to the genocidal army in the final stages of the war at

the peak of Tamil genocide.

08.04.2024: **HRCSL** - The Ceylon Teachers Union (CTU) lodged a complaint with HRCSL in condemnation of occupational SL police interrogation of principal, staff & students of Union College, Tellippalai, Jaffna regarding an art installation depicting the Gloriosa Lily.

09.04.2024: **Seize** - Occupational SL police are yet to release devotional & food items worth over LKR 300,000 seized on Mahasivarathiri at the Vedukkunari Sivan Kovil despite Court orders to do so.

18.04.2024: **Intimidation** - SL anti-terror police interrogate journalist & Tamil writer Theepachelvan Piratheepan regarding the launch of a novel by veteran writer N. Yogenthiran based on Elephant Pass attack in 2000, reports Lanka Files.

18.04.2024: **Protest** - Locals in Ariyalai, Jaffna have condemned SL health authorities to cease the dumping of hazardous medical waste, in a privately owned land leased for

the construction of a SL state run eye hospital. According to Lanka Files, the locals claim that the waste poses as a risk to locals and the environment.

18.04.2024: **Buddhicism** - According to Lanka Files, the occupational SL Army laid foundational bricks for the Dighavapi temple on occupied lands. They drove away locals from Aalimchenai, Ampara to do so.

23.04.2024: **Genocide** - The former Chair of VVT Citizens Committee Selvendra Sabaratnam released 'Structural Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing of Tamils in Sri Lanka' in an event in Jaffna, reports Lanka Files.

20.04.2024:
Presentation about the Tamil struggle
Basel, Switzerland



The Sri Lankan Civil War
The Eelam War I

Sri Lanka Government
Liberation Tigers of
Tamil Eelam

Jul 1983



Eelamkriege und die
tamilische Souveränität

"They treated us like animals. So we became Tigers."



Ցեղասպանության 109-րդ Ամենակի Ոգեկոչում
Sydney Commemoration of the 109th
Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide

24.04.2024:
109th Armenian Genocide Commemoration.
Sydney, Australia



AKKINIP PARAVAIKAL

This service is provided by:

Akkinip Paravaikal Newsletter

Overseen by Puradsi Media
the Media outlet of Phoenix-the Next Generation

Address Phoenix TNG
Zentweg 27
3600 Bern
Switzerland

Phone +41 79 618 10 33
Email ap.puradsimedia@gmail.com

© Copyright 2019-2024

Puradsi Media

Puradsi Media is the media outlet of Phoenix-the Next Generation

URL <https://www.puradsimedia.com/>
Email contact@puradsimedia.com

© Copyright 2016-2024

Facebook page created: 29.02.2016
Puradsi Media's first article: 04.01.2017