MASS PROTESTS

Protesters hold up placards and chant slogans condemning the killing of the FTZ worker and urging the government to discard the proposed private sector pension scheme.

A group of people led by a government politician wielding clubs and poles gathered near the Vihara Maha Devi Park while the JVP protest was in progress at the Lipton’s Circus.
EDITORIAL

CURRENT ISSUES:

MEDIA UNDER ATTACK
- Another dastardly attack
- Prageeth: 500 days later only questions
- Media forced to plead for life and profession: Media activists

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS
- Katunayake workers rise against Govt. atrocities & diabolic legislation
- Several FTZ workers still missing—Karunanayake
- Tamils in detention camps being harassed: WESL
- TNA urges Govt. to punish culprits

WAR CRIMES
- UN screens Channel 4 Sri Lanka war crimes film
- Investigate war crimes? How, when it’s difficult to find two hard disks!

ARTICLE
- Army barges into Noolaham Foundation meeting in Jaffna
- Thoughts on documentary: We are complicit in Sri Lanka’s Killing Field

UNIT REPORTS
LEGAL UNIT
RESTORATION & PROTECTION UNIT
EDUCATION UNIT
SPECIAL PROJECT
STAFF INFORMATION

EDITED BY
LEELA ISAAC
LAYOUT DESIGNED BY
HASHINI RAJARATNA
COVER PAGE
DAILY MIRROR 3/06/2011
TWO YEARS AFTER THE END OF THE WAR

The UN panel report or the Darusman report was condemned and rejected. The stand taken by the government was "Not a single civilian was killed during the last stages of the war. If some of those dead were found to be in civilian clothes, they were Tigers in disguise, even if they happened to be children or elderly women. No one can say we committed war crimes because no one saw what happened during the last stages of the war. Therefore we don't have to answer any questions raised by UN or the international community." In a way this is true, no one saw what happened at Mullivaikal, Pudukudiyiruppu or Nandikadal in May 2009. There were no witnesses. The UN and the international community actually abandoned those 300,000 civilians, who were left alone to face the LTTE on the one hand and the Sri Lankan army on the other, God knows who killed more civilians, the army or the LTTE. We are only told that about 40 to 60 thousand people died during the last stages of the war.

Now, with the appearance of the Channel 4 video, "Sri Lanka's killing fields", the government is once again plagued by the same questions. Many have seen the documentary and commented. To some it is compellingly indicative of war crimes by the Sri Lankan state. They speak of “credible allegations” that must be investigated. British prime minister David Cameron is reported to have said “The Sri Lankan government does need this to be investigated and the UN needs this to be investigated and we need to make sure we get to the bottom of what happened and that lessons are learnt”. A US embassy official has said, "We are deeply concerned about credible allegations of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights violations in Sri Lanka. We support a full accounting of and accountability for those who engaged in acts that violated international human rights law and international humanitarian law”.

But the Sri Lankan government does not take these allegation seriously, because according to those in power, the channel 4 video is a fake. Its documentary producer Callum Macrace, anchor Jon Snow and everyone else involved in the production of the video are in the pay of the Tamil Tiger Diaspora. Siri Hewavitharana, a Sri Lankan Australian who is described as a leading expert on digital video systems has debunked the video footage. In his opinion the video shows 'doctored images' of naked bodies of women being thrown on to trucks by laughing and joking soldiers. But channel 4 claims that the footage has been authenticated by 4 experts: Forensic pathologist Daniel Spitz, Forensic video analyst Jeff Spivack, Fire arms evidence expert Peter Diaiczuk and Forensic video expert Grant Fredricks. If what our expert Hewavitharana says is the truth he has to prove the other four experts wrong. The Sri Lankan government needs to prove to us and the world that the documentary is a fake, only then can the country's name be cleared. Vehement denials alone will not restore Sri Lanka’s honour.

While this debate goes on in the South the situation in the North doesn’t seem to have improved. TNA (Tamil National Alliance) MPs including Suresh Premachnadran and Sumanthiran have complained to the president that their meeting with their party candidates at Alaveddi on 16th June, was attacked by the army for no reason. "There is no civil administration in the North. Two years after the end of the war, we still live under military rule" they have said. People are also being forcibly photographed and registered by the army and they are naturally gripped by fear.

Prof. Ratnajeevan Hoole, one of the well known, respected intellectuals, too has recently complained to the president, that on May 29th a meeting of ‘Noolaham Foundation’ was rudely disrupted by the army. Colonel Jayawardena and his men had barged into the hall screaming, “No LTTE commemorations, Ministry of Defence orders, Do you understand?” He concludes his appeal to the president with “The government after winning the war is losing the peace - We must point out the irony of our government working with former" (Continued on page 04)
When Anadasangaree speaks on behalf of the Tamil people, Tamils are a little sceptical, because he is seen as an ardent supporter of the Rajapakse regime. Yet even he now feels that the army must be withdrawn from the North. According to him "The people in Jaffna urgently need peace. They want freedom- freedom of speech. Now people in Jaffna can't even have a temple meeting. The army goes and chases them away. This is exactly what happened 30 years ago, and it drove some youth to take up arms against the government. The military presence there is used to keep the people under subjugation”.

It is also reported that EPDP’s dreaded Charles has resurfaced to terrorize the people. Douglas Devananda (EPDP) who has announced his candidature for the Chief ministership of the North seems to have brought back Charles to instil fear among the people and help him win the election. Charles who had been once with the LTTE later joined the winning side (the EPDP).

Anyone who is even very slightly critical of the government is being attacked by the army with the help of the pro-government Tamil politicians. (who are ex-terrorists). Keerthi Tennekoon, the Director of CAFFE (campaign for free and fair elections, is reported to have said, "The attack on the TNA public meeting held on 16th June was not an isolated incident but part of a systematic mechanism to harass opposition party members, who are not allowed to travel freely in Killinochchi, Mullaitive and even in Jaffna. The army and the police are also questioning the opposition party members' families in an attempt to create a fear psychosis" (Sunday leader 19/06) In this environment a free and fair election cannot take place.

What then is the future of the Tamils in Sri Lanka? They do not demand a separate state, but a life of dignity and security. More than all they want to be treated as equal citizens of this country. For more than 25 years Prabhakaran controlled their lives and they remained submissive, not because they lacked the will or the courage to oppose him, but because they could not place their trust in the successive Sri Lankan governments that had betrayed them many times in the past breaking promises and agreements, starting with the Bandaranaike – Chelvanayakam pact in 1958 and ending with Rajapakse’s own APRC (All Party Representatives Committee) report which perhaps is now resting in the dustbin. Mr. Premachandra is quoted saying, “The APRC report contains many positive recommendations. The TNA though not a participant in the APRC deliberations would like to consider them if the government was ready to start a dialogue on the recommendations of the APRC proposals”. But President Mahinda Rajapakse seems to have rejected his own APRC’s proposals, and instead wants to appoint yet another Parliamentary select committee to find a solution to the ethnic problem, on the advice of one of his favourite ministers, (Douglas Devananda). This can only be considered a practical joke being played not only on the Sri Lankans but also on the UN and the International Community!

As long as the Rajapakse regime holds power there will be no solution to the ethnic problem. In fact no Sinhala majority government will grant equal rights to the Tamils fearing that it would lose the support of the Sinhala masses. The majority Sinhalese have been conditioned to believe that the Tamils are ‘foreigners’ who settled down in this country long after the Sinhalese and therefore cannot claim equal status. "They are Elara’s people and we are the descendants of the great King Dutugemunu who defeated Elara the Tamil King. Therefore they cannot be our equals". School children are conditioned to think on similar lines, and they grow up believing that the Aryan Lion race is superior to the Dravidian Tamils. Until Sri Lanka becomes a truly Buddhist Country believing in the teachings of the Buddha the Tamil and Muslims will not be granted equality. In the Vasettha Sutta the Buddha declares the unity of human biology, that there is only one human race. He makes the unambiguous assertion that all human beings belong to the same jati-the human race. It’s only when the Sinhala majority realizes this truth that they will accept he Tamils and Muslims as equals and grant them equal rights. Will that day of realization ever dawn?
CURRENT ISSUES

Media Under Attack

Another dastardly attack

Sri Lanka’s war on terror came to an end two years ago but unfortunately the rule of law is far from restored in all parts of the country. True, people no longer have to live in fear of terrorists but the Opposition and the media continue to suffer at the hands of goons who are above the law to all intents and purposes.

A journalist working with the Jaffna-based Tamil publication, the Uthayan, has come under a goon attack in Jaffna. S. Kavitharan, the victim, has said a gang set upon him near the Hindu College on Saturday. It is very likely that the police will conduct a sham probe into this incident as well and relegate it to the limbo of forgotten things after the public outcry fizzles out.

The Uthayan journalists have been targeted by thugs several times during the past few years but the perpetrators have not yet been brought to justice. The North is currently under heavy security and goons obviously cannot operate with impunity unless they are members of the pro-government militia or rogue elements of the armed forces.

We do not intend to conduct a media trial but the government cannot prevent the blame for attacks on the media being placed at its doorstep because none of them have been probed properly and the culprits have gone scot free. This kind of culture of impunity has caused the Sri Lankan journalists to be in the same predicament as their counterparts in Columbia, where it is said a journalist is free to write anything and anyone else is free to kill him or her for writing that!

The onus is on the government to restore the rule of law in the post-war period and ensure that violence is not used to suppress dissent or criticism of the powers that be.

This is the so-called Age of Information and it defies comprehension why anyone should get so upset by adverse media reports as to assault/kill journalists or mount attacks on media institutions. People have access to all kinds and shades of opinions and are therefore capable of drawing their own conclusions based on facts they glean from various sources. There are effective legal mechanisms to deal with those responsible for publishing slanderous or libellous material. Lies come with a limited life span and those who disseminate them get exposed as was seen during the war and the last few major elections. Anyone can launch a heavily funded publication to propagate diabolical lies to achieve short-term political objectives as is the case in this country. But, such media Sakvithis cannot fool all the people all the time! They become a burden on their sponsors with the passage of time because even the most gullible stop believing in their stories which get exposed for what they really are—hogwash—and because their predictions go wrong leaving them with egg on their face.

One may not agree with the Uthayan on the contents of its reports, its style of reporting, its editorial policy or the views expressed by those who use it as a platform, but its right to function as a newspaper free from attacks, let or hindrance must be guaranteed. The government cannot absolve itself of the responsibility for having the latest attack on a journalist in Jaffna investigated fully and the assailants arrested. That is the only way it can avoid being the main suspect in the eyes of the public.

-The Editorial -
The Island - 30/05/2011

Freedom of expression

The Media Movement for Democracy (MMD) on 09th May staged a demonstration outside the Fort Railway Station to protest attacks on the media. It urged all trade unions and civil society organizations to join together for the protection of democracy in Sri Lanka.
Media rights groups and civil society organizations, at a demonstration to mark the 500th day of the Lanka-e-News journalist Prageeth Ekneligoda’s disappearance, yesterday urged the government to tell the people what was happening to its investigations on his disappearance.

At the Lipton Circus protest the Committee for the Investigation of the Disappeared, the Rights Dialogue and the Free Media Movement asked the government to reveal the whereabouts of Prageeth and demanded that media freedom in Sri Lanka be safeguarded.

FMM General Secretary Dharmasiri Lankapeli said at the time Prageeth disappeared, the government had made various claims about his whereabouts but had avoided revealing it to the country even 500 days later.

"There are many who have been forced to leave the country because of threats and intimidation there in a crackdown on journalists," he said. "There is no media freedom because of this. The government says the war is over so why do they continue with the emergency?" Dr. Wickramabahu asked.

Mr. Lankapeli said the government’s reluctance to do so made us to suspect that the government might have had a hand in his disappearance.

He also stressed that it had been a long time since the killing of Lasantha and Sivaram but sadly no headway had been made in the investigations. "Even after 500 days there are no details about what has happened to Prageeth," Nava Samaja Party Leader Wickramabahu Karunaratne said. He said these disappearances had not happened only in Colombo but also in the North and East.

"If the government knows where he is, it is its responsibility to reveal it to the country," he said. "There is no media freedom in Sri Lanka because of this. The government does not know. The people do not know."

Against this backdrop hundreds braved the scorching heat to gather at the Lipton Circus last Thursday, to protest the disappearance of senior journalist and cartoonist Prageeth Ekneligoda. The protestors including his wife and two sons, friends, relatives, politicians, media groups and human rights activists charged that even 500 days after Mr. Ekneligoda went missing the government has done little or nothing to find him or find out what had happened to him.

His wife Sandya Ekneligoda told BBC correspondent Charles Haviland in Colombo that the family was living under a pall of darkness and in agony not knowing his fate.

Presidential advisor A.H.M Azwer, told Mr. Haviland the head of state cared about the disappeared people and the police were doing their best. He said the security machinery was working slowly and, “only God knows how he will be found, the Government does not know. The people do not know”.  

**The fiction of fearful silence**

The right of dissent or the right to be wrong – according to what any government presumes what’s right and wrong – is fundamental to the growth of a democratic society with time-tested checks and balances among the executive, the legislature, the judiciary and the free media. The right of dissent was the right that first went wrong in every nation, which stumbled down the trail towards disastrous totalitarianism, as we are seeing now in nation after nation in the Middle East.

The government must take care not to confuse dissent with disloyalty. For people to keep quiet when they know things are not right is the reverse of patriotism because then it turns out to be a cover-up for those interests that stand to gain from silence. Is it only the government of the day that holds the copyright on what’s right or what’s wrong, what’s true or what’s false? Are others wrong? This is not the path that the fearless tread but the one that’s tread by the insecure.

Media activists rightly say that journalists have a duty to resist being simply corralled into obedient silence, which is not good for genuine journalism based on the foundational principle of free, accurate and balanced reporting, feature writing or political analysis. Neither is it good for the country or for a participatory and a people-friendly government.

- Daily Mirror - 09/06/2011

- Daily Mirror - 14/06/2011
Media forced to plead for life and profession: Media activists

The UN Panel report on Sri Lanka was prepared not because of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon but because of politicians who intimidated the media and failed to protect its rights, media activists celebrating the World Press Freedom Day said yesterday.

Speaking at a discussion organized to show challenges faced by Sri Lanka media at present, Chandana Sirimalwatte, the editor of ‘Lanka’ newspaper said that when various activities relating to the media is taking place under the theme ‘21st Century Media- New frontiers and new barriers’ around the world, Sri Lankan media was forced to plea to protect their profession and lives.

The discussion under the theme ‘One step to the Guillotine’ held at the Public Library was addressed by Lanka editor Chandana Sirimalwatte, lawyer for ‘We Are Sri Lanka’ organization, Nuwan Bopage, University lecturer Nirmal Ranjith Dewasiri and Pubudu Jayagoda, JVP Political Bureau member.

In his address Editor Sirimalwatte stated that according to the report titled ‘To identify the challenges faced by Sri Lanka journalist’ prepared by Media Movement for Democracy (MMD) for the World Press Freedom Day, in the last six years nine journalists were abducted, 17 journalists arrested, 35 journalists attacked and 11 journalists were killed in Sri Lanka. In addition seven media institutions including newspaper, television and website offices were attacked and completely burnt down.

Unfortunately the President and the Minister of Media had not done anything to protect the media or the journalists other than making speeches stating they would protect them. The government had failed to carry out justice against those intimidated journalists and attacked media institutions. Quoting the report, editor Sirimalwatte said that there are many instances where the police whose duty is to enforce law and order had taken the law into their hand against journalists. It was evident that both the government and the police follow a lethargic attitude to bring the culprits who intimidate and attack journalists and media institutions.

“This was how the Sri Lankan government and politicians who did not take any action when the media was intimidated, paved the way to release a UN report against the country,” the editor reiterated.

Lawyer Nuwan Bopage speaking on the legality of freedom of expression in Sri Lankan media said that the media freedom today has been violated and intimidated as had never happened over the history.

He said according to the legal system of other countries, the journalists enjoy far better freedom and they can report and criticize anybody for the betterment of the society. This is as long as they are not prejudiced and do not have intention to harm anyone. However even in such instances where the report of the journalist has affected someone he can have the opportunity to make an apology.

“The legal system has been used to attack and punish journalists over the history of Sri Lanka and the most dangerous situation is that the Emergency Regulation is being used to arrest journalists and keep them for prolonged detention, Further over the past journalists were branded as terrorists and charged under Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA)”, he said.

He further said that media is reluctant to criticize judicial decisions which in fact is something that should happen. “If it is evident that the politicians are treated differently from others by the judiciary and allowed to get away when there are sufficient evidence against them, the media has the right to criticize,” Attorney-at-law Bopage said.

Meanwhile Dr. Nirmal Ranjith Devasiri, Senior Lecturer of the Department of History at the University of Colombo speaking on the importance of independence of media said that the idea of freedom of expression is a result of the renaissance and obstructing it is denying the benefit of development we achieved from the renaissance.

“The UN Report on Sri Lanka was not an idea of its Secretary General Ban Ki-moon but was a result of public outcry who wanted to know what happened during the war”. He further said that State of Sri Lanka is controlled by one family which is against the ideology of the renaissance.

-Daily Mirror - 04/05/2011
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Here is the palpable and tangible clear evidence of police shooting after storming into the Katunayake zone factories

**Those who gave illegal orders still at large**

Lanka e news is in receipt of clear palpable evidence that on the 30th, the day the Katunayake free trade zone protests were staged, the police not only targeted the protestors on the streets but also the workers within the factories when they went on the shooting spree.

Herein is a photograph which depicts how a Cutter machine within the Smart shirts factory in the free trade zone had been smashed by the reckless and devil may care police shooting and the bullet that was found. If the police had only shot at the protestors in the streets, how come a machine within a Factory has got damaged by a bullet. This is unequivocal evidence that the police had deliberately intruded into the Industry and attacked the workers.

Sirasa news on the day of the incident clearly showed and announced that the police wantonly broke the gates and entered the premises of the workers and shot. This is borne out by the third photograph. How did the police break open the closed gates of the Factory and on what legal justification? Are they law enforcers or law breakers having powers to break open gates and shoot?

Aren’t the defense Secretary and the defense Minister who gave these orders, truly responsible for these atrocities committed by the police? Shouldn’t they stop looking for scapegoats to cover their monumental blunders and ruthless attitudes to workers? Aren’t they the highest in the hierarchy in charge of the national security, and therefore cannot disclaim responsibility under any circumstance?

-Kanka-e-News -04/06/2011

Katunayake workers rise against Govt. atrocities and diabolic legislation: 200 workers, 4 high ranking police officers, 16 others hospitalized – pension legislation withdrawn

It is reported that owing to the police launching attacks on the workers at the Katunayake trade zone who staged peaceful protests against the proposed controversial pension scheme, about 200 workers have been hospitalized. The police had shot at and tear gassed the protestors.

About 200 workers had been hospitalized while about 100 have been arrested by the police.

The peaceful protest which was to be staged this morning at 8.00 by workers was obstructed by barricades placed across on the roads and their Industries disallowing them to freely move out. When the workers resisted this action they were shot at with rubber bullets and tear gassed by the police. This tussle occurred at about 11.30 a.m.

Meanwhile, the bees in a bee nest which was near by disturbed by the tear gassing had begun attacking the policemen who were in the tear gas area. The policemen had run helter skelter owing to the stinging bees which could not be controlled. The policemen, who confronted these stunned sprinting cops running for dear lives taking advantage of the policemen’s plight have given chase to them and attacked. The police had then retaliated by attacking the protestors using rubber bullets.

(Continue on page 09)
When the workers were provoked, the DIG Gamini Navaratne on his phone had desperately asked for assistance of the auxiliary police force, screaming on the phone ‘we are being trapped and attacked from around like flies swarming’, according to our reporters.

The IGP at a media discussion this evening however related a fiction story: about 500 workers raided Katunayake police and tried to use firearms, he said. The police had then used its full powers to protect themselves, and in the process had fired into the air first, and subsequently begun shooting, he added.

The workers Associations at a media briefing today, said the police behaved most cruelly and fired at them. They added that their issue of pension is with the Govt. and not with the police. Yet, the police shot at the unarmed peaceful protestors when they were staging their protests. The police had also intruded into the Industries and caused damage. They have also arrested the workers who were within the Industries. The representatives of the workers associations sternly warned that if the arrested workers are not released tomorrow, the Govt. will have to face monumental problems as the workers would be compelled to mount furious and widespread demonstrations.

- Lanka-e-News - 31/05/2011

From Dr. Nimalka Fernando’s Sivaram Commemorative Lecture given on 05th June 2011

The war is over. But defense expenditure keeps on increasing. The defense allocation for 2011 is Rs. 214 billion as compared to Rs. 201 billion for 2010, an increase of Rs. 13 billion. Logically, such a massive hike in the defense budget should not and need not be in a post war scenario. Yet there is increase in the defense budget and military strength to 300,000. We are not a rich country and are facing a burgeoning debt burden. I asked a Sri Lankan politician where all these funds borrowed is going to, the government is borrowing funds from local banks and also from the World Bank. The simple answer was to pay back for purchasing military equipments as well as to strengthen the defense establishment.

This seems an inexplicable anomaly, until one considers that Sri Lanka is undergoing not one but two radical transformations – from a flawed democracy to not just to a familial oligarchy but also a National Security State. Post-war Sri Lanka is experiencing a galloping militarization in the North and a firm calculated strategy of militarization of the South.

In the North, temporary military camps are being made permanent while new camps and military cantonments are being set up. At an Army Day ceremony held at the Sri ‘Maha Bodhiya’ to bless the Army Flags, the Army Commander has spoken about plans to station at least one army division and one STF camp in each district. Visiting Vanni and the displaced will show us the level of militarization. Resettlement is a process of militarizing the Vanni. While the government is speaking about rapid resettlement what has actually happened or is happening is taking over of land to establish military cantonment surrounding villagers who are going back. Those who are returning have no freedom of movement and there is heavy surveillance. Those who are visiting the area require permission and at times soldiers take photographs using cell phone cameras. This situation reminds me of the occupied territories of Palestine.

Several FTZ workers still Missing - Karunananayake

The main opposition UNP charged that several workers attached to the Katunayake Free Trade Zone were still missing after last week’s incident.

UNP MP Ravi Karunananayake told a news conference yesterday that government should ensure that these workers were found. He made this point by stating that other employees in the free trade zone had complained about the disappearance of their colleagues following a shooting incident which killed a FTZ worker, Roshen Chanaka, last week.

-Daily Mirror - 06/06/2011
‘We are Sri Lankans (WESL)’ an organization agitating for the release of Tamil political prisoners said yesterday Tamils held in prisons and detention camps countrywide were allegedly being abused and neglected by prison authorities.

WESL Executive Committee member and former Inter University Students Federation Convener Udul Premaratne told a media briefing they had received information that individuals who were arrested on suspicion of having links to the LTTE were being harassed by inmates and prison officers.

“These detainees are being mistreated simply because they are ‘Tamil political prisoners’. However, it is an act of injustice to allow them to languish in detention camps without filing charges against them. So far the government has even failed to release the names of those being detained in such centres,” he charged.

Referring to a statement made by Minister Dinesh Gunawardena that at present only about 700 are being detained as LTTE suspects, Mr. Premaratne said the number was quite different to that released by government sources earlier. “According to the government, some 1,700 identified as hardcore LTTE cadres at detention camps. If these figures are accurate, how can the number now suddenly decrease to a mere 700? What happened to the others?” Mr. Premaratne asked.

He said the relatives of some of these individuals were mistreated and even sexually harassed by prison officials during their visits to the prisons. “A large number are continuing to be detained because of the language barrier and the lack of means for legal support,” he added.

Mr. Premaratne said if the government was genuinely interested in restoring peace in the country, it was vital for it to focus attention on the issue of political prisoners and establish a mechanism to ensure that individuals without any charges are released.

-Daily Mirror - 15/06/2011

Fonseka in dirty cell, contrary to medical advice - Karu J.

General (Ret) Sarath Fonseka was being detained in a dusty and dirty cell, contrary to medical advice, the main opposition UNP said on 30th May 2011.

Deputy Leader of the UNP Karu Jayasuriya a told a news conference in Colombo that he had visited Fonseka in his Welikada cell recently and found the place very dusty, dirty and there was also no water in the toilet.

A dirty environment can aggravate Fonseka’s medical condition, according to the doctors who have treated him, but the Mahinda Rajapaksa regime has done nothing to ensure his well being, Jayasuriya said.

He, said that while former LTTE leaders celebrated the ‘Victory Day’ celebrations last Friday, the man who had successfully led the battle against the LTTE was languishing in prison.

It was ironic that those who had attacked the security forces were wining and dining in style, while the architect of the war victory had to consume food that was dished out to common criminals, Jayasuriya said.

-The Island - 31/05/2011

The TNA, while asking the government to bring those responsible for Thursday’s attack on the party meeting in Alaveddi to book, reiterated that they were committed to working with the government on matters of urgent concern of their people and to find an acceptable and lasting political solution within a united country.

TNA leader R. Sampanthan said in a statement to the House that this incident was a very serious attack on democracy, a flagrant violation of human rights and the freedom to engage in legitimate and democratic political activity in Jaffna.

“It confirms again that the military is attempting to rule Jaffna totally disregarding the rule of law. We call for urgent and immediate action to arrest the culprits whose identity is known to the authorities and disciplinary proceedings instituted,” he said.

Also, he said that the assault was premeditated and was carried out by the army itself openly in uniform with impunity.

“The motive is also clearly political and intended to intimidate the voting public, the candidates and the Members of Parliament and prevent a free and fair election,” he said.

He said, “We call upon the Government to act immediately and apprehend the offenders.”

-Daily Mirror - 23/06/2011
**UN screens Channel 4 Sri Lanka war crimes film**

The documentary is an hour-long investigation into the final weeks of the bloody Sri Lankan civil war and features damning new evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Titled Sri Lanka’s Killing Fields, Jon Snow presents the investigation which was shown to the United Nations Human Rights Council on Friday.

Disturbing footage in the film includes the apparent extra-judicial massacre of prisoners by government forces, the aftermath of targeted shelling of civilian hospitals and the bodies of female Tamil fighters who appear to have been sexually assaulted.

Also examined in the film are atrocities carried out by the Tamil Tigers, including the use of human shields, and footage depicting the aftermath of a suicide bombing in a government centre for the displaced.

The UN screening was attended by a number of ambassadors.

---

**The official Mahinda myth about a ‘humanitarian offensive’ with ‘zero-civilian casualties’**

*Excerpts from an article by Tisaranee Gunasekara*

The electronic media (both state and private) relayed the Friday’s Victory celebrations alive, with an accompanying official commentary conveying the new Sinhala supremacist and Rajapaksa supremacist version of the Eelam War. The narrative drew a clear line of connectivity between the Eelam War and the several Chola invasions of ancient Lanka.

This enabled the equation of the ‘Rajapaksa’ victory over the LTTE with the victories of Kings Dutugemunu, Walagambahu and Vijayabahu I. The subliminal message was that the Eelam War was a continuation of repeated attempts by Cholas to occupy Lanka and erase its Sinhala-Buddhist identity. According to this version of ‘history’, the long Eelam War did not begin in 1983 or even in 1976, but in 145 BC when ‘the Chola invader’ Elara killed ‘Sinhala’ king Asela and occupied Anuradhapura! Since then Sinhala Sri Lanka has been engaged in an existential war with Chola invaders; the Rajapaksa victory over the Tigers marks the zenith of Sinhala achievement in this millennia-long struggle for survival!

With such a mindset, the Rajapaksa regime is unlikely to devolve any power to the Tamils or to free the North of de facto military-occupation.

In the post-war battle for power, Gen. Fonseka lost and the Rajapaksa brothers won. And in the ‘victor’s history’ of the war, Sarath Fonseka will have no place, no recognition; he will be a total non-person. Because, according to the Rajapaksa narrative, the Tigers were defeated by President Mahinda Rajapaksa (who was born in Sri Lanka because of the merits of the country and its people). He won the war with the help of his brother and Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, assisted by a host of nameless soldiers.

Commemorating the defeat of the LTTE without Gen. Fonseka is almost as surreal as playing Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark. Gen. Fonseka was part of the politico-military triumvirate which led the war effort. His contribution to its success was every bit as crucial as that of the Rajapaksa siblings. Post-war the Rajapakasas needed to use the victory to bolster their image and promote their familial project. This need transformed Gen. Fonseka from an indispensable ally into an intolerable competitor.

---

Human Rights Review : April - June

Institute of Human Rights
C4 documentary: Conservatives, Labour sponsor LTTE motion

The following is the text of The joint Conservative and Labour motion: "That this House notes Channel 4’s documentary, Sri Lanka’s Killing Fields, broadcast on 14 June 2011, which features devastating new video evidence of war crimes during Sri Lanka’s civil war; further notes that certain footage has been authenticated by the UN and has been declared as evidence of definitive war crimes by the UN Special Rapporteur on extra-judicial killings; condemns strongly the Sri Lankan government for dismissing outright the analysis of the UN Special Rapporteur and its unwillingness to engage in a proper accountability process; urges all hon. Members to view the Channel 4 documentary; supports the Government’s policy of an independent investigation into these allegations; and calls on the UN to establish an independent, international mechanism to ensure truth, accountability and justice in Sri Lanka."

-The Island - 13/06/2011

Investigate war crimes?
How, when it’s difficult to find two hard disks!

Excerpts from an article by Namini Wijedasa

The international community expects Sri Lanka to investigate allegations of war crimes even while the country is unable to figure out how information pertaining to finances of the ICC Cricket World Cup has gone missing. According to reports under circulation two hard drives have been removed from the computers at the Sri Lanka Cricket office in what Sports Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage describes as an “inside job.”

Murder, theft, robbery, rape, assault, threat and intimidation, kidnapping, abduction, bribery and corruption-crimes go routinely unpunished in Sri Lanka. All it often takes is a phone call to the police. Sometimes not even that. Still, we do put on an entertaining show.

For instance, a Presidential Commission of Inquiry was appointed in 2006 to probe sixteen serious violations of human rights. Among them were the killing of Lakshman Kadirgamar, the murder of seventeen aid workers in Mutur, the shooting of five university students on the Trincomalee beach and the disappearance of Rev. Nihal Jim Brown of Philip Neri’s Church at Allaipidi.

A good show
It was a good show. The world watched with interest. International experts came to observe the proceedings before quitting in disgust. The government kept saying sod the international experts, just have faith in the local commission. The commission’s term was extended by the president every six months before it wound up in August 2009 with just seven cases concluded.

Nothing came of the report that was sent confidentially to the president. The crimes largely went unpunished. In the meantime, someone scooted off with two hard drives from Sri Lanka Cricket and we don’t know who that is either.

-Lakbimanews - 19/06/2011
Army barges into Noolaham Foundation meeting in Jaffna

Prof. S. Ratnajeevan H. Hoole,

Project Noolaham has been ongoing since the year 2005 and is run by respectable and responsible Tamil intellectuals. The main purpose of the Noolaham Foundation, a registered charity, is to collect rare books and manuscripts from across the globe, and digitize and make them freely available to all researchers.

In the past year, we added more than 3000 documents to our e-library. We operate on a meager annual budget of about Rs. 1.65 million collected from contributions, working with mainly volunteers consisting of young persons who initially conceived the idea.

This evening we met in Jaffna, as we regularly do on the last Sunday of the month. The highlight today was on preserving sites of ancient cultural heritage through videos and photographs.

As we started, the army arrived and a person identifying himself as Colonel Jayawardene brusquely entered our hall rudely shouting, “Who is in charge?” When the person in charge, an emeritus professor, identified himself, the colonel shouted at him for all to hear: “No LTTE commemorations. Ministry of Defence orders. Do you understand?”

We were allowed to proceed after a Tamil speaking person from the army in civil attire was allowed to sit among us and under the condition that copies of the presentations should be given to him. Soldiers were moving around the hall peeping in on the meeting.

As we left, our names, identity card numbers and addresses and telephone numbers were recorded.

Unfortunately, this is a regular occurrence in Jaffna. Just 2 days ago, an official event at St. Charles’ School was interrupted by the army barging in on a false tip-off.

For peace and prosperity and indeed normality in Jaffna, endeavours like Noolaham’s are of essence. But the gains made by the government are being squandered by the army without any discernment, treating all of us who are Tamil like suspects.

The government, after winning the war, is losing the peace. We must point out the irony of our government working with former hardcore LTTE personnel and using some of them as informants while branding respectable Tamil civilians as LTTE.

I appeal to His Excellency the President to please review how civilians are treated in Jaffna by the military.

-29/05/2011-
-www.transcurrenmt.com-

Excerpts from an article by Anupama Ranawana

Thoughts on a documentary:
We are complicit in Sri Lanka’s Killing Fields

“Sri Lanka’s Killing Fields” is a damning indictment of the various parties involved in the last few months of the civil war. It must be watched critically, and to do so, it is necessary to separate Jon Snow’s narration and open your eyes to the story that you must yourself piece together. In ‘Killing Fields’, however, it is not the high rate of death that overwhelms you, it is the ease with which life loses its value. It becomes nothing to the SLA forces leering gleefully over the bodies of dead cadres; to the LTTE leadership who gunned down their own in the final struggle for Eelam; to the frontline doctors fighting a losing battle; to the thousands of Tamil civilians themselves, as they surrendered to attack from one side and betrayal by the other.

(Continued on page 14)
Channel 4 is to be commended for airing a documentary which provides a great degree of visual confirmation of the atrocities that occurred during the final months of physical hostilities between the Rajapaksa Government and the LTTE. While the story told is emotionally and mentally distressing, the first thirty minutes do not raise issues that those who followed the army’s advances closely were not aware of. Within these several minutes, we are provided with detail of the SLA’s march upon LTTE territory, and the latter’s increasing struggle to hold its ground. Caught between the two, are the tens of thousands of Tamil civilians, sandwiched into increasingly small pockets of land. Reports of the thousands trapped and dying in Puthukkudiyirippu, Mullivaikul, and the infamous No Fire Zones reached the ears of Sri Lanka’s local and internationally led civil society via the text messages and communications from priests, nuns and Tamil NGO personnel trapped within these areas. As the documentary confirms, the Tamil government doctors were in constant communication with the ICRC and the GoSL medical authorities as they requested aid and supplies. To their credit, various organisations attempted to make the local and international public aware of the rising numbers of the dead, and insisted on asking hard-hitting questions from all parties said to be ‘responsible’ for the high civilian count. These reports provided facts about the scale and the magnitude of death, but the human face of the civilian was missing.

Visuals are a more effective method of concretising truth. Images of the LTTE’s attacks on public areas, and the subsequent broken bodies littering the streets of Colombo and Kandy cities confirmed the ruthlessness of the ‘Tigers’ in their struggle for Eelam. The LTTE deliberately used Tamil civilians as a human shield during the last few months of physical hostilities against the Sri Lankan government. They also funded their struggle through both legal and illegitimate concerns; grocery stores in Western suburbs and international heroin trafficking rings. Perhaps in strategy, the LTTE moved far and away from the nobility of a battle for self-determination and equality; but it is impossible not to consider that, in the face of the Sinhala chauvinism that made the national agenda in early postcolonial years, there was no path to follow but one that was volatile, ceaseless and increasingly violent. It should not be forgotten, as the new narratives being written in post-conflict Sri Lanka are attempting to do, that the LTTE’s eventually disastrous acts were political entrapment engendered by the harshness of the Sinhala Raj; they were freedom fighters once.

During the officially recognised thirty year period when the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam fought the forces of the Government of Sri Lanka, the developments of the conflict came to mirror and link themselves with several external phenomena being played out in the international sphere. Specific ideas of freedom, equality and human rights; discourses which were made concrete and hegemonic in the years following the Cold War were thrown into the language of the Tamil freedom struggle, but also framed the general logic for the GoSL in its approach to seeking international succour. The ‘war’ absorbed other discourses as it, unwittingly, moved with the course of history. The regime of George W. Bush, for example, switched Velupillai Prabhakaran’s label effectively from guerrilla leader to terrorist; and as America solidified the rhetoric of the ‘Global War on Terror’, the GoSL was lent legitimacy for its final, devastating advance upon the depleted ranks of the LTTE, ending physical hostilities in the summer of 2009, and, in the words of exultant commentators worldwide, ending Sri Lanka’s ‘terrorist problem’. Significantly, the LTTE were pioneered and refined the art of suicide; a method of attack that would prove important during the events of September 11th. Many observers note that the end to the war in Sri Lanka was a result of a more superior army, the possession of efficient fighting tools, the ruthlessness of the new army leadership and, more often than not, the regime of the Sonia Gandhi-led Congress party in India. A less positivist driven argument would be to consider that the ability of the Sri Lankan government to make the final push; and to eviscerate the LTTE leadership in the manner that they did was made possible because the defeat of terrorism and the death of a terrorist had by then become a valid part of the moral fabric of modern discourse. The image of the lifeless Prabhakaran, shown widely on the international news in a manner that recalled Achilles’ ransoming of...
the body of Hector, was met with an abundance of joy and relief. Almost two years later, the same fate would await Osama Bin Laden- sans the public display. The importance of the example is this; discourse and knowledge authorizes the morality of what were, in both cases, extra judicial murders. The manner of both executions were made possible because the death of a terrorist, a figure impossible to view from any other lens as a feared ‘Other’, has become a moral ‘good’.

The most eerie moment in the documentary is a sequence in which Gotabhaya greets his brother Mahinda. The two men, smile, nod and acknowledge each other- the look that passes between the two of them speaks volumes and one cannot but wonder. Gotabhaya’s guilt is palpable in the hysteria he brings to any non-Rupavahini interview. To return to the point on genocide- as ‘Killing Fields’, The Cage, and several others have pointed out, the evidence of eyewitnesses, doctors, the UN and other non-governmental personnel make it abundantly clear that the SLA leadership was quite aware that when it sent fire and dropped shells into certain areas, they were clearly killing civilians as much as they were LTTE cadres.

This is genocide for it was obviously deliberate and moreover because it was a race crime; intending to obliterate as many Tamil persons as possible, subsuming action under the blanket of the ‘fog of war’. Why else remove the witnesses from the media and the UN, unless you wanted to clear the scene for a premeditated crime? This, overall is the question that the C4 documentary, Weiss’ book and other voices, many of whom have been featured here on Groundviews, have raised. It is a question that we must not stop asking the Rajapaksa’s. Surely, Mahinda Rajapaksa, lawyer and vociferous campaigner for human rights, knew quite well the crime he was about to become party to?

The Channel 4 documentary misses a fourth, and equally complicit party. To lay a j’accuse here is difficult but necessary. The Sinhala public, in Colombo and Kandy and other cities have always known, on some level, of the atrocities carried out by successive Sri Lankan governments, and the Rajapaksa’s in particular. The LTTE abducted little boys from school and made them cadres; the Rajapaksa government accosts journalists on the streets and makes them cadavers or exiles. Young Tamil men are abducted too; Sri Lankans live in a society where true freedom of speech is a fond and mostly forgotten memory, and where a 21 year old lost his life when protesting for his simple right to a fairer pension. We are all, this author included, complicit in this genocide and we must be held accountable because we have preferred to remain silent and un-dissenting. With the exception of a few voices, we have shook our heads and simply accepted what this government and its predecessors have done; we have either been as vaguely inactive as the UN and the international community or we have not done enough. In this way, we have lent and continue to give succour to mass genocide and a future of oppression. The Channel 4 documentary and the roused international middle classes will, for the short time that it holds their interest, ask the UN, David Cameron and Barack Obama to intervene; will ask them what they are going to do about Sri Lanka. It is necessary to ask the Sinhalese – and their middle classes in particular- what will you do? The evidence is mounting; will you remain silent and inactive yet again? It is time that head shaking and the bearing of witness was translated into real action. Free yourselves from the bounds of that modern instinct that asks you to preserve yourself and your society; and look to a struggle that can truly initiate a just and free society.

Hear no evil
Speak no evil
See no evil
**REPORT FROM LEGAL UNIT**

**PRISON CLINIC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Conducted</th>
<th>Prison</th>
<th>No. of Lawyers</th>
<th>Inmates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd April 2011</td>
<td>Vavuniya</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd April 2011</td>
<td>Batticoloa</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th April 2011</td>
<td>Boossa</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th May 2011</td>
<td>Magazine</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th May 2011</td>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th May 2011</td>
<td>Trincomalee</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AWARENESS PROGRAMME**

This program was conducted on a request by the Probation Commissioner of Southern Province. This was held at Dickwella on 7th April 2011. There were 23 participants participating in this program including the Probation Commissioner.

At this program Mr. Charuka Sarasekara - AAL, Mr. Jagath Liyana Arachchchi - AAL and Mr. Sujith Silva – Legal Manager delivered lectures on Child Rights.

**REPORT FROM RESTORATION & PROTECTION UNIT**

**BY CHILDREN FOR CHILDREN**

The Boston kids saved their pocket money to assist children from the North with educational material. As a sub activity the students attending the catch up education classes at IHR - Jaffna Branch were provided with 122 exercise books(120 pages), 33 pens and 16 pencils and 16 erasers worth Rs. 3000/-, for 30 students.

Assisted a widow (a client of IHR- Jaffna branch) with five children

Assisted with the following items amounting to Rs.3000/-. Uniform material, 1 School bag, banions, books, exercise books.
REPORT FROM RESTORATION & PROTECTION UNIT

Child Support Counselling Program

A workshop was organized and held at Global Towers Hotel, Colombo 06 on the 06th & 07th May 2011 on Child Support Counseling for the Community Based Correction (for Juveniles) stake holders who included: 03 from Community based correction dept., Community based correction Officers -5, Community leaders from Kolonnawa-2 , Angoda-1, Wellampitiya-1 : 4, Police Officers: 10 (Dematagoda-1,Kirulla-1, Maligawatta -1,Keselwatta-1 ,Grandpass-1, Modara-1,Borella-1, Kotahena -1,Dam Street 1, Narahenpita-1), Navodaya- Dept. of Social services-1 ,Career guidance -1, Vocational training Center-Kolonnawa-1, Sidharta Child Development Foundation -2 and Save the Children -1.

Resource persons were Mr. W. D. S. Amaratunga , Mr. Ruwan Pattiyagodage Lecturers - National Institute of Social Development - NISD), Mr. Duminda Guruge (Lecturer - Rajarata University).

Motor Mechanic Course Thaldena Young Offenders Correctional Center

In the month of May 10th & 11th 2011 a progress review monitoring visit was made. The balance tools purchased from A C Paul was handed over to them.

The engines were purchased and delivered to the Motor mechanic class. 1 petrol engine, 1 diesel engine, 1 motor bike engine and 1 Three wheel engine.

First batch inmates trained as demonstrators for the practical sessions of the Motor mechanic course, for the second batch

The 1st group participants are demonstrating for the second group, which was a progress happy to note and the seniors who were thorough in their theory and practicals, were seen demonstrating.

Practicals were carried out on the following areas:

- Four stoke Diesel engine
- Braking systems
- Functions of a clutch
- Rear axles and deference practical
- Air Cleaners and distributor Practical
As an expansion to the awareness programmes conducted by the institute, we conducted a Para legal follow up programme for Trincomalee prison officers in Sinhala and Tamil Mediums on 29th May 2011 at Hotel Green Park, Trincomalee.

Resource persons were Dr. Prathibha Mahanamhewa - Senior Lecturer, University of Colombo, Mr Neel Sujith Silva – Legal Manager, Mr V S Niranchan – Legal Officer, Mr E Mariyanesan – Freelance Trainer.

The workshop covered the Positive thinking of Good Governance of the prison & Past experience as a Para Legal & the challengers.

---

**Calling applications for the Diploma in Human Rights (Sinhala Medium)**

The programme is an interactive course that explores the concept of human rights, discusses the 'rights' dimension of global and local events and trends, and builds a community of individuals to participate in making a change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Duration</th>
<th>06 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Sessions every Saturdays from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The lectures will be conducted in Colombo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course fee</th>
<th>Rs.15,000/-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration fee</th>
<th>Rs. 150/-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Members who are interested please visit our website for application forms or contact:

Priyathni at sindip@ihrsri Lanka.org

Tel. Nos : 0112502703 or 0113158863

Website : www.ihrsri Lanka.org

**Institute of Human Rights**

154, 02nd Floor B,

Havelock Road, Colombo 05

For whom

Students, teachers, doctors, lawyers, public sector, private sector, religious sector, NGO personnel, media personnel, youth leaders, service personnel, persons interested in human rights and current affairs.

Delivered by

A panel of human rights academics, activists and professionals working with government, non-governmental and academic institutions

Commencement : 30th July 2011
**Report from Special Project**

**Motivational Programme**

Two volunteers are working as befrienders at Salvation Army. Reports were collected weekly and attended for the necessary interventions.

Four volunteers from American College have attached to Salvation Army to work with the detainees.

In the month of April & May following activities were done by the volunteers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Expected outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mediation, Count down from 100 to 1, breathing holding</td>
<td>Concentration and relaxation of mind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion will be on general topics such as life, problems, and youth.</td>
<td>The result would be to put their negative energy level on the right track.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dancing</td>
<td>Aesthetic aids are in mental development and entertainment..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Therapy</td>
<td>For mental relaxation and concentration.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Juvenile Justice Programs**

It was identified that there was an issue of Birth certificate of the children in Makola and Ranmuthugala certified schools. With the assistance of Ragama Hospital we were able to obtain Certificates of Age for 24 children.

Ranmuthugala Certified School - 14
Makola Certified Schools - 10.

**Methsewana Detention Centre**

Befriending is being continued by 4 National Institute Social Development (NISD) students. We were aware that the need of soap especially for children by NISD students. Provided soap for children donated by private donor.

Motions were filed as per the requirement of the Methsewana and provided other legal advice. Letters were sent to MoJ, MOH and Dr, Jayan Mendis by emphasizing the need of proper treatment and therapeutic care for the mentally ill detainees.

Compiled the data that IHR has received of the detainees at Methsewana to find out the best means of reintegration them with their families and the society. Filed a petition at HRC on Methsewana detainees.

---

**Methsewana Detention Centre**

Befriending is being continued by 4 National Institute Social Development (NISD) students. We were aware that the need of soap especially for children by NISD students. Provided soap for children donated by private donor.

Motions were filed as per the requirement of the Methsewana and provided other legal advice. Letters were sent to MoJ, MOH and Dr, Jayan Mendis by emphasizing the need of proper treatment and therapeutic care for the mentally ill detainees.

Compiled the data that IHR has received of the detainees at Methsewana to find out the best means of reintegration them with their families and the society. Filed a petition at HRC on Methsewana detainees.
### STAFF INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chairman</strong></td>
<td>Jeevan Thiagarajah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Board of Directors</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michelle Gunaratne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leela Isaac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tahirih Q Ayn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H.G.Dharmadasa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal Unit</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manager – Legal</td>
<td>Neel Sujith Silva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Officer</td>
<td>Unica Fonseka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Officer</td>
<td>V.S. Niranchan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Coordinator</td>
<td>K Premaseeli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>Dinusha Bandara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>Varahini Canisius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Consultant</td>
<td>B.N. Thamboo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Educational Unit</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manager – Educational Manager</td>
<td>Menaka Shanmughalingam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Coordinator (Sinhala)</td>
<td>Priyanthi Gamage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Coordinator (English)</td>
<td>Hashini Mahesha Rajaratna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Coordinator (Tamil)</td>
<td>Unita Ferly Bastian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special Project</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants Administrator</td>
<td>Gayani Meegamuge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Officer</td>
<td>Wasana Ellawala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Officer</td>
<td>Ireshika Gunawardena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>Nithiyavani Baladasan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Restoration and Protection Unit</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manager – Restoration and Protection Coordinator</td>
<td>Shirmilla Perera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hashini Mahesha Rajaratna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Finance Unit</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance Officer</td>
<td>Champa Jayakody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Assistant</td>
<td>Ayesha Jeewanthe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Assistant</td>
<td>Shashika Jayasinghe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administration</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Office Assistant / Driver</td>
<td>M Kannadasan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Front Officer</td>
<td>V P Chandima Padmasiri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driver / Office Assistant</td>
<td>Duminda Attygala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jaffna Branch</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Consultant</td>
<td>Jayasingham Jeyaruban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>T. Sanmuganathan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>Shiyamini Rajaratnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anuradhapura Branch</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Officer</td>
<td>Erandhi Thilakaratne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Matara Brach</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Officer</td>
<td>Mettha Sudharshi Narasinghe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>Deeshani Prabhasari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kalutara Branch</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manager – Legal</td>
<td>Neel Sujith Silva</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hot Line:** 077-3760680
**Legal Line:** 011-2502703
**Board Line:** 011-2502703
**Special Project:** 011-2559424
**Finance:** 011-2502810
**Education**: 011-2502703
**Restoration and Protection Unit:** 011-2502810

**Legal**
- legal@ihrsrilanka.org
- sujith@ihrsrilanka.org
- sindip@ihrsrilanka.org
- engdip@ihrsrilanka.org
- tamdip@ihrsrilanka.org
-/legalgs@ihrsrilanka.org
- grants@ihrsrilanka.org
-/rehab@ihrsrilanka.org
- fin@ihrsrilanka.org
- info@ihrsrilanka.org
- ihrapura@gmail.com
- ihrkotapola@gmail.com
- sujith@ihrsrilanka.org