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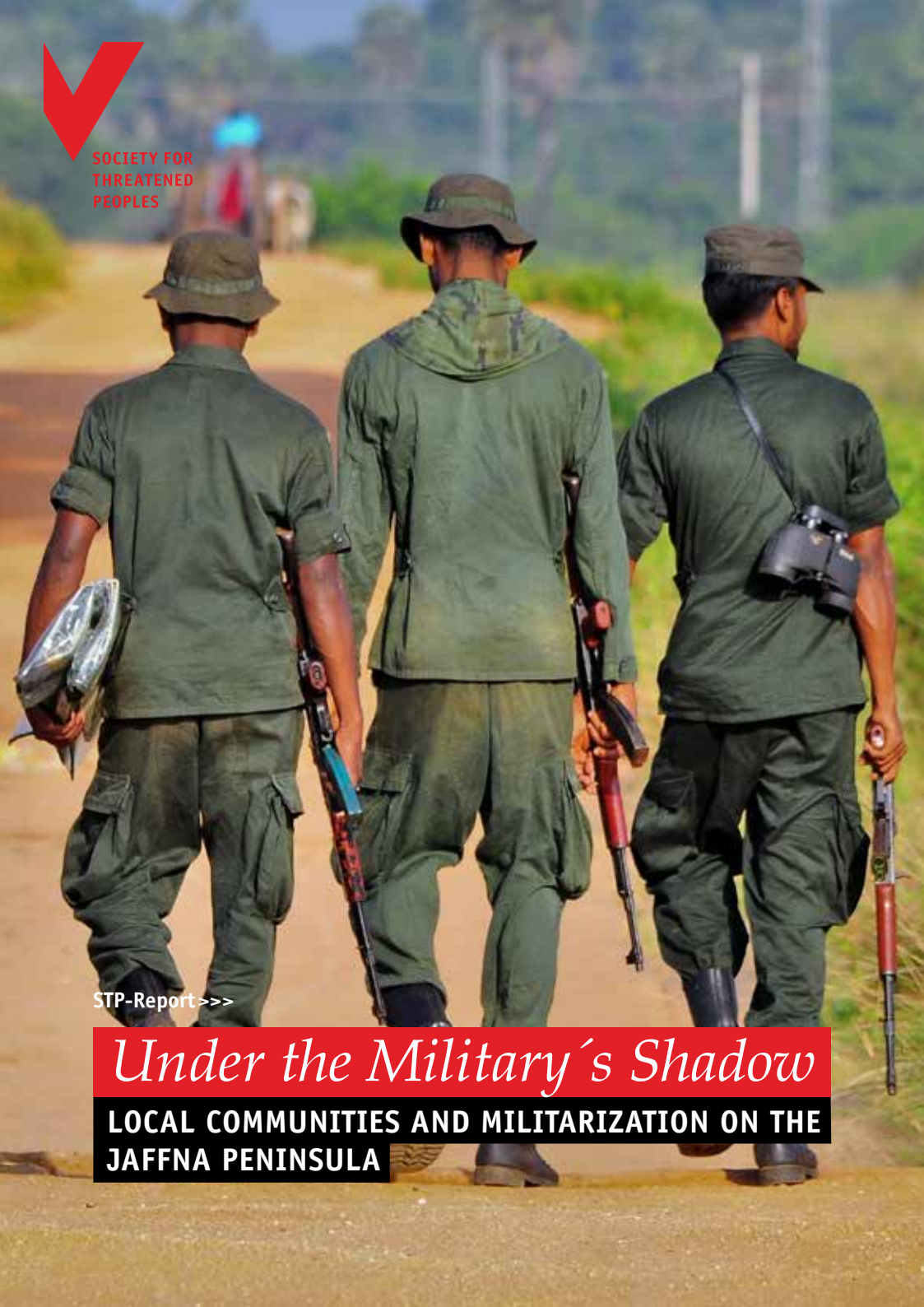
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STP-Report >>>

Under the Military's Shadow

**LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND MILITARIZATION ON THE
JAFFNA PENINSULA**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sri Lanka has experienced a bitter 26 year long civil war. The struggle for a separate Tamil state in the north and east of the island was brutally defeated in 2009 by the Sri Lankan government forces. Tens of thousands people died and millions were displaced as a result of the war. Both sides are alleged to have committed crimes against humanity and war crimes. In January 2015, the incumbent President, Mahinda Rajapaksa, who led the country in an authoritarian direction with an alarming human rights situation, lost the election to Maithripala Sirisena. The new presidency broke with the previous government's authoritarian and repressive practices. However, it has not significantly ameliorated the human rights situation. Torture and ill-treatment of detainees, arbitrary arrest and detention, surveillance and harassment of civil society and journalists are still common in Sri Lanka. Furthermore, ethnic and religious minorities in Sri Lanka continue to experience discrimination.

In this report, the Society for Threatened Peoples (STP) and the National Fisheries Solidarity Movement (NAFSO) reviewed the situation for the local communities on the Tamil dominated Jaffna Peninsula in the north of Sri Lanka. The biggest challenge for the local population is militarization. The military presence has not reduced since the end of the war. As a result, war victims are confronted daily by the security forces, which are allegedly responsible for war crimes. The military surveils, intimidates and harasses the local population and even interferes with the work of NGO staff. Over 25 years ago, the military occupied large areas of land to establish a "High Security Zone" (HSZ). Consequently, the former inhabitants lost their access to land and sea, which has destroyed their livelihood. Furthermore, the commercial activities of the military, like tourism and agriculture, deprive local communities of an important income source.

Even though the war ended seven years ago, tens of thousands of people are still internally displaced on the Jaffna Peninsula. Several thousand of them continue to live in "Internally Displaced People" (IDP) camps, where the precarious living conditions are not adequate for families. The insufficient sanitary facilities, bad waste management and flooding after rain increase the risk disease spreading and accidents occurring. Inhabitants of IDP camps are discriminated against by the Tamil society. Due to the lack of privacy, women do not feel safe in the camps and women-headed households are struggling to meet their families' basic needs, which can result in hunger and malnutrition. If they were resettled to their traditional land they would be able to develop their livelihood and meet their basic needs.

Currently the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) is releasing some areas of land from the former HSZ to the public. Other parts will, however, remain occupied as the “Palaly Cantonment” (former HSZ). The government is resettling IDPs on the released land. Some of the IDPs were resettled on their traditional land where fishing and farming is possible. The other resettlement areas, where people were resettled without their consent, are mostly unsuitable for agriculture and fishing. Therefore, they cannot develop their traditional livelihood. If the government is genuinely serious about their reconciliation process, they need to demilitarize the Tamil dominated areas in Sri Lanka and release the occupied land to its traditional owners. As described above, the consequences of the war are still very much felt today on the Jaffna Peninsula, especially by women, who are the most vulnerable group. They are subjected to increased gender-based violence because of the war. Most cases remain unreported due to social stigma and fear of retaliation. Economic growth on the Jaffna Peninsula also remains very low, poverty rates are high and youth unemployment has become a structural problem. Furthermore, due to Indian trawling boats and migrating fishers from the south of Sri Lanka the fish resources are being destroyed and the fishing quota of the local traditional fishermen is falling drastically.

The STP and NAFSO urge the GoSL to reduce the military presence, to cease the surveillance of local population and order the military to end all of their commercial activities. Furthermore, the government is urged to release all occupied areas to their traditional owners and consult the IDPs on the resettlement process. The STP and NAFSO also recommend that the government support resettling IDPs to develop their traditional livelihoods and provide them with sufficient basic facilities such as drinking water, electricity and sanitary facilities and ensure access to schools and health facilities. For women-headed households in particular, an adequate standard of living free from hunger and malnutrition needs to be ensured by the government.

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www.gfbv.ch

info@gfbv.ch

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INDEX OF ABBREVIATIONS

CID	Criminal Investigation Department
CPA	Centre for Policy Alternatives
EUR	Euro
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoSL	Government of Sri Lanka
HSZ	High Security Zone
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDP	Internally Displaced People
LKR	Sri Lankan Rupee
LTTE	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
MoD	Ministry of Defence
NAFSO	National Fisheries Solidarity Movement
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
STP	Society for Threatened Peoples
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNHCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
US	United States

GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka has been scarred by a long and bitter civil war arising out of ethnic tensions between the Sinhalese majority and the Tamil minority. The “Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam” (LTTE) were fighting for a separate state in the Tamil dominated north and east of the island. In 2009, the “Sri Lankan Military” defeated the LTTE in a brutal military campaign with tens of thousands of civilian casualties and millions of people being displaced.¹ According to the report by the “Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights” (OHCHR) both sides committed acts on a systemic basis that may, if so established by a court of law, constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.² The OHCHR recommends establishing a hybrid special court with international participation to investigate these crimes.³ However, the Sri Lankan government rejects international participation in a war crimes court.⁴

1.1. NEW GOVERNMENT – CRITICAL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REMAINS

In January 2015, the incumbent President, Mahinda Rajapaksa, was unexpectedly defeated in the presidential election by his former ally, Maithripala Sirisena.⁵ Mahinda Rajapaksa lead the country in an authoritarian direction with an alarming human rights situation.⁶ As a result, hopes were high that the new government would ensure the protection of human rights in Sri Lanka.⁷ Several international and local NGOs examined the current human rights situation in the country and

1 Cf. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/27/un-step-sri-lanka-war-crimes-inquiry> (accessed on 02.08.2016).

2 Cf. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): Report of the OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka (OISL), September 2015.

3 Cf. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): Comprehensive report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Sri Lanka, September 2015.

4 Cf. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-35376719> (03.08.2016).

5 Cf. <http://www.news.lk/news/sri-lanka/item/5620-presidential-election-2015-final-results> (02.08.2016).

6 Cf. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13673> (02.08.2016).

7 Cf. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/19/sri-lanka-president-maithripala-sirisena-election-colombo-mahinda-rajapaksa> (02.08.2016).

they all came to a dire conclusion: the first year of Maithripala Sirisena's presidency did not significantly ameliorate the human rights situation in the South Asian country.⁸ Moreover, reports from the UK and US governments have come to a similar conclusion.⁹ There were some improvements under the new presidency, most notably the break with the previous government's authoritarian and repressive practices.¹⁰ Still many human rights challenges remain, including torture and ill-treatment of detainees, arbitrary arrests and detention, surveillance and harassment of civil society, journalists and LTTE sympathisers.¹¹

1.2. OPPRESSION OF MINORITIES

Sri Lanka has always been a multi-ethnic and multi-religious island. Buddhist Sinhalese represent the largest population group, while the largest ethnic minority are Hindu Tamils, followed by Muslims. There are also numerous, well-organised Christian communities in Sri Lanka.¹² Ethnic and religious minorities in Sri Lanka continue to experience discrimination, and religious minorities are subjected to violations of religious freedom.¹³ Muslims and Christians in particular, continue to be harassed by the police, politicians and individuals.¹⁴ Furthermore, there are reports of an increasing number of attacks on Christians, which are usually perpetrated by people dressed as Buddhist monks, who may or may not be actual members of the Buddhist clergy. In most cases local authorities take no action.¹⁵

8 Cf. Human Rights Watch (HRW): World Report 2016. Events of 2015, 2016. / Amnesty International (AI): Amnesty International Report 2015/16. The state of world's human rights, 2016. / Freedom from Torture: Torture in Sri Lanka since May 2009, 2015. / The International Truth & Justice Project Sri Lanka (ITJPSL): Silenced: survivors of torture and sexual violence in 2015, 2016. / Oakland Institute: Waiting to Return Home: Continued Plight of the IDPs in Post-War Sri Lanka, 2016. / People for Equality and Relief in Lanka (PEARL): Withering Hopes. Historic window of opportunity for reconciliation will close if Sri Lanka fails to act on accountability and militarization, 2016. / International Crisis Group (ICG): Sri Lanka: Jumpstarting the Reform Process, 2016. / INFORM Human Rights Documentation Centre: Human Rights Situation in Sri Lanka: Aug 2015 to Aug 2016, 2016.

9 Cf. United States Department of State: Sri Lanka 2015 Human Rights Record, 2016. / Foreign & Commonwealth Office: Human Rights & Democracy. The 2015 Foreign & Commonwealth Office Report, 2016.

10 International Crisis Group (ICG): Sri Lanka between Elections, 2015.

11 Cf. Human Rights Watch (HRW): World Report 2016. Events of 2015, 2016. / The International Truth & Justice Project Sri Lanka (ITJPSL): Silenced: survivors of torture and sexual violence in 2015, 2016. / United States Department of State: Sri Lanka 2015 Human Rights Record, 2016.

12 In 2012, more than 20 million people lived in Sri Lanka. 74.9% were Sinhalese, 11.2% Sri Lanka Tamils, 4.3% Indian Tamils and 9.2% Moors or Muslims. While the Sinhalese predominantly populate the south of Sri Lanka, the majority of Tamils live in the northern provinces of the country. In 2012 religious affiliation was as follows: 70.2% Buddhist, 12.6% Hindu, 9.7% Muslim and 7.4% Christians (Cf. <http://www.statistics.gov.lk/PopHouSat/CPH2011/index.php?fileName=pop42&gp=Activities&tpl=3> (09.08.2016) and <http://www.statistics.gov.lk/PopHouSat/CPH2011/index.php?fileName=pop43&gp=Activities&tpl=3ties&tpl=3> (09.08.2016).)

13 Cf. National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka (NCEASL), Centre for Human Rights Development (CHRD), Minority Rights Group International (MRG): Alternative Report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). Review of the periodic report of Sri Lanka, 2016 (can be accessed at: http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CERD/Shared%20Documents/LKA/INT_CERD_NGO_LKA_24606_E.pdf (22.08.2016)).

14 Cf. Amnesty International (AI): Amnesty International Report 2015/16. The state of world's human rights, 2016.

15 Cf. <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/new.government.old.story.the.ongoing.persecution.against.christians.in.sri.lanka/83845.htm> (09.08.2016).

Transgender people and others who do not conform to social expectations on gender also face arbitrary detention, mistreatment, and discrimination in accessing employment, housing, and health care.¹⁶

Tamils are subjected to systematic discrimination in university education and government employment.¹⁷ There is also evidence that the government continues to help Sinhalese families to migrate to traditionally Tamil areas.¹⁸ The so-called “Sinhalese majority” of the majority Tamil-populated north and east of the island has the apparent objective of bringing about a demographic change in favour of the Sinhalese majority.¹⁹ This process is allegedly facilitated by the military, which is also said to be responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and human rights abuses. Seven years after the end of the civil war, the military influence on civilian life in the north and east remains high, despite the change of government. With this report we analyse the impacts of the militarization on the local communities on the Tamil dominated Jaffna peninsula.

16 Cf. Human Rights Watch (HRW): ‘All Five Fingers Are Not the Same’: Discrimination on Grounds of Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation in Sri Lanka, 2016.

17 United States Department of State: Sri Lanka 2015 Human Rights Record, 2016.

18 Cf. Amnesty International (AI): Amnesty International Report 2015/16. The state of world’s human rights, 2016. / United States Department of State: Sri Lanka 2015 Human Rights Record, 2016.

19 Cf. International Crisis Group (ICG): Sri Lanka’s north I: The Denial of Minority Rights. Asia Report N.219, 2012.



● Fishing Port in Point Pedro on the Jaffna Peninsula

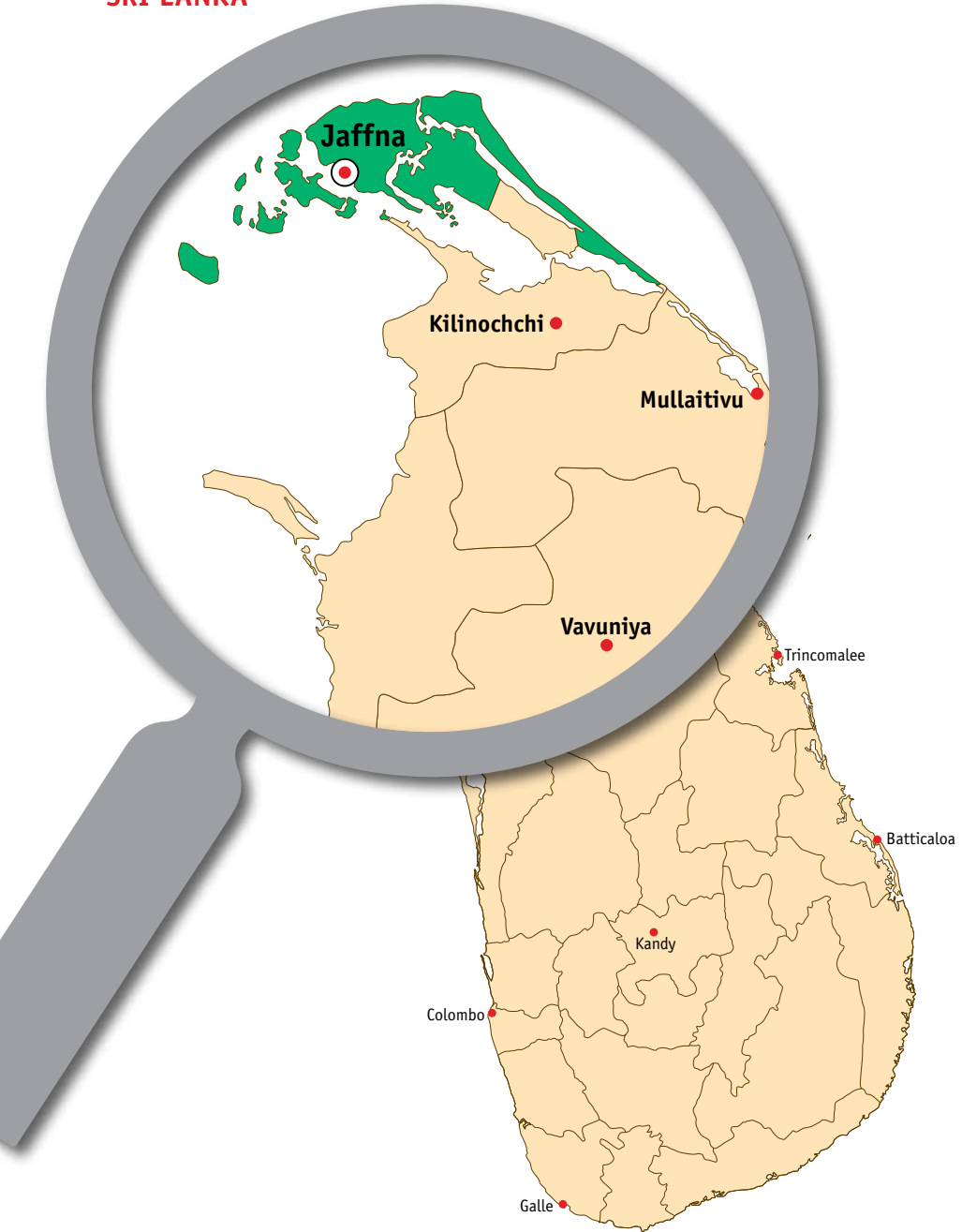
OBJECTIVE AND METHOD OF THE REPORT

2.1. REVIEWING JAFFNA PENINSULA

In February 2015, the “Society for Threatened Peoples” (STP) published the report “Dark Clouds over the Sunshine Paradise. Tourism and Human Rights in Sri Lanka”.²⁰ Since the report concentrated on the three areas of Kalpitiya, Passikudah and Kuchchaveli, the STP decided to look more closely at the Jaffna Peninsula in the north of Sri Lanka, one of the regions most heavily affected by the devastating war. During the research, we realized that, at present, tourism is not advancing in a way that justifies a detailed look. However, we also realized that the presence of the military and its economic involvement is seen as a big problem for the Tamil population and an obstacle to the reconciliation process. There is also a dependency relationship between tourism development and militarisation. We, therefore, decided to shift the focus of the report and began to explore the impact of militarization on local communities on the Jaffna Peninsula. This report analyses if, and to what extent, human rights principles are being applied by military-run businesses regarding the appropriation of land and release of appropriated land. It also characterizes the painful life in an “Internally Displaced People” (IDP) camp.

²⁰ Society for Threatened Peoples (STP): Dark Clouds over the Sunshine Paradise. Tourism and Human Rights in Sri Lanka, 2015 (Can be accessed at: https://assets.gfbv.ch/downloads/report_sri_lanka_english.pdf (22.08.2016).)

SRI LANKA



 North Province

 Jaffna District

 Cities

In our research we investigated the following indicators:

- The economic and social impacts on the local communities of military-run businesses
- The economic and social situation of inhabitants of IDP camps
- The appropriation of land by security forces and the current process of land release of the appropriated land

The statements contained in this report are based on both desk research and field-work. The field study was coordinated and conducted by our Sri Lankan partner organisation the “National Fisheries Solidarity Movement” (NAFSO). The competent multi-ethnic NAFSO research team conducted interviews with several IDPs including women-headed families, representatives of local authorities, government officials, community leaders, clergy, local fishing organisation leaders, resettled fishers and farmers, and collected relevant information.

A significant cause for concern is the fact that the research team was closely monitored and followed by the police and military. It was also disturbed in its work by military personnel. Subsequently, in some cases it was unable to collect further information. For fear of reprisals, many of the interviewees preferred to remain anonymous but gave permission to use their statements in the present report. For the protection of the informants, they have been anonymised in this report.

2.2. HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

Sri Lanka is encouraged to respect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948²¹ and has ratified the UN human rights conventions listed below.²² We used these obligations to identify what we think are current human rights violations that occur in the investigated area on an almost daily basis.

- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights²³
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights²⁴
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment²⁵

21 Cf. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Can be accessed at: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/UDHR_Translations/eng.pdf (22.08.2016)).

22 Cf. http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=164&Lang=EN (22.08.2016).

23 Cf. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ICESCR.aspx> (22.08.2016).

24 Cf. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CCPR.aspx> (22.08.2016).

25 Cf. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CAT.aspx> (22.08.2016).

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women²⁶
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination²⁷
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families²⁸
- Convention on the Rights of the Child²⁹
- Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance³⁰



● *Young girl in resettlement area on the Jaffna Peninsula*

26 Cf. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx> (22.08.2016).

27 Cf. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CERD.aspx> (22.08.2016).

28 Cf. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CMW.aspx> (22.08.2016).

29 Cf. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx> (22.08.2016).

30 Cf. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CED/Pages/ConventionCED.aspx> (22.08.2016).

FOCUS JAFFNA PENINSULA

Jaffna is the capital of the Northern Province of Sri Lanka and is located in the Jaffna district. The Jaffna district comprises of the peninsula and seven inhabited islands.³¹ The overwhelming majority of the population are Tamils with Muslim and Sinhalese minorities.³² The most common religion is Hinduism, followed by Christianity.³³ One third of the population is engaged in agriculture, the leading sector in the Jaffna district. The fishing sector is the main source of livelihood for 11% of the population. Due to the ethnic conflict and the 2004 tsunami, there are many women-headed households in Sri Lanka. According to government figures there are 27,756 in the Jaffna District alone.³⁴

3.1. TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN JAFFNA

The Jaffna Peninsula offers many attractions to visitors like the Dutch Fort and the Nallur Temple in Jaffna city,³⁵ Casuarina Beach in Karaigar³⁶ and Delft Island.³⁷ The region has great potential for tourism development.³⁸ However, it has not been frequented regularly by foreign visitors. With the introduction of a new train service in 2014 from Colombo to Jaffna³⁹ and the planned upgrade of the Palaly airport,⁴⁰ the peninsula is becoming more accessible to tourists.⁴¹ Further-

31 The total land area (including inland waters) is 1,012.01 km² (Cf. http://www.jaffna.dist.gov.lk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=98&Itemid=221&lang=en (12.08.2016).)

32 As of 2013, 610,640 (186,681 families) people were living in the Jaffna district 601,346 are Tamils, 8,939 Muslims and 355 Sinhalese (Cf. http://www.jaffna.dist.gov.lk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=145&Itemid=244&lang=en (12.08.2016).

33 Hinduism (83.23% = 508,260 people), Christianity (15.24% = 93,112 people), Islam (1.42% = 8,939 people), Buddhism (0.0046% = 329 people). (Cf. *ibid.*)

34 Cf. http://www.jaffna.dist.gov.lk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=98&Itemid=221&lang=en (12.08.2016).

35 Cf. <http://www.srilanka.travel/northern-sri-lanka> (28.07.16).

36 Cf. *ibid.*

37 Cf. <http://www.dailymirror.lk/35720/scenic-beauty-and-historical-significance-of-delft-island-> (28.07.16).

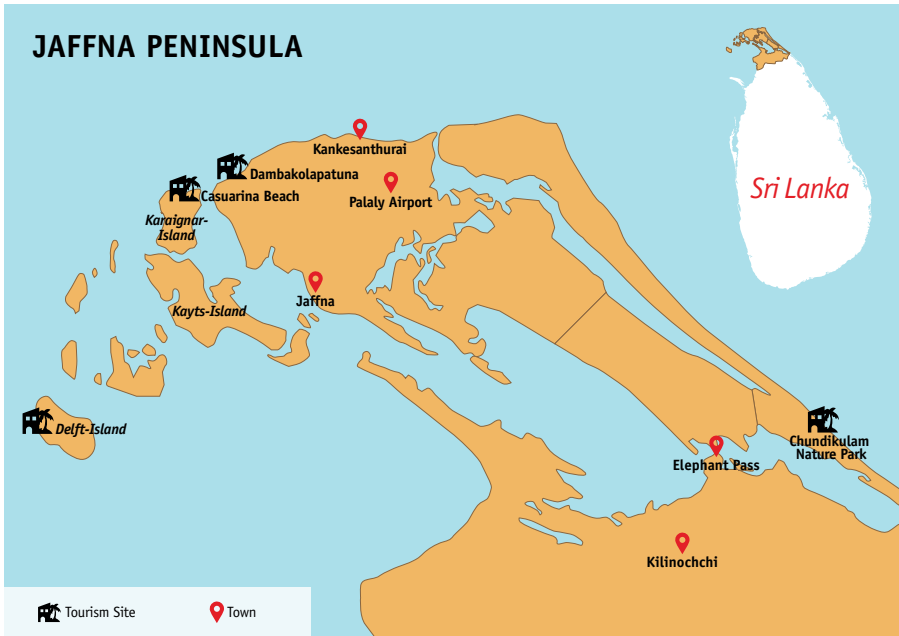
38 Cf. <http://www.cNBC.com/2016/05/11/sri-lankan-hoteliars-bet-big-on-northern-provinces-beaches-history-for-tourism-growth.html> (28.07.16).

39 Cf. <http://travel.cnn.com/introducing-jaffna-sri-lankas-least-visited-and-most-welcoming-city-463971/> (28.07.16).

40 Cf. <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/sri-lankas-tourism-revenue-surges-eightfold-after-end-of-civil-war/article8542491.ece> (28.07.16).

41 Cf. <http://travel.cnn.com/introducing-jaffna-sri-lankas-least-visited-and-most-welcoming-city-463971/> (28.07.16).

more, the opening of the Jetwing Yarl in 2016, the first boutique luxury hotel in Jaffna, aims to attract more foreign tourists.⁴² The hotel shows that businesses can support reconciliation: the Jetwing Yarl employs local people, buys from local producers whenever possible and provides training and job opportunities for young people in the region. By sending its trainees to the south of the country and by hosting people from the south at the hotel, the hotel also fosters contact between the different communities.⁴³ There is a great opportunity for tourism in Jaffna to be developed in a socially responsible and sustainable way. The Jetwing Yarl shows that the local community can also benefit from tourism. Unfortunately, the development of tourism is seldom so inclusive in Sri Lanka.⁴⁴ Yet tourism could be a great opportunity to provide jobs for the unemployed Jaffna youth if developed in a social and sustainable manner.



42 Cf. <http://www.cnbc.com/2016/05/11/sri-lankan-hoteliere-bet-big-on-northern-provinces-beaches-history-for-tourism-growth.html> (28.07.16).

43 Cf. <http://www.ft.lk/article/495869/Jetwing-Jaffna-to-jump-start-northern-economy> (09.08.2016).

44 Cf. Society for Threatened Peoples (STP): Dark Cloud over the Sunshine Paradise. Tourism and Human Rights in Sri Lanka, 2015.

3.2. LACK OF PROSPECTS FOR JAFFNA YOUTH

Neither in Jaffna, nor in the rest of Northern Province has economic growth taken off since the end of the civil war.⁴⁵ While the northern part of Sri Lanka accounted for 40% of Sri Lanka's GDP before the conflict, this contribution has dwindled to just 3% today.⁴⁶ Poverty is high in post-conflict areas in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka, with young people and those with no education most severely affected.⁴⁷ Although there is no figure available for youth unemployment in the Jaffna District, it is highly likely that it exceeds the national average of 21.5% (unemployment rate for youth aged 15-24).⁴⁸ In Jaffna, youth unemployment has become a structural problem caused by the civil war, an underfunded education system, societal expectations of employment and an ineffective post-conflict development policy.⁴⁹ It is, therefore, no surprise that the youth is discouraged and suffers from a lack of prospects. In some cases, they have expressed their discontent on the streets, including through violent means.⁵⁰ In other cases, young and desperate people turn to alcohol and/or drug use as a coping mechanism.⁵¹

3.3. THREATS TO TRADITIONAL FISHING IN JAFFNA

On the Jaffna Peninsula traditional fishers face several threats to their livelihood by Indian pair trawling boats and forcefully migrated Sri Lankan fishers from the south. The local fishers cannot compete with the large boats and their fishing quota is sinking drastically.⁵² Hundreds of south Indian trawlers cross into Sri Lankan waters.⁵³ Their trawling method devours marine species, seaweed, coral and reefs which function as spawning beds for fish breeding. It also affects the relationship between the two neighbouring countries. Several Indian fishers who were fishing illegally in Sri Lanka waters were arrested and their boats seized.⁵⁴

45 Cf. <https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/what-options-for-jaffna-economic-revival/> (12.08.2016).

46 Cf. <http://www.newindianexpress.com/world/Jaffna%E2%80%99s-Glitzy-Exterior-Hides-A-Stagnant-Local-Economy/2016/06/20/article3491125.ec> (12.08.2016).

47 Cf. World Bank: Sri Lanka - Ending poverty and promoting shared prosperity: a systematic country diagnostic, 2016.

48 Cf. http://www.statistics.gov.lk/samplesurvey/LFS_Q1_Bulletin_WEB_2016_final.pdf (12.08.2016).

49 Cf. Bowden, Gilbert: Youth Employment: The key to future political and economic sustainability in a post-conflict country? A case study in Jaffna, Northern Province, Sri Lanka, 2015, p. 79 (can be accessed at <https://ourarchive.otago.ac.nz/bitstream/handle/10523/6357/BowdenGilbert2016MA.pdf?sequence=5> (12.08.2016).)

50 Cf. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): Sri Lanka National Human Development Report 2014 – Youth and Development, 2014.

51 Cf. <http://www.ft.lk/2014/08/12/a-closer-look-at-youth-mental-health-and-some-consequences/> (12.08.2016).

52 Cf. <https://maritimestudiesjournal.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40152-014-0019-0> (25.08.2016).

53 Cf. <http://www.irinnews.org/report/97426/indian-trawlers-hurt-northern-sri-lanka-livelihoods> (25.08.2016).

54 Cf. <http://www.sundaytimes.lk/160814/news/indian-trawlers-wont-be-released-but-talks-to-resume-204977.html> (25.08.2016).

According to the Secretary of the “Jaffna District Fisheries Cooperative Association” the use of illegal fishing gear by migrating fishers from the south of Sri Lanka and from Indian trawler boats are the most serious problems for the local fishing communities in the Jaffna District. The Indian trawlers’ fishing equipment damages the nets of the Sri Lankan fishers, who have to spend LKR 50,000 (EUR 300)⁵⁵ to get a replacement. Indian trawlers are using illegal and destructive fishing gear and kill smaller fish to catch bigger ones. Moreover, the migrating fishers from the south use illegal fishing equipment and even dynamite to catch fish. This destroys the fish resources of the area. Local fishers are unhappy that government officials and local politicians do not take these issues seriously and have not taken effective steps to enforce the law and to minimize the illegal and destructive fishing practices.⁵⁶

Another problem for local traditional fishers from the Kayts is the power of a private fishing union called “Annei Kadal Unau Anaygan”. The union distributes nets to the local fishers and buys all of their fish for a stipulated price. This price is lower than the price for the same fish in Jaffna city so the union keeps the profit while exploiting local fishers. Since they buy all of the fish, the local fishers are left without any fish, so their families cannot produce processed fish products (like dry-fish), which was an important additional income for fishing families.⁵⁷ An even more serious threat to the livelihood of fishers is militarization on the Jaffna Peninsula. The military occupation of land has destroyed the livelihood of several local fishers and farmers. In the next chapters this report will analyse the impact of the militarization on the local communities living on the Jaffna Peninsula.

55 Conversion rate of Sri Lankan Rupee – Euro = EUR 1 = LKR 162.4 (16.09.2016).

56 Talk of research team with Secretary of Jaffna District Fisheries Cooperative Association on 9.8.2016.

57 *ibid.*

MILITARIZATION JAFFNA

The militarization of the north-east of Sri Lanka, which came into effect during the Presidency of Mahinda Rajapaksa, continues largely unabated since the change of government in January 2015 and remains a key obstacle to the return of everyday life. This is despite demilitarization being the principle demand of the Tamil people and the international community. The continued militarization stands in significant contrast to the government's commitment to democratisation and openness to Tamil concerns. The challenges for the local communities due to militarization on the Jaffna Peninsula are enormous. The military intimidates and harasses the local population. Because of the high military presence, war victims are confronted daily with security forces, who are allegedly responsible for war crimes. The military occupation of land and coastal areas including harbors has destroyed the livelihood of fishers and farmers, and local enterprises cannot compete with the military's commercial activities.⁵⁸

4.1. MILITARY PRESENCE

Seven years after the end of the armed conflict, there has still been no reduction of military forces deployed in the north-east of Sri Lanka and President Sirisena has repeatedly insisted that the military presence will be maintained due to national security threats.⁵⁹ As of 2014, at least 160,000 soldiers – mostly Sinhalese – were stationed in the north of Sri Lanka. With a civilian population of just over one million, this amounts to a soldier to civilian ratio of one to six.⁶⁰ After his visit to Sri Lanka in February 2016, the “United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights”

58 Cf. People for Equality and Relief in Lanka (PEARL): *Withering Hopes. Historic window of opportunity for reconciliation will close if Sri Lanka fails to act on accountability and militarization*, 2016.

59 *ibid.*

60 Cf. Oakland Institute: *The Long Shadow of War. The struggle for justice in postwar Sri Lanka*, 2015.

(UNHCHR), Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, urged the "Government of Sri Lanka" (GoSL) to reduce the size of the military force in the Northern and Eastern Provinces to a level "that is less intrusive and intimidating".⁶¹ Unfortunately, the GoSL has allocated even more money to military spending in 2016 than in 2015 so it is unlikely that militarization will decrease soon.⁶²

4.2. MILITARY OCCUPATION OF LAND

Under Mahinda Rajapaksa's regime, government, politicians and the military appropriated about 200,000 acres of land in Sri Lanka.⁶³ During the war, the Sri Lankan military seized significant pieces of land on the Jaffna Peninsula and declared them "High Security Zones" (HSZ), needed for military or otherwise unspecified "public" purposes.⁶⁴ According to the "Centre for Policy Alternatives" (CPA), in March 2016, a total of 12,751.24 acres of land, including both state and privately owned land, continued to be occupied in the Northern Province alone. In the Jaffna district, 73,9475 acres of state-owned land and 6,400 acres of privately owned land remained occupied by the military.⁶⁵ However, the Sri Lankan "Ministry of Defence" (MoD) claims that a total of 10,122 acres has been retained as a HSZ, of which 5,258 acres had been released by 2013, while 4,864 acres are still held as "Palaly Cantonment".⁶⁶ NAFSO and the STP visited the "Palaly Cantonment" (former HSZ) and talked to several former inhabitants to assess whether human rights were violated due to the military occupation of land. The findings are listed in the following table.

61 <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=17025&LangID=E> (15.08.2016).

62 Military budget allocation: 2015: 285 billion LKR; 2016: 306 billion LKR (Cf. <http://www.sundaytimes.lk/151011/news/defence-allocation-rises-education-up-four-fold-presidents-budget-slashed-167583.html> (25.08.2016).)

63 Cf. <http://www.ucanews.com/news/little-hope-for-displaced-sri-lankans-to-have-landreturned/75380> (12.08.2016).

64 Cf. Oakland Institute: *The Long Shadow of War. The struggle for justice in postwar Sri Lanka*, 2015.

65 Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA): *Land Occupation in the Northern Province: A commentary on ground realities and recommendations for reform*, 2016.

66 Cf. http://www.defence.lk/rehabilitation/land_back.asp (22.08.2016).

PALALY CANTONMENT (FORMER HIGH SECURITY ZONE)

Affected Human Rights

Right to freedom of movement; right to life, liberty and security of person; right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; right to adequate standard of living; right to education

Research Findings

The former inhabitants do not have access to land and sea in the Palaly Cantonment. This has destroyed their livelihood. Furthermore, houses and places of worship have been destroyed by the military.

- Due to the ongoing military occupation of land in the Palaly Cantonment local fishers and farmers have no access to land and sea in that area. More than 25 years ago the former inhabitants were displaced by the military.
- No access for fishers to Mayliddy harbour. The harbour is currently used by the military.
- No access for local communities to a military sports- and playground in the Palaly Cantonment.
- Under the previous government, the following places of worship were destroyed: Kurumbamcity Amman Kovil, Mayliddy Vinayagar Kovil, a Catholic Church in Mayliddy and St. Anthony's Church in Urani.
- A convent and a school were destroyed by the LTTE.
- The police also keep some land under their control in Kankesanthurai.
- In the Palaly Cantonment in Kankesanthurai some land belongs to the cement factory. According to a sign in front of this land no one is allowed to enter. In spite of this, the military is building houses to resettle people on the land belonging to the cement factory.
- According to a former inhabitant of Thaiyiddi the army has stolen the doors and windows from their old houses.

Military occupation of the cement factory in Kankesanthurai

The research team visited the cement factory in Kankesanthurai. The industrial facility began operating in 1950, and on 15th June 1990, the military took over the factory, where 2000-2500 people were employed, and closed it down completely. In 2013, compensation was promised and paid to some former employees – after 13 years of unemployment. Senior employees were promised LKR 6 million (EUR

37,000), middle employees LKR 3 million (EUR 18,500) and ordinary employees LKR 1.5 million (EUR 9240). However, out of 2000 employees only 154 have received compensation. A list, shown to the researchers, revealed that the compensation paid often did not match the promised value.⁶⁷ The machines to produce cement were removed from the factory. They may have been sold or relocated by the military. In 2009, since the war had ended, the former employees wanted to reopen the factory. They formed the “Former Employees Association” in 2005 and, on the 25th August 2016, they had a meeting with the “Minister of Industry and Commerce” Rishad Bathiudeen and Chief Minister of the Northern Province C. V. Vigneswaran when it was agreed to reopen the cement factory. The remaining problem, however, is that the land is still under military occupation.⁶⁸



● *Military Barrack in Kaignar*

⁶⁷ A proofing document was presented to the research team, but they were not allowed to take photographs of the document.

⁶⁸ Talk of research team with former employee of the cement factory in KKS on 7.08.2016.

4.3. MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Although military checkpoints have been reduced over the past year and the military is less visible than before, it still remains heavily involved in public life and the economy.⁶⁹ The military is engaged in business activities including construction work, large-scale property development and farming.⁷⁰ Furthermore, the military runs hotels across the country offering tourists a variety of activities.⁷¹ The military-run hotels mostly target domestic tourists. International travel agencies usually do not have these hotels in their programmes. Nevertheless, foreign tourists do also stay in military-run hotels and use other tourist services offered by the military like domestic flights by the “Sri Lankan Air Force”.⁷² Moreover, an extensive network of shops and numerous cafés run by the military forces exist along the roads in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.⁷³ All three active security forces in Sri Lanka (Army, Navy and Air Force) are involved in commercial activities.⁷⁴ The following table diagram explains the impact of military-run businesses on the local community on the Jaffna Peninsula.

MILITARY-RUN BUSINESSES IN JAFFNA

Affected Human Rights

Right to an adequate standard of living; right to freedom of movement; right to life, liberty and security of person; right to participation

Research Findings

The military-run businesses deprive the local communities of various important income sources. Subsequently, people on the Jaffna Peninsula are struggling to find work. The military-run farms send their vegetable products to other regions of Sri Lanka, even though families on the Jaffna Peninsula suffer from hunger and malnutrition.⁷⁵ Local farmers cannot compete with their prices.

69 Cf. People for Equality and Relief in Lanka (PEARL): Withering Hopes. Historic window of opportunity for reconciliation will close if Sri Lanka fails to act on accountability and militarization, 2016.

70 Cf. Oakland Institute: The Long Shadow of War. The struggle for justice in postwar Sri Lanka, 2015.

71 Cf. Society for Threatened Peoples (STP): Dark Clouds over the Sunshine Paradise. Tourism and Human Rights in Sri Lanka, 2015.

72 Observations and talks with tourists and tour operators of STP staff in 2015/2016.

73 Cf. <http://thuliyam.com/?p=31478> (22.08.2016).

74 Cf. World Bank: Sri Lanka - Ending poverty and promoting shared prosperity: a systematic country diagnostic, 2016.

75 See chapter IDP Camps

- Former farmers of land within the Palaly Cantonment used to sell their vegetables in the village, but now the vegetables from this area will be sold by the military in “Dambulla Dedicated Economic Centre”.⁷⁶
- Tamil men and women, who were recruited by the army, work on a banana plantation in the Palaly Cantonment so the profit from the banana production goes to the MoD, instead of local enterprises.
- The military also uses the expertise of recruited Tamil women to get milk from the cows to produce yogurt in a factory in the Palaly Cantonment. 150 people work in the factory. They distribute the products to different shops.
- The military farms chilli and onions in the Palaly Cantonment. They sell the chillies at a market on the Jaffna Peninsula. Local farmers cannot compete with their prices.
- Farmland and a herd of cattle in the Palaly Cantonment in Kumbarcity are managed by the military. The workers on the farm are prisoners and soldiers. The civilian owners of the farmland and cattle herd no longer have access to their land.
- The Sri Lankan Navy offers boat trips for tourists to Delft Island charging LKR 10,000 (EUR 60) per visit.
- There is a hotel in Mayiliddy in the Palaly Cantonment. The local communities call it “Mirror Palace”.⁷⁷ They have no access to this land.
- The Fort Hammenhiel in Karaignar is situated in the sea on an Old Dutch Fort. It is surrounded by a Navy camp, which the public has no access to. The workers at the hotel are soldiers and get their salaries from the MoD.⁷⁸
- The “Thal Sevana Military Resort” within the Palaly Cantonment was widely extended from a former Government Rest House. They used material from destroyed houses to construct the resort. The employees are all soldiers and get their salaries directly from the MoD.⁷⁹



76 “Dambulla Dedicated Economic Centre” is a whole sale market for vegetables and fruits in Dambulla (Cf. <http://www.mtdec.gov.lk/economic-centers/dambulla-dec.html> (25.08.2016).)

77 On Google Map there is a place called “Pearl Beach Holiday Resort” within the Palaly Cantonment. It is most likely that this is the hotel the locals call “Mirror Place” (Cf. <https://www.google.ch/maps/place/Pearl+Beach+Holiday+Resort/@9.8131299,80.0605756,17z/data=!3m1!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x6bad9abe5855b99f!8m2!3d9.8131243!4d80.0627643> (25.08.2016).)

78 Visit to Fort Hammenhiel by author in 2016.

79 Cf. <https://groundviews.org/2015/06/23/tourism-mega-development-in-sri-lanka-results-in-human-rights-violations/> (25.08.2016).

LIST OF MILITARY-RUN TOURIST HOTELS AND SERVICES ON THE JAFFNA PENINSULA:

 <p>Sri Lanka Navy (SLN)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fort Hammenhiel Jaffna^a • Dambakolapatuna Rest Jaffna^b
 <p>Sri Lankan Air Force (SLAF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helitours^c • Air Force Cabanas - Pebble Beach^d
 <p>Security Forces Headquarters Jaffna</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thal Sevana Military Resort^e • Chundikulam Nature Park Resort^f

a Cf. <http://www.forthammenhielresort.lk/> (22.08.2016).

b The Dambakolapatuna Rest Jaffna is a Rest house for pilgrims (Cf. <http://dambakolapatunarest.lk/> (22.08.2016).)

c Cf. <https://www.helitours.lk/> (22.08.2016).

d This hotel can only be visited with Air Force personnel. Cf. <https://www.facebook.com/pebblebeachcabanas/> (22.08.2016).

e Cf. <http://www.thalsevanaresort.com/> (22.08.2016).

f Cf. <http://thalsevanaresort.com/naturepark/> (22.08.2016).

4.4. VULNERABLE WOMEN IN HIGHLY MILITARIZED AREAS

Violence against women has always been an issue in Sri Lanka and the 25-year civil war significantly increased gender-based violence.⁸⁰ The state security forces became known for their use of rape and sexualised torture as a weapon, a practise that peaked after the war ended.⁸¹ Single-mothers in former war zones are particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation, harassment and assault.⁸² Harassment takes place in public spaces, at home or at workplaces and some women are even forced into prostitution or coercive sexual relationships.⁸³ Hardly any perpetrators face legal consequences.⁸⁴ Cases of rape and sexual violence are greatly underreported due to social stigma and fear of retaliation.⁸⁵

According to a female Urban Council member from Point Pedro, women often do not have enough strength to make complaints at the police. Military intelligence

80 Cf. <http://assets.wusc.ca/Website/Programs/WDP/backgroundPaper.pdf> (24.08.2016).

81 Cf. <http://www.womenundersiegeproject.org/conflicts/profile/sri-lanka> (24.08.2016).

82 Cf. <http://www.irinnews.org/report/98978/abuse-marginalization-war-affected-women-sri-lanka%E2%80%99s-north> (24.08.2016).

83 Cf. <http://www.womenundersiegeproject.org/conflicts/profile/sri-lanka> (24.08.2016)

84 Cf. <http://www.therepublicsquare.com/briefs/2013/09/un-survey-on-violence-against-women-in-sri-lanka-97-of-rapists-face-no-legal-consequences/> (24.08.2016).

85 <http://www.womenundersiegeproject.org/conflicts/profile/sri-lanka> (24.08.2016).

monitors the women very closely on a regular basis so that they know if these women can meet their families' basic needs. Because of the strict surveillance they are unable to hide anything from the military meaning that military intelligence personnel can bestow necessities upon them in exchange for sexual favours. This makes women dependent on the goodwill of the military personnel for their daily existence. Of course, these women are afraid to file a complaint as this would end the gift-giving and cause serious harm to their livelihoods. In the area of Point Pedro for example, girls were sexually harassed and exploited by locals and military intelligence. However, they were not able to file a complaint.⁸⁶

4.5. SURVEILLANCE OF THE POPULATION AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Another problem of militarization is the continued surveillance of the population by the military, which harasses and intimidates human rights activists, civil society groups and journalists. Former members of the LTTE, relatives of the disappeared and victims of state land grabs are of particular interest to the security forces and they are regularly subjected to harassment and intimidation.⁸⁷ Sri Lankan intelligence monitors political and civil society meetings, and people who meet with international human rights organisations or foreign diplomats are interrogated by military and civilian authorities.⁸⁸ In addition, there is strong police presence at memorial events in the north and east, and people attending such gatherings are harassed and surveilled by security forces.⁸⁹ The following table shows the surveillance of IDP camp inhabitants and also of the NAFSO research team.

86 Conversation with female Urban Council member in Point Pedro during field visit of STP staff on 24.1.2016.

87 Cf. People for Equality and Relief in Lanka (PEARL): *Withering Hopes. Historic window of opportunity for reconciliation will close if Sri Lanka fails to act on accountability and militarization*, 2016.

88 Cf. United States Department of State: *Sri Lanka 2015 Human Rights Record*, 2016.

89 Cf. Amnesty International (AI): *Amnesty International Report 2015/16. The state of world's human rights*, 2016.

SURVEILLANCE ON THE JAFFNA PENINSULA

Affected Human Rights

Right to security of person; right to freedom of speech and assembly; right to information; right to association

Research Findings

The surveillance of civil society on the Jaffna Peninsula is still ongoing. Intelligence of the security forces intimidates NGO employees and interferes with their work.

- When IDPs protested to demand the return of their traditional land, the “Criminal Investigation Department” (CID) and military intimidated them and collected their personal details.
- According to an inhabitant, the CID disturbs people in the Konatpulam IDP Camp and questions them regularly.
- When the research team were interviewing inhabitants in an IDP camp two people in civilian clothing approached them. The interviewees became reluctant to continue the dialogue because they knew that the two people were from the CID.
- Eight army personnel (including two officers) approached the guesthouse where the research team was staying on 8th August 2016. They wanted to search the rooms of the research team. This was denied. The army personnel said that they were searching for a guesthouse for children, who would be coming to visit Jaffna. They stayed at the guesthouse for more than two hours and interrogated employees and observed guests. They explained that they knew the movements and activities of the researchers and that they were following them. The research team was neither questioned directly by the army personnel nor did they have any dispute. They talked with them in a friendly manner.
- When the research team was waiting in the premises of a “Jaffna District Secretariat” to meet an official, some army personnel followed them. They stood next to them and observed all of their movements. Two of them entered the office while the research team was interviewing the official and they continued following them until the research team left the secretariat.
- When NAFSO conducted research on the situation in IDP Camps in September 2015, the research team were not surveilled in that manner by the military. There were hardly any instances of intimidation and harassment and they were not interrupted in their work.



● Sign of military camp in "Palaly Cantonment"

DISPLACED BY WAR

In the 26-year long Sri Lankan civil war, not only were tens of thousands of people killed, but it also took a heavy toll on the lives and livelihoods of the communities of the north and east of the island. More than a million people had to leave their homes due to fighting or military occupation of their land.⁹⁰ Furthermore, the LTTE forcefully evicted around 75,000 Muslim residents from the Jaffna District.⁹¹ With the end of the war in May 2009, the IDPs hoped soon to be allowed to return home. Yet the continuing military occupation keeps tens of thousands of people away from their homes and livelihoods.⁹² They still live in IDP camps, with relatives or as refugees abroad.⁹³ The “Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre” (IDMC) estimates that 73,700 people were internally displaced in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka as of July 2015, the majority belonging to the Tamil or Muslim minorities. Most of them (65,500 people or 89%) were living in host communities, the rest in IDP camps and about 550 in relocation sites. Although 794,000 people are registered as having returned to their homes, tens of thousands of them still have not achieved a durable solution, more than 7 years after the end of the war.⁹⁴

5.1. IDPS JAFFNA DISTRICT

According to the Jaffna District Secretariat in 2013, 97,052 people were still displaced in the Jaffna Peninsula alone.⁹⁵ The “Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs” claimed that, in June 2015, 42,201 were still displaced.⁹⁶ A study by NAFSO from September 2015 found that

90 Cf. Oakland Institute: The Long Shadow of War. The struggle for justice in postwar Sri Lanka, 2015.

91 Cf. <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/ahilan-kadrigamar-on-muslims-in-north-sri-lanka/article7802951.ece> (16.09.2016).

92 Cf. Oakland Institute: The Long Shadow of War. The struggle for justice in postwar Sri Lanka, 2015.

93 Cf. Oakland Institute: Waiting to Return Home: Continued Plight of the IDPs in Post-War Sri Lanka, 2016.

94 Cf. <http://www.internal-displacement.org/south-and-south-east-asia/sri-lanka/figures-analysis> (17.08.2016).

95 Cf. http://www.jaffna.dist.gov.lk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=162&Itemid=252&lang=en (17.08.2016).

96 Cf. http://resettlementmin.gov.lk/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6&Itemid=22&lang=en (17.08.2016).

1536 displaced families were living in 38 IDP camps in the Jaffna District alone.⁹⁷ According to the government, there were only 1318 displaced families (4737 persons) living in 32 “Open Welfare Centres”.⁹⁸

5.2. IDP CAMPS VISITED BY THE RESEARCHERS

The research team visited four IDP camps (Supermadam Village, Sabapathipillay, Neethawan, Konatpulam) on the Jaffna Peninsula in August 2016 to explore the situation on the ground for inhabitants of IDP camps. The team interviewed several residents of the camps during their visits, including community leaders and were able gather the following information.⁹⁹



- a 84 Parappu (3.8 Hectare), 201 families, 668 persons, 56 women-headed households. The landowner is requesting return of land. In Konatpulam Camp the research team was interrupted by intelligence. So they were not able to collect much information about the situation in the camp.
- b 20 Parappu (0.91 Hectare), 60 families, 194 persons, 18 women-headed households. The landowner is requesting return of land.
- c 250 Parappu (11.4 Hectare), 114 families. The landowner is requesting return of land. The record keeping and maintaining of the camp dwellers information is insufficient in the Sabapathipillai Camp to provide us with accurate information.
- d 10 Parappu (0.46 Hectare), 47 families, 131 persons, 11 women-headed households. The landowner is requesting return of land.

97 Cf. National Fisheries Solidarity Movement (NAFSO): Let them Go Back to their Places of Origin, In and With Dignity”, 2015. (can be accessed at: https://www.esrc-net.org/sites/default/files/final_research_report_07_th_of_sep_without_photo.pdf) (12.08.2016).

98 Cf. http://resettlementmin.gov.lk/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6&Itemid=22&lang=en (17.08.2016).

99 STP knows either the names or further specifications of the interviewed inhabitants of the camps.

"If Mahinda said that he would not let us go from the IDP camps, he kept his word. But, President Maithri said he would resettle us, and yet, we are still in the camps. Why does the military stay in our land? They can release our land."
Male Inhabitant of Konatpulam

5.3. STANDARD OF LIVING IN IDP CAMPS

Inhabitants of an IDP camp face a number of economic, socio-cultural and political challenges in their everyday lives. Among these are poverty, lack of employment, poor infrastructure facilities, limited privacy, and limited access to land, water and places of worship.¹⁰⁰ In addition, IDPs have to deal with the physical and emotional long-term effects of having to live in an IDP camp, not least because there is social stigma attached to living in a camp.¹⁰¹ Before their displacement, people lived on their own land and were engaged in agriculture and fishing.¹⁰² They had diversified sources of income and did not face problems caring for their families' needs. With the loss of their land they also lost their livelihood and their identity, and most IDPs became dependent on daily labour.¹⁰³ According to the local authorities the government has spent LKR 18 million (EUR 110,000) on the basic needs of IDP camp inhabitants and has allocated another LKR 21 million (EUR 130,000) for this year.¹⁰⁴ The research team made the following observations regarding the standard of living in IDP camps:

100 Cf. <https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/caste-camp-people-in-jaffna-landownership-landlessness/> (17.08.2016).

101 Cf. Oakland Institute: *Waiting to Return Home: Continued Plight of the IDPs in Post-War Sri Lanka*, 2016.

102 Cf. National Fisheries Solidarity Movement (NAFSO): *Let them Go Back to their Places of Origin, In and With Dignity*", 2015.

103 Cf. <http://www.internal-displacement.org/assets/library/Asia/Sri-Lanka/pdf/201507-ap-sri-lanka-time-for-a-new-approach-en.pdf> (17.08.2016).

104 Talk of research team with Development Officer of Jaffna District Secretariat on 9.8.2016.

ACCESS TO BASIC FACILITIES (WATER, ELECTRICITY, HEALTH)

Affected Human Rights

Right to health; right to life, liberty and security of person; right to water

Research Findings

Even if drinking water facilities are available in the camps, it does not mean that they meet the needs of all inhabitants. Sometimes they need to overcome many difficulties to get drinking water. The insufficient sanitary facilities increase the risk of disease spreading. Most houses in the camps however were provided with electricity.

- Only three sources of drinking water and three toilets are available for 47 families in **Supermadam Village**. This is not enough to fulfil the necessities of the inhabitants. One toilet belongs to one family in the camp and can only be used by its members. One toilet was built close to a kitchen. The household to whom the kitchen belongs experiences many difficulties (e.g. hygienic, smell) in living there. Additionally, one of the three water sources is a well that belongs to a farmer. He does not allow people to use this well during growing season. During this period he adds oil to the well to prevent people using the water source. Subsequently, inhabitants requested a water line to the camp. This was denied by the local authorities because the inhabitants do not possess legal deeds for the land. The research team identified an old woman with various disabilities who requested water in the tank at her house. Local authorities informed her that she needs to pay one rupee per litre to get water to her house. She cannot afford this so she has to walk one kilometre to fetch water. Five houses in Super Madam Village do not yet have electricity. It has, at least, been promised that it will be provided soon.
- In **Sabapathipillai Camp** the local authorities fill the water tanks for the 114 families with drinking water every day. There are twelve toilets in the camp but only two toilets can be used. The others are out of order. About fifteen houses in the camp do not have electricity yet.
- There are 9 toilets in **Neethawan Camp**, which is not sufficient for the 194 inhabitants.
- Inhabitants in **Konatpulam Camp** have inadequate drinking facilities for their needs. According to inhabitants, the conditions of the sanitary facilities have also become poorer in the last year. If the number of inhabitants (currently 668 persons) remains the same, they will face even greater difficulties.

LIVING CONDITIONS

Affected Human Rights

Right to an adequate standard of living

Research Findings

Living conditions in IDP camps are not suitable for families. Flooding after rain and garbage laying around, in particular, are causing many problems and increase the risks of disease spreading and accidents occurring.

- Almost all of the houses in **Supermadam Village** are in poor condition. These houses are not suitable for habitation. The camp is situated in lowland and floods after heavy rain.
- There is no proper drainage system in **Sabapathipillai Camp**. During the rainy season, water overflows and mosquitoes breed in the drains. The surroundings of the camp begin to smell bad. There was also a very large pile of garbage in the camp area and a young woman (23 years old) wanted to clean the surroundings. She collected the garbage to burn it. Her dress caught fire and she succumbed to her injuries in hospital.
- A child died recently in an IDP camp as a wall fell on him during the heavy rains.



● House in an IDP Camp on the Jaffna Peninsula

LIVELIHOOD

Affected Human Rights

Right to adequate standard of living; right to freedom of movement; right to life, liberty and security of person

Research Findings

The very precarious living conditions in IDP camps are a huge challenge for the inhabitants. Income cannot be generated every day. Monthly income is often exceeded by monthly expenses (see infographic Monthly Expenses).

- There are 75 boats in the area of **Supermadam Village**, but the fishers in the area own only 5 boats. There are about 10 women in the camp who make dry fish. These women sell the processed fish to the shops in the area but there is a lack of space to dry the fish. In 2010, the government stopped supporting the people in the camp.¹⁰⁵ The elders in the camp do not receive a Relief Dry Ration (Samurdhi) or any other allowance.
- Some women in the **Sabapathipillai Camp** know how to sew. Unfortunately, they do not have sewing machines for their self-employment. Some women help fishers to clean the nets while others help on farms. These women are paid only if they work through to the evening.
- Fishers in **Neethawan Camp** earn LKR 1000 (EUR 6.20) per day selling fish and if they do not go to work they will be empty handed. The research team met a woman who sells vegetables. Her income is about LKR 250 (EUR 1.50) per day. Some men work as masons but after the six months contract is over, they are out of work. A female inhabitant makes packets of chilli powder and sells them to a shop in the camp. Her income is LKR 450 (EUR 2.80) per day.

“When President Maithripala Sirisena visited their camp, he checked the cooking vessels to look at what the people eat. It has been six months since he visited the camp and there has been no improvement so far.”

Male Inhabitant of Supermadam Village.

¹⁰⁵ Before each family with less than three members got LKR 1200 (EUR 7.40), families with more than five members LKR 1500 (EUR 9.20) worth of dry goods such as rice flour and sugar. Once the former government declared that all the families in IDP camps were resettled, the donations stopped. (Government declares resettlement process of IDP Camp Inhabitants as completed: <http://www.mfa.gov.lk/index.php/en/missions/mission-activities/3710-minister-samarasinghe-addresses-the-human-rights-council-at-sri-lankas-upr> (30.08.2016).)

**MONTHLY EXPENSES OF A
HOUSEHOLD IN AN IDP CAMP**

**Approx. LKR 30,000
(EUR 185)**

MONTHLY INCOME OF A HOUSEHOLD IN A IDP CAMP



**Approx. LKR 1000 per day
(EUR 6)**



**Approx. LKR 350 per day
(EUR 2–3)**

**Approx. LKR 25,000
(EUR 155)**

Since women earn less than men – even for the same kind of work –
the situation is even worse for woman-headed families.



LKR 81 (EUR 0.5)



LKR 95 (EUR 0.6)



LKR 169 (EUR 1)



LKR 87 (EUR 0.55)

*“We suffer not for us, but for the future of our children.”
Female Inhabitant of Sabapathipillay.*

5.4. SITUATION OF FEMALE INHABITANTS IN IDP CAMPS

Women and children are the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in the majority of IDP camps, making members of female-headed households the most affected group of all.¹⁰⁶ Unlike other women, single mothers are treated neither with respect nor dignity.¹⁰⁷ With 59-84,000 female-headed households in the north-east of Sri Lanka, they constitute a large group of mistreated women.¹⁰⁸ Girls in women-headed households often have to support the family by working as daily labourers, sometimes even at the age of 12. Working mothers are only able to cover the very basic needs of their families and buy cheap food, which can lead to malnutrition and, consequently, results in an ongoing poverty cycle.¹⁰⁹



● *Female Inhabitant of an IDP Camp on the Jaffna Peninsula*

106 Cf. Oakland Institute: *Waiting to Return Home: Continued Plight of the IDPs in Post-War Sri Lanka*, 2016.

107 Cf. National Fisheries Solidarity Movement (NAFSO): *Let them Go Back to their Places of Origin, In and With Dignity*”, 2015.

108 Cf. Oakland Institute: *Waiting to Return Home: Continued Plight of the IDPs in Post-War Sri Lanka*, 2016.

109 Cf. National Fisheries Solidarity Movement (NAFSO): *Let them Go Back to their Places of Origin, In and With Dignity*”, 2015.

ISSUES AFFECTING WOMEN

Affected Human Rights

Right to just and favourable conditions of work; right to non-discrimination; right to adequate standard of living; right to life, liberty and security of person; right to adequate food

Research Findings

Women – especially women-headed households – face enormous difficulties. They do not feel safe due to the lack of privacy and they struggle to meet their families' basic needs, which can result in hunger and malnutrition. Furthermore, widows are treated condescendingly by others.

- Three water sources in **Supermadam Village** are the only place for 47 families to take a bath and wash their clothes. Women, in particular, find it very uncomfortable when men arrive during their bath.
- A female inhabitant of **Sabapathipillai Camp** shared her experience of the workplace. She worked as a cook in a reception hall but most days she did not have any work. Her husband left her because there was once an “unusual, unethical” proposal from the owner of the reception hall. Some people at the camp look down on widows and tarnish them especially when they go out to work.
- Another female inhabitant of **Sabapathipillai Camp** said that she is struggling to feed her children. She works as a daily labourer and it is difficult for her to work because she has a heart condition, but she bears the pain for her children. Nevertheless, she was unable to provide her children with necessary school supplies. She sends only one child to school and the other child stays at home.
- Some women from **Sabapathipillai Camp** help fishers to clean the nets and others help on farms. These women are paid only if they work until the evening.
- At one house, a woman asked the research team if they could buy her some food to cook. She showed them her empty kitchen.¹¹⁰ According to the research team's observation, there are several families, and children in particular, in Sabapathipillai Camp who suffer from hunger. However, these families were reluctant to share with others.
- At a house in **Neethawan Camp**, the research team observed that the inhabitants (a mother and a daughter) had nothing for lunch in their kitchen.

110 The research team provided her food for that day.

5.5. DISCRIMINATION OF IDP CAMP INHABITANTS

IDPs often have a bad reputation among the villagers of the host communities, as they are seen as refugees or outcasts. They cannot behave as freely as others and are sometimes not allowed to participate in religious rituals.¹¹¹ The research team made the following observations regarding the discrimination of IDP camp inhabitants:

DISCRIMINATION OF INHABITANTS

Affected Human Rights

Right to just and favourable conditions of work; right to non-discrimination; right to adequate standard of living; right to life, liberty and security of person

Research Findings

In Tamil society, inhabitants of IDP camps are considered lower caste people. This results in their being denied equal treatment.

- People living in IDP camps are considered to be untouchables or lower caste and are often not recruited when they apply for a job.
- Children from IDP camps are harassed in school. They are labelled “Camp Children”, even by teachers.
- According to a woman in **Neethawan Camp**, sometimes her self-made product is not accepted by shops and considered low quality since it is a product from the IDP camp.
- Women from IDP camps can rarely find work outside of the camp. They are not welcomed by business owners because they live in a camp and are therefore considered a low caste person. Subsequently, most of them are unemployed.
- Educated people from IDP camps cannot find a good job outside of the camp they live in. Moreover, no inhabitant is allowed to hold a position in a Hindu Temple (Kovil).

“If there is a theft in the camp or in the village, the people in the camp are condemned for the theft by others with no proof.”

Female inhabitant of Sabapathipillai Camp (in tears).

111 Cf. National Fisheries Solidarity Movement (NAFSO): Let them Go Back to their Places of Origin, In and With Dignity”, 2015.

RESETTLEMENT PROCESS

The resettlement process of IDPs due to the civil war is currently ongoing. The GoSL, under President Maithripala Sirisena, promised several times to resettle the displaced people and close down all IDP camps.¹¹² According to government sources 33,507 families (104,908 people) on the Jaffna Peninsula were resettled by the 30th June 2016. 971 families (3405 persons) lived in IDP camps.¹¹³ The government claims it will resettle all landless IDPs by the end of 2016.¹¹⁴ Before they claimed that they would have the process finished by August 2016.¹¹⁵ According to a Development Officer of the Jaffna District, the local authorities have a clear plan¹¹⁶ to resettle the displaced people, but the process is very slow. The problem is that the military only releases occupied land step by step. The military does not want to release the land because they run farms and hotels in these areas.¹¹⁷ According to a Human Rights Activist from Jaffna, not all of the land that the government claims to have released was given to displaced people. Some areas continue to be occupied by the military. The details of the resettlement process published by the government are often false. The decisions of the military seem to be more valid than those of the government. The military knows the value of the land for agriculture so they are reluctant to release the land.¹¹⁸

112 Cf. <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/plan-to-close-down-jaffnas-idp-camps-next-month/article8882111.ece> (25.08.2016) and <http://news.lk/news/politics/item/11430-president-assures-to-resettle-idps-in-north-urgently> (25.08.2016).

113 Cf. http://resettlementmin.gov.lk/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5&Itemid=21&lang=en (25.08.2016).

114 Cf. <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/idps-in-jaffna-to-be-resettled-by-yearend/article9008620.ece> (24.08.2016).

115 Cf. <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/sri-lanka-may-shut-31-idp-camps-in-jaffna/article8883514.ece> (24.08.2016).

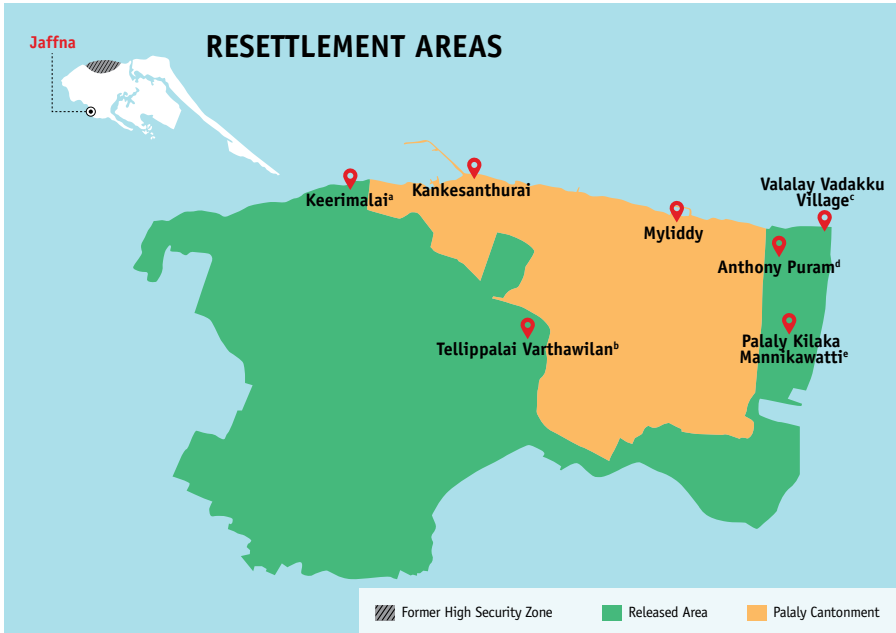
116 The displaced people are not aware of a resettlement-plan.

117 Talk of research team with Development Officer of the Jaffna District Secretariat on 9.8.2016.

118 Talk of research team with Human Rights Activist from Jaffna on 9.8.2016.

6.1. VISITED RESETTLEMENT AREAS

The research team visited four resettlement areas (Palaly Kilaka, Valalay Vadakku, Anthony Puram, Tellippalai Varthawilan) to explore the situation on the ground for the resettled families. The team interviewed people who were resettled to land which was released from the former HSZ.¹¹⁹



^a For the Keerimalai Resettlement Area construction of houses is currently ongoing. 136 families will be resettled (including 100 families from Konatpalam IDP Camp. Because it is not their traditional land the other 101 families rejected resettlement in Keerimalai), resettlement not to their traditional land

^b Resettlement Date: 5th April 2016, number of resettled families unclear, resettlement to their traditional land

^c Resettlement Date: 13th March 2015, 55 resettled families, resettlement to their traditional land

^d Resettlement Date: 28th December 2015, 450 resettled families, resettlement not to their traditional land

^e Resettlement Date: 1st January 2016, numbers of resettled families unclear, resettlement not to their traditional land

“I feel sad as my fellow villagers of my age were waiting to go back to our village, but they could not as they died before resettlement.”

Resettled Person (86 years old) in Tellippalai Varthawilan

¹¹⁹ STP knows either the names or further specifications of the interviewed inhabitants of the camps.

6.2. LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Before their displacement, people lived on their own land and were engaged in agriculture and fishing.¹²⁰ They had diversified and sustainable sources of income and had no problems caring for their families' needs. With the loss of their land they also lost their livelihood and most IDPs became dependent on daily labour.¹²¹ The following observations regarding the development of the livelihoods of resettled people could be made by the research team:

LIVELIHOOD

Affected Human Rights

Right to adequate standard of living; right to life, liberty and security of person; right to work

Research Findings

Fishing and farming are only possible for those who are resettled on their traditional land. The other resettlement areas are mostly unsuitable for farming and fishing. This is a big threat to the development of livelihood and leads to an increase in poverty.

- The port in **Valalay Vadakku Village** was totally destroyed by sea erosion. The monthly income of the inhabitants of the village is approximately LKR 10,000 (EUR 60). According to the resettled fishers, few fish can be caught in the sea. Indian trawling boats are the main cause of the destruction of fish resources. The resettled fishing families received support to develop their livelihood by NGOs and Development Aid Agencies. They also received a dry food ration from the government.
- In **Anthony Puram Resettlement Area** fishers cannot go to sea due to large rocks in the area. If the rocks were to be removed, they could continue their livelihood. Furthermore, on this land the soil is not suitable for farming. The resettled people do not get any livelihood support like the people in Valalay do.

120 Cf. National Fisheries Solidarity Movement (NAFSO): Let them Go Back to their Places of Origin, In and With Dignity", 2015.

121 Cf. <http://www.internal-displacement.org/assets/library/Asia/Sri-Lanka/pdf/201507-ap-sri-lanka-time-for-a-new-approach-en.pdf> (17.08.2016).

- In December 2015, resettled people in **Tellippalai Varthawilan Resettlement Area** received dry rations from the government. A woman from the area told the research team that she receives 500 LKR (EUR 3.00) per day if she works from 8.00am to 6.00pm. However, the resettled people cannot go to work since they have to monitor the progress of the construction of their houses because construction workers or other resettled people might otherwise steal their expensive construction material. Therefore, they have no income.
- The land in **Keerimalai Resettlement Area** is a wasteland. The good red soil in the area was removed by the military. So the land is not suitable for farming. Many families from Konatpulam IDP Camp rejected the offer and requested their traditional land. They do not want to go anywhere else since their traditional land is suitable for farming.

6.3. HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The government is building several houses with the support of the Army in resettlement areas for landless IDPs.¹²² According to the Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs, construction of 65,000 houses is planned for conflict-affected families in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka.¹²³ The houses were planned to be built by the Luxembourg-based company ArcelorMittal.¹²⁴ After heavy criticism by Tamil politicians and civil society groups, the project will be reviewed.¹²⁵ According to a study by the University of Moratuwa, the proposed steel houses have insufficient roof support and inadequate foundations. They are also at risk of corrosion and are poorly ventilated.¹²⁶ The research team acquired the following details on basic facilities and housing:

122 Cf. <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/idps-in-jaffna-to-be-resettled-by-yearend/article9008620.ece> (24.08.2016).

123 Cf. http://resettlementmin.gov.lk/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=218:65new&catid=21:current-projects-2016 (24.08.2016).

124 Cf. <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/sri-lankan-resettlement-ministry-rebuts-criticism-on-new-housing-project/article8513786.ece> (24.08.2016).

125 Cf. http://www.economynext.com/Sri_Lanka_to_review_billion_dollar_ArcelorMittal_tin_house_deal-3-4683-10.html (24.08.2016).

126 Cf. <http://www.sundaytimes.lk/160417/news/mittals-65000-steel-houses-under-fire-from-lankan-experts-189986.html> (24.08.2016).

BASIC FACILITIES AND HOUSING

Affected Human Rights

Right to adequate standard of living; right to health; right to water; right to life, liberty and security of person; right to education

Research Findings

Most of the resettled families were provided with a house by the government. In some cases, not all of the reserved budget was used to build the houses. It remains unclear what happened to this money. In some resettlement areas people were provided with basic facilities like drinking water and electricity. In other resettlement areas, the basic needs of the people have not yet been met.

- Eight families out of 180 in **Palaly Kilaka Mannikawatti Area** receive funds from the “Indian Housing Project”. The allocated amount for each house in the project is LKR 8 million (EUR 50,000). All of the resettled people in Palaly Kilaka Mannikawatti Area have bought electricity and tube well facilities for LKR 17,000 (EUR 105). Initially, the government provided electricity to only a few houses but eventually all families will get electricity. There are no transportation facilities and the roads are in bad condition. They do not have a school and places of worship. There is a Kovil inside the “Palaly Cantonment”, but they are only allowed to visit to participate in religious activities for special occasions. Local authorities have visited the area to select a suitable piece of land to build a hospital.
- The resettled people in **Valalay Vadakku Village** are building their houses with the funds of the “Indian Housing Project”. About 21 families still remain without housing. There are ten water sources in Valalay Vadakku Village and local authorities are delivering water facilities too. Sanitary facilities were funded by an NGO. The road in the village was not built with tar so people get ill because of the dust and it is difficult to walk on. There is a government hospital in Achchuweli and every Thursday a doctor and a nurse visit patients in Valalay Vadakku Village. There was previously a church in the village but it was destroyed during the war. They still have Sunday mass in the place where the church used to be.
- In **Anthony Puram Resettlement Area** resettled people have no electricity, roads and schools. Their basic needs are not met.
- The water source in **Tellippalai Varthawilan Resettlement Area** is being repaired by the local authorities. There will be a water pipe to all houses.

- In **Keerimalai Resettlement Area** the government built houses for the resettled people. Resettled people complained that they were built for LKR 6 million (EUR 37,000) per house though the reserved budget for one house was LKR 8 million (EUR 50,000). Close to the Resettlement Area, waste from the toilets of the Navy camp is directed towards the sea meaning that resettled people find it hard to get clean drinking water.

"If we have our land we can go fishing or plant vegetables. We had a good house before, but now we have to depend only on the land. We are without our basic needs and there is no electricity, no roads and no school for their children. We can rise up if someone supports us with nets and engines. But, the fish resources have been destroyed completely in the area. We do not receive the facilities like Valalay village."
Resettled Person in Anthony Puram



● Land clearing in a resettlement area on the Jaffna Peninsula

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of our research on the Jaffna Peninsula, we conclude the following:

- Freedom of movement is denied for local communities in the Palaly Cantonment. They do not have access to land and sea in that area. Subsequently, the former inhabitants have lost their livelihood.
- The former inhabitants of the Palaly Cantonment were arbitrarily deprived of their property. Their buildings, schools and places of worship were destroyed by the military.
- The most vulnerable group on the Jaffna Peninsula are women and girls. The protection of their bodily integrity is not ensured by the government. They are subjected to gender-based violence, including by the security forces. Most cases remain unreported due to social stigma and fear of retaliation.
- During the armed conflict the military unlawfully grabbed land and displaced people to establish security zones. The military occupation of land and its economic activities deprives local communities of work and livelihood opportunities (particularly in farming and fishing, the main source of income of the local population).
- In some resettlement areas, access to arable land and fishing resources is denied. Fishing and farming are only possible for those displaced people who are resettled on their traditional land. In resettlement areas, where people are resettled on different land without their consent, they cannot develop their livelihood and, therefore, remain in poverty.
- The standard of living in IDP camps is not adequate for families. The insufficient drinking water and sanitary facilities, the flooding after rain and the garbage laying around increases the risk of disease spreading and accidents happening to the inhabitants.

- The inhabitants of IDP camps are living in very precarious conditions. Families cannot generate income every day and monthly expenses often exceed income. In women-headed households hunger and malnutrition are even common. They struggle to meet their families' basic needs.
- Discrimination of IDP camp inhabitants persists on the Jaffna Peninsula. They are considered as untouchables or a lower caste of people, which results in their being denied equal treatment.
- The right to freedom of speech and assembly and the right to information is restricted due to the continued heavy surveillance by police and military on the Jaffna Peninsula. Local activists and NGO employees are intimidated and disturbed in their work. This has even increased since 2015.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to the human rights violations and the prevailing deplorable conditions indicated above, the STP and NAFSO believe and insist that urgent action is required. Our recommendations are addressed to the Government of Sri Lanka and the international community.

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA

- Comply with the human rights framework that the GoSL has ratified and implement the recommendations of the UNHRC Resolution 30/1 on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka.
- Reduce the military presence and order the military to cease surveillance, intimidation and harassment of the local population, civil society, NGO staff and journalists.
- Order the military to cease all commercial activities by dismantling military-run hotels, farms and other businesses.
- Ensure land rights for IDPs by releasing all occupied areas to the public and resettle all IDPs, wherever possible, on their traditional land. If land is absolutely necessary for public purposes, the government needs to legally acquire the land and inform owners of the particular purpose and also compensate them accordingly.
- Consult the displaced people on the resettlement process and make them aware of the resettlement plan. IDPs must participate in the implementation of the resettlement process.
- Compensate IDPs whose houses and other properties were destroyed by the military.
- Provide IDP camp inhabitants and the resettling IDPs with sufficient basic facilities like drinking water, electricity and sanitary facilities. Also access to schools and health facilities needs to be ensured.

- Support the development aid agencies in resettling IDPs and developing their traditional livelihood.
- Ensure adequate standard of living for women-headed households so that their families do not have to suffer from hunger and malnutrition.
- Ensure access to the sea and coast for local fishers and find a durable solution to stop the destruction of fishing resources by Indian trawler boats and migrating fishermen from the south of Sri Lanka in the waters of the Jaffna Peninsula.
- Protect women from gender-based violence and ensure that women are able to file a complaint without fear of retaliation.
- Respect the role of civil society organizations in the reconciliation process and in the empowerment of the people.

TO INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

- Demand that the GoSL complies with the human rights framework that it has ratified and implement the recommendations of the UNHRC Resolution 30/1.
- Ask the GoSL to reduce the military presence and to cease the surveillance by the military and military-run businesses.
- Monitor carefully the resettlement process and ensure the presence of members of the international community on the Jaffna Peninsula.
- Support the resettling IDPs, in coordination with the GoSL, in developing their traditional livelihood.
- Support the GoSL in ensuring an adequate standard of living for inhabitants of IDP camps, resettling IDPs and especially women headed households.
- Support the GoSL in finding a durable solution to stop the destruction of fishing resources by enabling a dialogue between India and Sri Lanka.
- Continue recognition and support of civil society organizations in the reconciliation process and in the empowerment of the people.

WITH THE STP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The Society of Threatened Peoples (STP) is an international human rights organisation that supports minorities and indigenous peoples. It documents human rights abuses, informs and sensitises the public, and represents the interests of victims against authorities and decision makers. It supports local efforts to improve the human rights situation for minorities and indigenous peoples, and works together, both nationally and internationally, with organisations and people that are pursuing similar goals. The STP has advisory status both at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN and at the Council of Europe.



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