

as at 01 March 2017

FESTINALENTE

**ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS, ACCOUNTABILITY, RECONCILIATION
AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN SRI LANKA**

January 2015 – March 2017

STEP	OBSERVATIONS	DATE
MARCH 2017		
Land release	The Air Force released 42 acres of private land to the Mullaitivu GA, ending the protests staged by people in front of the Air Force Base since January 2017.	01 March
FEBRUARY 2017		
Cabinet of Ministers approves compensation payments to those affected by Incidents in Welikada Prison on 9 November 2012	Compensation payments proposed by the Minister of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs, as per the Commission appointed to investigate into the incidents, approved by Cabinet. Compensation payments approved for 16 prisoners who passed away (Rs. 2,000,000.00 each); and 20 injured (Rs. 500,000.00 each)	28 February
Examination of Sri Lanka's Report to CEDAW	Sri Lanka's 8 th Periodic Report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women examined by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	22 February
Legislation to give effect to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance Bill was published in the Government Gazette <i>English:</i> http://documents.gov.lk/files/bill/2017/2/01-2017_E.pdf <i>Sinhala:</i> http://documents.gov.lk/files/bill/2017/2/01-2017_S.pdf <i>Tamil:</i> http://documents.gov.lk/files/bill/2017/2/01-2017_T.pdf	09 February
Legislation to give effect to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	The Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to: -publish the 'International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance Bill' in the Government Gazette; and -to present the said Bill in Parliament, for approval	07 February
Commemorative Stamp on NIR	A commemorative stamp and first day cover were issued to mark the National Integration and Reconciliation Week with the participation of the President during the Religious Schools Programme held at BMICH with the participation of approximately 500 religious school teachers representing all four major religions in the country	03 February
Religious Schools Programme	President Sirisena participated as Chief Guest of the Programme as Minister of National Integration and Reconciliation to emphasize the importance of religious schools system and teachings towards forging national integration and reconciliation; approximately 500 religious school teachers from	03 February

	each of the 4 religions participated to discuss how to institutionalise NIR in their respective schools systems. Religious leaders too addressed the gathering, and at the end of the programme, each religious group expressed their commitment towards establishing NIR through the religious schools. Material on key messages on NIR to be taken back to the religious schools and students were distributed among the participants.	
JANUARY 2017		
Land released in January in the Northern and Eastern Provinces	1,383.51 acres (state land); 30.54 acres (private land) released by the Army	1-31 January
International workshop of experts on the participation and protection of children in reconciliation	SCRM and UNICEF organized a 3 day activity with international and national experts on the participation of children in the 4 mechanisms to be established, and guarantees of non-repetition. The activity included an expert workshop, a public conference and a panel with the diplomatic corps in Sri Lanka.	30-31 Jan and 1 Feb
Taking Consular Services to the Regions	The first regional consular office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was opened in Jaffna. This enables more efficient service delivery and easier access to services for the people in the region who had to earlier travel to Colombo to obtain consular services	26 January
Dialogue with the Military on Reconciliation	Three dialogue sessions were held engaging approximately 120 high ranking officers of the Army, Navy and Air Force on the policies related to reconciliation: Colombo, Galle and Jaffna.	18-26 January
The National Human Rights Action Plan	The National Human Rights Action Plan (2017-2021) that was evolved through a wide consultative process by the inter-ministerial committee set up by Cabinet, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers. It is to be published shortly.	17 January
Access to suspects by Lawyers	The draft law to provide access to suspects by legal counsel, to ensure the rights of a suspect arrested, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers and the Legal Draftsman has been requested by the Cabinet to draft necessary legislation, and publish the draft in the Government Gazette and present in Parliament for approval.	10 January
Policy and Legal Framework relating to the Counter Terrorism Act	The Draft Policy and Legal Framework relating to the Counter Terrorism Act which was prepared by a Committee and subsequently submitted to the Parliamentary Oversight Committee by Cabinet, was amended to bring it in line with human rights norms and standards. The Cabinet of Ministers decided on 10 January 2017, to refer the Amended Policy and Legal Framework to the Parliamentary Oversight Committee on Legal Affairs, and approved the drafting of Legislation.	10 January
National Integration and Reconciliation Week observed	-A Pledge for National Integration and Reconciliation was taken by all Sri Lankans in public institutions, schools, and in Parliament.	09 January

	<p>The pledge in Sinhala, Tamil and English: http://mfa.gov.lk/index.php/en/media/media-releases/6745-nirw-17</p> <p>-All government schools island-wide were instructed through the respective Zonal Department of Education to declare the pledge on National Integration and Reconciliation during the week and to have student representatives speak on NIR at student assemblies and classrooms through the week. Following schools were selected for special awareness programmes: Royal (Colombo), Vivekananda (Colombo), Fathima Muslim Ladies' College (Colombo), Hartley (Jaffna), Vaddukodai Hindu College (Jaffna), Ananda (Colombo)</p>	
Launch of a Reconciliation TV Channel	-MoU between the Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation and the National Rupavahini Corporation was signed. Rs 180 million has been allocated for this purpose in the 2017 Budget	08 January
Launch of 'Corporate Sector as agents of change' programme	<p>ONUR (Office of National Unity and Reconciliation) began a programme of engaging with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) and the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Sri Lanka (FCCISL) to integrate reconciliation on a continuous basis in their events/ gatherings</p> <p>A poster campaign on reconciliation where posters were placed at CCC and FCCISL was started.</p>	08-14 January
The Task Force appointed to carry out public consultations on Reconciliation Mechanisms handed over their Report to Government	<p>The Report of the Consultation Task Force was handed over to Former President and Chairperson of the Office of National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR), Madam Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, who accepted the Report on behalf of President Maithripala Sirisena. Key recommendations are being considered in the design of the TJ mechanisms.</p> <p>http://www.scrm.gov.lk/documents-reports</p>	03 January
National Programme 'Lets Protect Children' 2017-2019	A three-year National Programme titled 'Lets Protect Children' proposed by the President aimed at avoiding abuse, ensuring child protection, health, nutrition, and welfare and personality development, education and life skills, was approved by the Cabinet	03 January
The Right to Information Act operationalized	Announcement through Gazette Notification that the Right to Information Act will come into effect from 3 February 2017	January
Budgetary allocation to the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka	Allocation in 2017 budget for the National Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka – Rs. 19 million	All of 2017
Housing for the Internally Displaced	Allocation in 2017 Budget for 5,732 houses – Rs. 4,785 million; to the Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs	All of 2017
		All of 2017

Compensation allocated to the Rehabilitation of Persons, Property and Industries Authority (REPPIA)	Budgetary Allocation for compensation payments for 2017 to REPPIA, under the Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs – Rs. 574,000,000.00	
DECEMBER 2016		
Compensation paid by REPPIA in 2016	11, 932 beneficiaries (Rs. 605,809,359.00) paid by the Rehabilitation of Persons, Property and Industries Authority (REPPIA), Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs	All of 2016
Land released in 2016 in the Northern and Eastern Provinces	5,515.98 acres (state land); 2,090.03 (private land)	All of 2016
Houses handed over to the Internally Displaced in 2016	11,253 houses (Rs. 8,963,109,779.69) handed over to the Internally Displaced – Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs	All of 2016
Right to Information Commission	The appointment of all 5 Commissioners to the Right to Information Commission was completed, thus facilitating the functioning of the Commission	22 December
National Integration and Reconciliation Week declared	The Cabinet of Ministers approved a proposal submitted by the President to declare the week of 8 January – 14 January every year, beginning from 2017, as the National Integration and Reconciliation Week, with the aim of focusing attention on strengthening peace, harmony and fraternity among the people of the country. Programmes focusing on reconciliation are to be held throughout the country in schools, media, and public and private institutions during this week.	20 December
National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) 2017-2021	The draft National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) which was drafted through an inter-ministerial committee set up by Cabinet (18 May 2016), and a broad multi-stakeholder consultative process was presented to the Cabinet of Ministers on 16 December 2016, for approval. The draft is presently being studied by Cabinet.	16 December
North-South Exchange Programme	40 community leaders from Jaffna visited Matara District; stayed with host families in Matara and visited different places of religious and cultural importance. At the end of the visit, they took part in a cultural programme together with people in Matara.	14-18 December
Partnership established: SCRM – IOM	The International Organization for Migrations (IOM) and SCRM established a partnership to share information (international best practices and technical assistance) on the implementation of the Reparations Office. Project supported by the Government of Australia.	14-18 December

Funds for the Office on Missing Persons	Funds for 2017 allocated in the National Budget 2017 under Miscellaneous Vote	10 December
Elimination of Violence against Women within the work place, and empowerment of women	A proposal submitted by the Minister of Women and Child Affairs to establish Committees headed by Senior Officials of Ministries, Departments and Institutions functioning at district level, to eliminate violence against women within the work places, with a view to empowering women in line with international conventions etc., was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers	06 December
Partnership established: SCRM- UN WOMEN	UN Women prepared terms of reference for technical assistance on the participation of women and girls in transitional justice mechanisms, and delivered a briefing to the technical committee on reparations and the working group on the TRC.	28 November- 15 December
NOVEMBER 2016		
Enabling legislation on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	Draft Bill on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance was submitted to the Secretary to the Cabinet by the Prime Minister. The Cabinet Memorandum requests approval for the following from Cabinet: (a) to publish the draft Bill in the Gazette; and (b) to present the draft Bill in Parliament	24 November
Measures to prevent delays in the administration of justice	Draft amendments to the Civil Procedure Code to introduce a pre-trial system to prevent delays in the administration of justice was adopted by the Cabinet.	22 November
North-South Exchange Programme	42 community leaders from the South visited Jaffna. They held discussions with leaders of different religions; obtained insight into the lifestyles of the people in Jaffna as each person was placed with a host family in Jaffna. At the conclusion of the visit, they participated in a Shramadana/volunteer programme to paint/ colourwash a hospital complex in Jaffna together with the people from Jaffna	11-15 November
Guidelines for the maintenance of temporary shelters to provide protection for women victims of violence	Cabinet granted approval for Guidelines for the Maintenance of temporary shelters to provide protection for women victims of violence as, apart from Government shelters, temporary shelters are also maintained in private premises with the assistance of police, hospitals and NGOs	8 November
Resettlement of the Internally Displaced: purchase of private land	As per the Ministry of Resettlement, there are 220 families for whom lands remain to be identified for resettlement. Since there is a scarcity of land in the Jaffna District, it was proposed to purchase private land to provide 20 perches of land each per family in order to resettle these 220 families.	8 November

	The Cabinet of Ministers approved the allocation of Rs. 88 Million for the purchase of private land required for this purpose, through the District Secretary, Jaffna.	
Third Sitting of the Constitutional Assembly	<p>-The 3rd sitting of the Constitutional Assembly was presided over by the Speaker as Chairperson of the Constitutional Assembly.</p> <p>-The 1st Interim Report of the Steering Committee (chaired by the Prime Minister) was presented to the Constitutional Assembly. This Report is a compilation of the 6 sub-committee reports on Fundamental Rights, the Judiciary, Law & Order, Public Service, Public Finance, and Centre-Periphery Relations. The Steering Committee will consider these reports and prepare the Final Report to be placed before the Constitutional Assembly.</p> <p>-Apart from the areas covered by the 6 sub-committees, the Steering Committee is engaged in directly deliberating on core subject areas pertaining to the nature of the State, form and structure of government, principles of devolution, religion, electoral reform, and land. The 2nd Interim Report of the Steering Committee is to be based on these deliberations and presented to the Constitutional Assembly. The Interim Reports do not constitute final decisions of the Steering Committee and the contents of both Reports will be debated by the Constitutional Assembly in early February 2017.</p>	19 November
Moratorium on Death Penalty	Sri Lanka voted in favour of the UN Resolution on the Moratorium on the Use of the Death Penalty	17 November
Policy Framework and National Plan of Action to address Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) in Sri Lanka	The Policy Framework and National Plan of Action to address Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) in Sri Lanka 2016-2020 was launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs	16 November
Convention Against Torture	Sri Lanka's 5 th Periodic Report was considered by the Committee Against Torture	15-16 November
Regional Consultations on Transitional Justice	Hosted the Regional Consultations on Transitional Justice in the Asia-Pacific, in Colombo, initiated by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation, and guarantees of non-recurrence	09-10 November
Held discussions on Transitional Justice with the participation of the Special Rapporteur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -with bipartisan group of Ministers -with Military Commanders and Chief of Defence Staff -with Sri Lanka Foreign Service Officers 	07-08 November
	-Gazette Notification 1992/25 of 9 November 2016	9

<p>Amended the List of Designated Persons under Regulation 4(7) of the UN Regulation No. 1 of 2012</p>	<p>http://www.documents.gov.lk/files/eqz/2016/11/1992-25_E.pdf http://www.documents.gov.lk/files/eqz/2016/11/1992-25_S.pdf http://www.documents.gov.lk/files/eqz/2016/11/1992-25_T.pdf</p> <p><i>The number of entities at present: 08</i> <i>Original in 2014: 16</i></p> <p><i>Number of persons at present: 86</i> <i>Original: 424 (ref. Gazette Extraordinary No. 1854/41 of 21 March 2014)</i></p>	<p>November</p>
<p>Witness and Victim Protection Law</p>	<p>The Police Victim and Witness Protection Division was inaugurated (as per the provisions of the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act)</p>	<p>3 November</p>
<p>Penal Code (Amendment) Draft Bill – Increasing the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility</p>	<p>In view of the minimum age of 8 years being considered too tender to attach criminal responsibility, a proposal was made to the Cabinet of Ministers to amend the Penal Code to increase the age of criminal responsibility of a child from 8 to 12 years, and confer a Magistrate with the discretion to punish a child between 12 years and 14 years only in cases where he finds that such a child has attained sufficient maturity of understanding to judge the nature and consequences of his conduct on that occasion. Approval by the Cabinet of Ministers is to be Gazetted and presented to Parliament.</p>	<p>1 November</p>
<p>OCTOBER 2016</p>		
<p>Interfaith Dialogue (ongoing)</p>	<p>A programme that is intended to promote inter-faith dialogue including inter-ethnic and inter-cultural dialogue to promote national unity and reconciliation. Under this programme, religious priests, government officials, and village leaders are provided training to be change agents and advocaes to facilitate inter-ethnic harmony at the grassroots level.</p> <p>33 Training of Trainer programmes (TOT) have been conducted by end-October 2016, 121 one day workshops were completed in Jaffna, Anuradhapura, Ratnapura districts with 3221 multi-religious participants who will in turn advocate national integration and reconciliation at grassroots level</p>	
<p>National Plan for Women Headed Households</p>	<p>With a view to ensuring the contribution of women and performance in the development process, a combined approach is being planned to be implemented island-wide for ‘women headed households’. Cabinet granted approval for a proposal by the Minister of Women and Child Affairs to formulate a three-year National Plan for Women Headed Households in respect of fields such as health, psycho-social support, livelihood development, support services, protection, social security, raising community awareness</p>	<p>18 October</p>

Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues	Received the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues	10-20 October
Training for Judges, Prosecutors and Police with assistance of CTED, Australia and the USA	The 11 th Regional Workshop for Judges, Prosecutors and Police in South Asia on 'Effectively Countering Terrorism' was jointly hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka, the UN Counter-terrorism Executive Directorate, organized by the Global Center on Cooperative Security with the support of the Governments of Australia and the USA.	3-5 October
SEPTEMBER 2016		
Acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled		30 September
Public Disorder Management	A circular on public disorder management was issued to all members of the Sri Lanka Police by the Inspector General of Police. The circular stipulates the protocol to be adhered to by Police Officers when responding to disruption of law and order by groups of persons.	28 September
National Reconciliation Policy	The Draft National Policy on Reconciliation was presented to the Cabinet of Ministers. The Policy is under discussion in the Sub-Committee.	27 September
Deposit of the Instrument of Ratification - Paris Agreement	President Maithripala Sirisena deposited the Instrument of Ratification at the United Nations in New York, through which Sri Lanka formerly joined the Paris Agreement	21 September
Tamil Speaking Police Officers	216 male Tamil-speaking Police Officers were recruited and they commenced training. In addition, 26 Tamil-speaking female officers and 14 sub-inspectors whose vernacular is Tamil were recruited in 2016.	15 September
Parliament debated Climate Change and the Paris Agreement and endorsed its Ratification		9 September
Received the Secretary-General of the UN, Mr. Ban Ki-moon who visited Sri	The SG had meetings with the President, Prime Minister, Speaker of Parliament and Political Party leaders, the Leader of Opposition, and civil society representatives. He visited Galle and Jaffna as well.	31 August – 2 September

Lanka at the invitation of the Government		
Cabinet of Ministers approved the ratification of the Paris Agreement	The Paris Agreement will be debated in Parliament on 9 September It is expected that the President will lodge the Instrument of Ratification at the UN in New York on 21 September	6 September
Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	Sri Lanka's 2 nd Period Report was considered	1-2 September
AUGUST 2016		
Partnership established: ICRC-SCRM	The International Committee of the red Cross and red Crescent and SCRM started cooperation to provide the OMP with technical assistance, on several issues including the technical requirements for the OMP, training for future staff.	August
Parliament approved the Bill to amend the Registration of Deaths (Temporary Provisions) Act No 19 of 2010	Approval of this amendment enables the issuance of 'Certificates of Absence'	25 August
Speaker of the Parliament signed into law, the Bill to establish the Office on Missing Persons	The Office on Missing Persons Act is now in force.	23 August
National Policy on Durable Solutions for conflict-affected displacement approved by the Cabinet of Ministers placed before Cabinet	The Policy was drafted through a process of wide consultations, and with UN expertise. <i>http://resettlementmin.gov.lk/site/images/stories/new.pdf</i>	16 August
A Declaration was deposited with the UN Secretary-General recognizing the competence of the UN	A Declaration was deposited with the UN Secretary-General under Article 22 of the Convention Against Torture (CAT) to the effect that the Government of Sri Lanka declares, pursuant to Article 22 of the Convention Against Torture, that it recognizes the competence of the Committee to	16 August

Committee Against Torture (CAT) to receive individual complaints	receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals subject to its jurisdiction who claim to be victims of a violation by Sri Lanka of the provisions of the Convention https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CN/2016/CN.587.2016-Eng.pdf	
Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	Sri Lanka's combined 10 th to 17 th Periodic Reports in one document, was considered	15-16 August
Parliament approves the Bill to establish the Office on Missing Persons	Parliament approved the Bill on the establishment of the Office on Missing Persons without a vote	11 August
Establishment of Strategic Consultants Group (SCG)	By recommendation of the Special rapporteur on Truth, Reparations, Justice and Guarantees of non-Recurrence, SCRM established an embedded Strategic Consultants Group, to incorporate international best practices into the TJ mechanisms.	01 August
JULY 2016		
Amendment to the Mediation Boards Act	An Amendment to the Mediation Boards Act aimed at preventing delays in the administration of justice was enacted by Parliament http://www.parliament.lk/uploads/acts/gbills/english/6012.pdf The Mediation Board (Amendment) Act, No 9 of 2016 was certified on 21 July 2016	8 July
ICCPR Optional Protocol	The process to formally bring the ratification of the Optional Protocol before Parliament commenced with a view to obtaining formal Parliamentary approval. The Hon Prime Minister stated in Parliament that the Government reconfirms the continued validity and applicability of the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR for Sri Lanka and is firmly committed to implement its provisions. It is expected that the Hon. Speaker will give a ruling on the matter in the coming months.	7 July
Draft Bill for the issuance of Certificates of Absence entered in the Order Paper of Parliament	https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/orderpapers/1467369214028055.pdf	5 July
Amendment to Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act No 4 of 2015	The Act was brought into operation in May 2016. An amendment to the Act to provide for the victims and witnesses of a crime to record evidence or a statement through audio-visual linkage, from anywhere outside Sri Lanka, without his personal attendance in Court, and to give such	5 July

	evidence through Sri Lanka diplomatic Missions abroad, while ensuring the freedom and lack of any duress on the witness, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers	
JUNE 2016		
A march held to create awareness on the problem of torture and campaign against the phenomenon	-The President and the Minister of Law & Order joined the walk organized by the National Human Rights Commission	30 June
Right to Information Act passed by Parliament unanimously (without a vote)	<i>-Revision made before enactment: Where the request for information concerns the life and personal liberty of a citizen, the response to it shall be made within 48 hours of the receipt of the request. This revision made to the Bill before enactment, enables a family member of someone arrested or disappeared to access information on an expedited basis. It was originally limited to the 'citizen making the request'</i>	24 June
Draft Bill on the Office on Missing Persons placed on the Order Paper of Parliament	http://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/orderpapers/1466517348061047.pdf	22 June
National Policy on Durable Solutions for conflict-affected displacement placed before Cabinet by the Minister of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs	-The Policy drafted through a process of wide consultations, and with UN expertise, was also made public and placed online: http://resettlementmin.gov.lk/site/images/stories/new.pdf	21 June
Fresh directives on arrest and detention issued to security forces and police by the President	The President, incorporating many of the recommendations made by the National Human Rights Commission, issued fresh directives on arrest and detention	18 June
Dialogue with the military	Initiated a dialogue with the military on aspects related to reconciliation, transitional justice, human rights, and changes in the security sector	8-9 June
Submission of Reports to Treaty Bodies	Submitted the national report on CRC (combined 5 th and 6 th periodic reports)	8 June

Cabinet Approves draft legislation on Certificates of Absence	The Cabinet of Ministers approved draft legislation enabling the issuance of Certificates of Absence–Registration of Deaths (Temporary Provisions) (Amendment) – Bill to amend the Registration of Deaths (Temporary Provisions) Act No 19 of 2010 The draft legislation has been gazetted and will be placed before Parliament shortly <i>English:</i> http://documents.gov.lk/files/bill/2016/7/97-2016_E.pdf <i>Sinhala:</i> http://documents.gov.lk/files/bill/2016/7/97-2016_S.pdf <i>Tamil:</i> http://documents.gov.lk/files/bill/2016/7/97-2016_T.pdf	7 June
Political asylum seekers issued passports	Lifted restrictions on the issuance of Sri Lankan passports to Sri Lankan citizens who had been compelled to leave the country in the past for political reasons including those who had sought asylum/ refugee status overseas	1 June
Paranagama Commission requested to cease functioning by mid-May and to hand in their final report by mid-July	Data and records will be taken over by the Office on Missing Persons	June
The Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence Mr. Pablo de Greiff visited Sri Lanka at the invitation of the Government, in a technical advisory capacity	-This marked the Special Rapporteur's third visit in approximately one year. He also met with the Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, the State Minister for Defence, the Chief of Defence Staff and the Commanders of the Security Forces	6-10 June
Finalised dates for the visit of the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues	<i>The dates for the visit are: 10-20 October</i>	June
MAY 2016		
Report of the Public Representations Committee on Consultations on Constitutional Reform submits Report to Government	The Public Representations Committee established to consult the public on the constitutional reform process submitted its report to the Government. The report is publicly available including online: <i>English:</i> http://www.yourconstitution.lk/PRCRpt/PRC_english_report-A4.pdf	31 May

	<p><i>Sinhala:</i> http://www.yourconstitution.lk/PRCRpt/PRC_sinhala_report-A4.pdf</p> <p><i>Tamil:</i> http://www.yourconstitution.lk/PRCRpt/PRC_tamil_report-A4.pdf</p>	
Amnesty period for handing over illegal weapons extended	A further amnesty period for handing over of illegal weapons was declared by the Ministry of Defence from 30 May – 17 June 2016	28 May
Ratified the International Convention for the Protection of Persons Against Enforced Disappearance	Enabling legislation is in the advanced stages of preparation and will be presented to Cabinet in July for approval, gazetting and presentation to Parliament shortly	25 May
Cabinet approved the Bill (draft legislation) on the establishment of the Office on Missing Persons and draft Bill gazette	Submissions received from the public through the web-based consultation process were considered in the design of the Office on Missing Persons. Submissions made by civil society groups representing families of the missing were considered as well; two rounds of consultations were held on 9 May (with groups representing families of the missing) and on 20 May with families of the missing from all over the country. Officials of the OHCHR were present as well as observers at the latter. Observations were sought also from OHCHR officials in Colombo and ICRC. Observations were also sought and received from the TNA. The pros and cons of all ad hoc Commissions on Missing Persons held in the 1990s and the Paranagama Commission were studied. Observations and proposals received were all considered and incorporated where possible.	24 May
Government requests Police Commission and Human Rights Commission to prepare an Action Plan on Preventing Torture	Based on the preliminary observations of the Special Rapporteur on Torture, a meeting chaired by the Foreign Minister was held with the National Human Rights and National Police Commissions to urge them to work together to take appropriate action including launching a national awareness campaign and discourse against torture	24 May
No military parades to commemorate end of war	There were no military parades held at all anywhere in the country on 19 May which the previous Government marked as 'Victory Day'. People were allowed to grieve and light lamps. Events were held in the North with the participation of local communities and politicians. In Colombo, a cultural performance was held with emphasis on reconciliation	19 May
National Human Rights Commission issued Directives on arrest and detention	The National Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka issued Directives on arrest and detention under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act No 48 of 1979 in light of concerns regarding the law enforcement authorities not having adhered to procedures involving some recent arrests	18 May
	All sections of the Witness Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act Operationalized	16 May

Witness and Victim Protection Law		
Cabinet Approves Inter-Ministerial Committee to formulate the Human Rights Action Plan	The Cabinet of Ministers approved the setting up of an inter-ministerial Committee to draw up the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017-2021	10 May
Ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement at WTO		31 May
Retired Senior DIG of Police and an Inspector arrested for their alleged role in attempting to cover up the May 2012 murder of a rugby player	Investigations on this case had stalled under the previous Government and re-started in February 2015	May
APRIL 2016		
Special Rapporteurs on judicial independence and torture visit Sri Lanka	Received the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers and the Special Rapporteur on torture, other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment & punishment from <i>28 April to 7 May</i> . The Rapporteurs were granted unhindered access including to 'Joseph Camp' in Vavuniya and the Trincomalee Naval Base.	28 April – 7 May
Landmark ruling by the Supreme Court	On April 28, the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka ruled that children living or affected by HIV have the full right to education and cannot be discriminated against. The ruling was based on the country's constitutional directive of universal access to education for children between the ages of 5 and 14 years old The first ruling of this nature in South Asia	28 April
Amnesty on illegal weapons	All-island amnesty period declared to hand over illegal weapons (25 April – 6 May) with money paid to those who surrender the weapons	25 April
New law passed to protect people from losing their land due to long-term displacement	Prescription (Special Provisions) Act No. 5 of 2016 passed by Parliament and certified on 26 April 2016 The Act enables special provisions in respect of persons who were unable to pursue their rights in court for the recovery of any immovable property including land due to the activities of any militant terrorist group which prevailed in Sri Lanka and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.	26 April

	http://www.parliament.lk/uploads/acts/gbills/english/6009.pdf	
Parliament Meets as a Constitutional Assembly	Parliament met for the first time as a Constitutional Assembly, initiating the process of drafting the new Constitution. Deputy Chairmen and Steering Committee members were appointed	5 April
UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate Visits Sri Lanka	UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) visited from 6-8 April. <i>The CTED is providing technical expertise in the drafting of laws to replace the Prevention of Terrorism Act</i>	6-8 April
The Ministry of Finance approved the extension of the Government of Sri Lanka-USAID bilateral agreement 'Strengthened Partnership for Democratic Reform and Social Integration'	This Agreement 'houses' all of the bridge and new generation programming in democracy, governance and human rights	April
Committee chaired by the Minister of Law and Order appointed by the Prime Minister to work on new legislation	<p>A Committee chaired by the Minister of Law and Order has been tasked with drafting three new pieces of legislation with priority given to legislation that would replace the current PTA (the other two are an Intelligence Act and an Act against Organised Crime)</p> <p>The Committee is obtaining assistance in this regard from the UN Counter-terrorism Committee Executive Directorate</p> <p>Observations by the Special Rapporteurs on Torture and on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers have been shared with the Committee; and so have guidelines issued by the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights while countering terrorism.</p>	April
MARCH 2016		
US Special Coordinator for Global Criminal Justice Visits Sri Lanka	Received Mr. Todd Buchwald, US Special Coordinator for Global Criminal Justice (29 March – 6 April); held useful discussions on assistance that Sri Lanka could obtain for capacity building.	29 March
Appointed a high-profile and respected individual as Secretary-General of the Secretariat for Coordinating	The appointment was made by the Secretary to the Prime Minister	March

Reconciliation Mechanisms (SCRM)		
Instructions to Armed Forces	Commanders of all branches of the security forces were directed by the Ministry of Defence to issue instructions to all Armed Forces Personnel that strict action will be taken against human rights violations. Accordingly, instructions to this effect have been issued by the Commanders of the Army, Navy and the Air Force in April 2016.	18 March
First transgender person appointed to high-level post	First transgender Governor in Sri Lanka; Niluka Ekanayake appointed as Governor of the Central Province by President Maithripala Sirisena	17 March
Parliament resolves to sit as a Constitutional Assembly	The Parliament adopted unanimously, the Resolution for Parliament to sit as a Constitutional Assembly to draft a new Constitution	8 March
Right-to-Information legislation presented in Parliament	The Right to Information Bill was presented to Parliament	8 March
Technical Working Group of the Steering Committee chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, appointed to work on reconciliation mechanisms, visits South Africa to study TRC	A technical team of the Steering Committee visited South Africa to learn from the experience of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa	5 March
Cabinet Approves accession to the Mine Ban Convention	The Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for Sri Lanka to become a party to the Mine Ban Convention	3 March
Designation of a key Point of Contact for Open Government Partnership	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs officially designated a key Point of Contact to oversee and coordinate the drafting of the Open Government Partnership National Action Plan (NAP) in close cooperation with civil society	March
FEBRUARY 2016		
Law Commission hands-over draft Bill to replace PTA	The National Law Commission was requested to draft a Bill to replace the PTA in line with contemporary international best practice. The Law Commission draft was handed over to Government in end-February 2016. The draft was also shared with the UN Counter-terrorism Executive Directorate	End-February

Ms. Yasmin Sooka, ITJP (International Truth and Justice Project) invited to visit Sri Lanka	The Minister of Foreign Affairs extended an invitation to Ms. Yasmin Sooka (International Truth and Justice Project Sri Lanka - ITJP) to visit Sri Lanka. This invitation was extended in response to a number of cases highlighted in the reports of the ITJP regarding ongoing torture and sexual violence.	13 February
Launched Public Consultations on Design of Reconciliation Mechanisms	<p>Launched Public Consultation Process in the District Secretariat in Jaffna on 12 February, to seek the views of all stakeholders including victims that would inform the designing of transitional justice mechanisms.</p> <p>Meetings were held between the Consultation Task Force, Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, the Chief of Defence Staff, Security Forces Chiefs, Police Chief and Intelligence Heads to ensure that the public consultation process proceeds smoothly without interference and to establish a mechanism for immediately addressing of complaints.</p> <p>Meetings were also held in Jaffna at the District Secretariat on 12 February between the Consultation Task Force, the Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, the Chief of Defence Staff, Security Forces Chiefs in the North and East and Police Heads in the North and East to ensure that the consultation process proceeds without interference, and to discuss and agree on ways to immediately address complaints and to build confidence among the public.</p>	12 February
Ratified the Disabilities Convention	Ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	12 February
High Commissioner for Human Rights Visits Sri Lanka	Received the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. ZeidRa'ad Al Hussein (6-9 February) and facilitated wide-ranging meetings with victims, Opposition, key Ministers, the President and Prime Minister, key officials including the Defence Secretary and the Heads of Security Forces and Intelligence; facilitated his travel to Jaffna and Trincomalee	6-9 February
National Anthem sung in Sinhala and Tamil at Independence Day for the first time in 67 years	Sang the National Anthem in both Sinhala and Tamil at the Independence Day celebrations for the first time in 67 years	4 February
Ratified the ILO Convention on Employment Policy	Ratifications of C122 - Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122)	3 February
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Approval for 5-year National Strategic Plan to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking (2015-2019)	Cabinet approved the 5-year National Strategic Plan to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking (2015-2019)	February
JANUARY 2016		
Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence Mr. Pabo de Greiff visits Sri Lanka for the second time on a technical advisory capacity	Invited and received the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence to Sri Lanka in an advisory capacity to share views, knowledge and expertise with the Consultation Task Force and the Government between 26 January and 1 st February.	26 January
Destroyed publicly, ivory tusks confiscated by Customs, from elephant poaching, to prevent its trade in the black market	High profile event in the presence of the President. First country in South Asia to publicly destroy ivory tusks. <i>(The container-load of ivory was detected in May 2012 while it was in transit to Dubai from the Kenyan port of Mombasa, falsely labelled as storing plastic waste)</i>	26 January
Consultations Task Force on Reconciliation Mechanisms appointed	Appointed an 11-member Consultation Task Force, and two advisory panels, consisting of leading public personalities (civil society members) to lead nation-wide public consultations (in line with the provisions of Resolution 30/1) that will inform the design of the mechanisms for truth-seeking, justice, and reparations.	24 January
EU-Sri Lanka Working Group on Human Rights Meets	Started an annual dialogue with the European Union through the EU-Sri Lanka Working Group on Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights; the initial meeting of the Working Group was held on 20 January	20 January
Endorsed Sexual Violence in Conflict Declaration	Endorsed the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict	12 January
President pardons suicide bomber who attempted to assassinate him when he held a ministerial portfolio in	President pardoned and released the ex-LTTE combatant charged for attempting to assassinate him when he was a Cabinet Minister.	7 January

the past during the years of conflict		
Sri Lanka agrees as a policy measure, to respond to communications submitted as per the provision of the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR	Informed the UN Human Rights Committee that, in the future, Sri Lanka will respond to communications submitted as per the provision of the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR	20 January
Witness Protection Authority set-up	National Authority for the Protection of Crime and Witnesses set-up. One of its first tasks is to review the witness protection Act. The Police has also initiated action to set-up a Witness Protection Division	
DECEMBER 2015		
Land released in the Northern and Eastern Provinces in 2015	24,424 acres (state land); 1,770.91 acres (private land) <i>[Land release from May 2009 to 8 January 2015: 22,254.01 acres (state land); 20,099.73 acres (private land)]</i>	All of 2015
Standing Invitations to Special Procedures	Extended a Standing Invitation to all UN thematic Special Procedures Mandate Holders to visit Sri Lanka	17 December
Cabinet Approves creation of Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms	The Cabinet of Ministers approved the establishment of the Secretariat for the Coordination of Reconciliation Mechanisms (SCRM) which is tasked with the design and implementation of the mechanisms envisioned in the Resolution 30/1 as per the proposals of the Government of Sri Lanka	17 December
Signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	Signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	10 December
Cabinet Approval for Right to Information Act	The Cabinet of Ministers approved the Right to Information Bill	2 December

November 2015		
De-proscribed diaspora organisations and individuals	De-proscribed 8 organisations and 269 individuals from the Overseas Sri Lankan community	20 November
Informed the UN Secretary-General of the termination of all derogations previously notified under the ICCPR	The Emergency Regulations that were promulgated in August 2005 by means of a Presidential Proclamation pursuant to Section 5 of the Public Security Ordinance were allowed to lapse in August 2011;	19 November
UN Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearance visits	The Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) visited Sri Lanka from 9 to 18 November at the invitation of the Government. They were given access to all facilities, including the Trincomalee Navy Base. This is the first visit of the Working Group to Sri Lanka in 16 years.	9 November
October 2015		
Sri Lanka joined the Open Government Partnership (OGP)	Sri Lanka endorsed the Open Government Declaration committing to foster a global culture of open government that empowers and delivers for citizens, and advances the ideals of open and participatory government, thereby becoming the first and only country in South Asia to join the OGP	28 October
Udalagama and Paranagama Commission Reports made public	Tabled the Udalagama and Paranagama Commission Reports in Parliament. These reports as well as the Report of the OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka (OISL) can be accessed online at http://www.scrm.gov.lk/ (under resources in all three languages)	17 October
Independent Police, HR and Public Services Commissions appointed	Police, Human Rights and Public Services Commissions appointed by independent Constitutional Council. The Human Rights Commission is headed by Dr. Deepika Udagama, a noted human rights defender	
Death penalty moratorium announced	Announced that Sri Lanka will maintain a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its eventual abolition. Sri Lanka subsequently voted for the resolution in the Third Committee.	7 October
Soldiers convicted of sexual assault	The Jaffna High Court convicted four soldiers for sexually assaulting two women	6 October
Invited civil society to submit ideas on how to conduct the public consultations process for the development of	The Minister of Foreign Affairs addressed a meeting involving civil society groups from all over the country convened by civil society at the request of Government, to seek the views and ideas of civil society on the nature the consultation process should take	29 October

mechanisms for truth-seeking, justice and reparations		
SEPTEMBER 2015		
Co-sponsored the Resolution 30/1 titled <i>'Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka'</i>	Resolution tabled by US in the UN Human Rights Council	1 October
TNA Leader, R. Sampanthan MP, appointed as the Leader of Opposition in Parliament	Appointment announced by the Speaker of Parliament	3 September
Cabinet approved the introduction of Certificates of Absence for those reported missing		September
Endorsed the Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians	The first country in South Asia and only country in South Asia to endorse the principles so far	September
The Constitutional Council, the body responsible for appointing members of the Independent Commissions, including the Police and Human Rights Commissions was appointed		September
AUGUST 2015		
Closed the last checkpoint in the country, the Omanthai checkpoint	Last checkpoint in the country, the Omanthai checkpoint, closed	29 August
Arrested four army personnel, including two senior officers, in		August

connection with the disappearance of dissident cartoonist, PrageethEkneligoda		
JULY 2015		
The Supreme Court granted leave to proceed with regard to the five fundamental rights petitions against police inaction during the clashes at Aluthgama in 2014		9 July
JUNE 2015		
Ratified the Palermo Protocol	Ratified the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime	15 June
Army soldier sentenced for murder of eight persons in Mirusuvil by the Colombo High Court		25 June
MAY 2015		
Victory Day renamed Remembrance Day	People all over the country were also allowed to grieve which had been denied before. President Sirisena, speaking on 19 May emphasized that reconciliation involves truth-seeking, justice and reparations. He also outlined the twin objectives of the government – reconciliation and development	19 May
Combating Corruption	Created the Presidential Commission on Fraud and Corruption to investigate reports of corruption	
APRIL 2015		
Passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution	The 19 th amendment repealed the 18 th amendment and re-established democracy though the reduction of Presidential power, re-introduction of term limits and the introduction of independent bodies for appointment and oversight of key institutions including the judiciary, police, public service etc.	28 April

	<i>Following its passage in Parliament, the 19th amendment to the Constitution was certified on 15 May 2015</i>	
Received at the invitation of the Government, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of Truth, Justice and Non-recurrence, Pablo de Greiff, in a technical-advisory capacity		30 March- 3 April
MARCH 2015		
Released JayakumaryBalendran and eight others detained under the PTA		March
Sent circular to all ministries stating there is no prohibition for singing the National Anthem in Tamil	The practice of singing the national anthem in Tamil had been stopped under the previous government	March
Arrested three navy sailors in connection with the murder of TNA MP N. Raviraj		March
Creation of the Office of National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR)	This Office which focuses on project based reconciliation efforts and on measures to ensure non-recurrence is headed by former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga	March
President Maithripala Sirisena and Foreign Minister MangalaSamaraweera meet organisations representing Tamils of Sri Lankan origin in London		March
FEBRUARY 2015		

Parliament passed the Witness and Victim Protection Act	Parliament passed the Witness and Victim Protection Act, unanimously, without a vote	19 February
Departing from the triumphalism of the past, the Government made a Declaration of Peace	At the national Independence Day celebrations, a Declaration of Peace was made in all three languages resolving to ensure non-recurrence and to grieve for all who had succumbed to violence since Independence	4 February
Combating Corruption	The government's Anti-Corruption Committee establishes an operational arm, the Anti-Corruption Secretariat (ACS) headed by Ananda Wijepala. Four other coordinators appointed Deputy Directors, representing the Attorney General's office, the Police, the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC), and one other representative. A new police division under the leadership of Deputy Inspector of Police Waidyalankara set up to facilitate the ACS's work. Created the Financial Crimes Investigation Division under Deputy Inspector General Ravi Waidyalankara to investigate financial fraud	February
National Drug Policy passed by Parliament		19 February
JANUARY 2015		
Discontinued the practice of issuing a Presidential Proclamation under the Public Security Ordinance declaring a state of emergency, calling out the armed forces and giving them extensive powers to regulate civilian life		January
Appointed a Tamil as Governor of the Central Bank	Tamil senior economist and financial services expert Arjuna Mahendran was appointed as Governor of the Central Bank	January

Removed military governors of the North and East and replaced them with civilians		January
Restored and enhanced media freedom	Ended censorship of websites, withdrew restrictions on foreign journalists visiting Sri Lanka and invited exiled journalists to return to Sri Lanka with a promise of safety; freedom of travel within the country for all journalists including foreign journalists was restored. Visa restrictions on foreign journalists were lifted.	January
The senior-most judge of the Supreme Court, an ethnic Tamil, appointed the Chief Justice	Mr. K. Sripavan was appointed as the Chief Justice	January
The NGO Secretariat was moved from under the purview of the Ministry of Defence to the Ministry of National Dialogue		January
Lifted the ban on foreigners visiting the North and East, and also restrictions on the transportation of goods to and from the North		January
Placed the Attorney-General's Department under the Ministry of Justice rather than the Presidential Secretariat	Ceased the practice of the previous government of placing the AG's Department under the Presidential Secretariat	January
Department of Immigration and Emigration removed from under the purview of the Ministry of Defence and placed under the Ministry of Internal Affairs		January
	Extended an open invitation to all Sri Lankan refugees to return to Sri Lanka	January

Invited all refugees to return to Sri Lanka		
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