

# PHOENIX

Monthly Newsletter

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Akkinip Paravaikal

““

*Not the existence of man, but the action of man sets the wheel of history of the struggle in motion.*

””

**National Leader of Tamil Eelam**

## **A Foot into a Decade**

Phoenix-the Next Generation

*“The creation and sustenance of an organisation is meagre in comparison to the propelling of a self-sufficient movement within the span of a decade.”*

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# A FOOT INTO A DECADE

## PHOENIX TNG

*“To progress in this struggle in a sustainable manner, we must convince ourselves that nothing is permanent.”*

Top 10 moments of 2022 – the 09<sup>th</sup> year of Phoenix TNG’s operation since its inception on 27.03.2014.

### 1. Phoenix Flag

Phoenix TNG’s official flag was established on 26.09.2022 and raised inaugural at HFT Vanakkanihalvu events in Bern Switzerland and Sydney, Australia on 26.09.2022. The flag was designed by Phoenix TNG’s art division member, Gayathri Albert and is a reflection of a turning point in not only the legacy of Phoenix TNG as a movement, but also the struggle for liberation of Eelam Tamils and all oppressed communities.



### 2. First Phoenix Office – Switzerland

Phoenix TNG values the preservation and sustenance of political spaces. In that regard, Phoenix TNG’s first permanent political space was established through our first office in Bern, Switzerland. The office was officially opened for public use from 15.01.2023 (Pongal or Tamil New Year).







### 3. First Phoenix Member Induction - Melbourne, Australia

The members of Phoenix form the crux of every action that we implement for the furtherment of our struggle. All Phoenix members are not only representatives of our organisation but also our struggle and thus, are an embodiment of discipline. Our uniform is crucial in implementing this. An official members' induction was conducted in Melbourne, Australia on 18.05.2022 where members were presented with their member chains by their local coordinator in cementing not only the members' commitment to Phoenix and the struggle, but also to each other in camaraderie.

### 4. AP36 - 3 Years

The official voice of Phoenix TNG, Puradsi Media's monthly newsletter, Akkinip Paravaikal Newsletter marked 03 years of uninterrupted news coverage and media service in the English language. It is notable that this team operates across 03 countries of the diaspora.

### 5. Senneruppu Vaaram

In shifting the Tamils' struggle for liberation from a self-victimisation perspective Senneruppu Naal was established on 19.05.2021 by Phoenix TNG's Australia Division. In expanding this vision, Senneeruppu commemorations were conducted by Phoenix TNG as Senneruppu Vaaram (Week) consisting of projects conducted by Phoenix members across 05 countries - Australia, Switzerland, UK, Canada, Denmark.



## 6. SC Phoenix Tournament Placement (Top 3)

SC Phoenix's men and women's football teams have consistently participated and trained in various tournaments since their inception. However, 2022 and 2023 marked the year in Phoenix's legacy where both teams placed within the top 3 of their tournaments thus marking the first attainment of trophies for their commitment and dedication.



## 7. SC Phoenix Tamil Eelam FA first women's team selection

SC Phoenix was involved in the Tamil Eelam FA's first Women's Team formation and trials. SC Phoenix coordinators and members were not only involved in administrative assistance including medical and material support, but also had SC Phoenix players, Lavanya and captain Arshiny selected to the team.



## 8. SC Phoenix formation of U15, Bikers and Cricket teams

SC Phoenix formed many new subdivisions and teams across various countries including Australia and Switzerland. An Under 15 team was formed as a part of SC Phoenix's football team conglomerate in Switzerland. Further, an intercountry Bikers Association was formed with members from both Switzerland and Australia - their first project was a "Post-It" Campaign in light of the 83BJR (83 Black July Resistance) Campaign. Further, SC Phoenix branched out into a new sports area with the establishment of its first Women's Cricket Team in Melbourne, Australia.





## 9. Reading groups (RoT, SoTE)

Phoenix Readings groups of our publications commenced from Maaveerar Maatham 2022 with a “Rise of Tigers” reading group held in Bern, Switzerland and a “Structures of Tamil Eelam: a Handbook” reading group held in Sydney, Australia.



## 10. Manivannan

Phoenix TNG created a space where the homeland and diaspora could meet and engage in healthy discussions through fostering a space for then Jaffna Mayor Manivannan to engage in public discussions as well as discussions with the Bern stadt.



02.03.2023: **India** - According to Kalaikathir, India's Embassy in SL stated that GoSL must conduct inquiries related to attacks on Indian fishermen.

02.03.2023: **Travel Advisory** - According to the UK government's travel advice to SL, terrorists are likely to try to carry out attacks in SL. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places visited by foreigners such as hotels, tourist sites and places of worship. It is noteworthy that large gatherings, demonstrations and crowded public spaces should be avoided according to the travel advice.

08.03.2023: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, US Ambassador Julie Chung has welcomed the financing commitments SL's bilateral creditors have made to SL. The US remains committed to supporting SL's efforts to promote transparency, good governance, and reforms, as it has over the past 75 years of their diplomatic partnership.

11.03.2023: **Closure** - According to Economy Next, US regulators closed Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) amid market-to-market losses amid rate hikes to end Fed Chairman Jerome Powell's inflationism shortly after Sivergate Bank announced its closure. SVB also reportedly had ties to cryptocurrencies.

16.03.2023: **FIFA** - According to Newswire LK, of FIFA's 211 member associations 197 voted in favour of suspending SL from voting during FIFA elections. Zimbabwe was also suspended.

18.03.2023: **Amnesty** - Amnesty International released a statement encouraging the ICC's issuance of an arrest warrant against Russian President Vladimir Putin as a step towards justice in Ukraine.

21.03.2023: **Australia** - According to Human Rights Watch (HRW) an Australian soldier has been charged for committing war crimes in Afghanistan. This is the first such instance in identifying the Australian Special Air Service (SAS) Regiment's members

against Afghan civilians and captured combatants in Afghanistan in 2012.

23.03.2023: **US** - According to Economy Next, the Federal Reserve has said it will raise interest rates by 25 basis points even as the US money supply continues to shrink and disruptions occur. Recent developments are likely to tighten credit conditions for households and businesses, weighing on economic activity, hiring and inflation.

24.03.2023: **India** - During an address by SL Tourism Minister Fernando's Address at a "Travel and Tourism Summit" held in New Delhi, he had invited India's tourism and hospitality leaders to view SL as an opportunity for investment.

31.03.2023: **China** - According to Economy Next, China extended USD 240 billion worth of loans to 22 developing countries, including SL between 2008-2021. However, that lending was expensive and opaque.



# Bilateral

01.03.2023: **US** - According to Economy Next, the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee is calling on SL's government to hold local elections without delay, even as SL awaits a bailout package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Delaying the elections is undemocratic, he said.

06.03.2023: **China** - According to Economy Next, SL has received new financial assurances from China to restructure its debt according to the parameters required by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). China had previously sent Sri Lanka a letter promising a moratorium until the end of the year, but without specifying the parameters of an IMF debt sustainability analysis.

07.03.2023: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, SL has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to be submitted to the Executive Board for approval. Approval of the IMF agreement will also allow the World Bank and Asian Development Bank to lend.

08.03.2023: **INR** - According to Economy Next, SL is in talks with India on using the Indian Rupee (INR) to settle cross-border transactions. They hope to strengthen and integrate the 02 economies and allow people-to-people contact and more movement.

09.03.2023: **Japan** - According to Economy Next, Colombo Dockyard PLC - a SL shipbuilding unit of Japan's Onomichi Dockyard, reported a profit of LKR 332.1 million for the December 2022 quarter - down from a profit of LKR 340.5 million from the December

2021 quarter. The company reported earnings per share of LKR 4.55.

09.03.2023: **UN** - According to the Tamil Guardian, SL's Chief of National Intelligence and accused war criminal Ruwan Kulatunga is to virtually attend the UN Human Rights Committee's 06th periodic review on behalf of the country. The move has caused outrage including from British MP Elliot Colburn who has written to the UNHRC urging them to question his attendance.

10.03.2023: **Japan** - According to Economy Next, Japan SL has provided USD 6.6 million through the World Food Program (WFP) to assist people who could not afford food after the collapse of an unstable exchange rate regime. Japan has so far provided USD 30 million in aid to SL through the WFP.

12.03.2023: **India** - According to Economy Next, SL has imported enough paper to print 45% of its textbooks with the help of a line of credit granted by India. India granted a USD 1 billion line of credit to import food, medicine, and industrial raw materials after multilateral agencies and other countries cut off funding.

12.03.2023: **China** - According to Economy Next, delegations from China Merchants and Sinopec groups are in SL seeking more investment in SL. China Merchants Group already operates a port and industrial park in Hambantota and a container terminal in Colombo.

12.03.2023: **Canada** - According to the Tamil Guardian, Canadian lawyer and expert member of the UNHRC, Marcia V. J. Kran questioned Ruwan Kulatunga about his role in overseeing the torture

of Tamils at the Joseph Camp in Vavuniya. Kulatunga served as commander of the Wannu Security Force Headquarters in Vavuniya from 2016-2017. There have been repeated accounts of alleged torture and sexual violence at the camp.

13.03.2023: **China** - According to Economy Next, in a meeting with R. Wickremesinghe, China's Sinopec has agreed to invest in SL's Southern Hambantota district. The move comes at a time when Beijing is seeking to consolidate its investments in SL's ports and energy sector amid growing security concerns from its immediate neighbour India and the US.

13.03.2023: **Commonwealth** - According to the Tamil Guardian, SL's Foreign Minister Ali Sabry is set to attend the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers' Meeting (CFAMM) in London on 22.03.2023. It is set to mark the 10th anniversary of the Commonwealth Charter which expressed the commitment of member states to develop free and democratic societies and promote peace.

17.03.2023: **Australia** - Australia's High Commissioner to SL met with M.A. Sumanthiran and R. Sampanthan to discuss the truth and reconciliation landscape in SL, plans for economic development in the occupied Tamil homeland and SL's local government elections. It is notable that in a tweet the High Commission had indicated that the meeting had been held in advance of the High Commissioner's scheduled visit to the Tamil homeland next week.

17.03.2023: **US** - US Ambassador to SL tweeted of a meeting held with Keheliya Rambukwella to discuss SL's health challenges and the impact that US

donations have had upon SL's health sector.

17.03.2023: **KMS** - According to the Tamil Guardian, Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam has called on the SL state to reveal how much they paid the British mercenary organisation Keenie Meenie Services (KMS) during the 1980s - the figure is thought to be in the millions. The group trained a paramilitary police unit and also stands accused of providing helicopter gunship pilots who flew on missions and dropped wine glass grenades on Tamils.

20.03.2023: **Malaysia** - According to Economy Next, trapped in the Foreign Exchange (FOREX) market, SL plans to send 10,000 people to Malaysia to work as security guards. In doing so, they hope to boost remittances from abroad and open up new markets for migrant workers.

23.03.2023: **Japan** - According to Economy Next, the Japanese government has allocated USD 1.6 million to UN Women to support humanitarian assistance for women affected by socioeconomic difficulties in SL. The fund will run from February 2023-December 2023 under a project called "Empowering women in crisis."

24.03.2023: **India** - According to Economy Next, SL used USD 121 million from the proceeds of an IMF loan to repay an Indian credit line. SL received USD 331 million from the IMF in the first tranche.

28.03.2023: **Korea** - According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet of Ministers has approved the signing of a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Korea's Saemaul Undong (New Village) Foundation to develop the rural



community in SL. The development program is aimed at providing:

- ◆ infrastructure facilities
- ◆ livelihoods
- ◆ subsidiaries
- ◆ education development

29.03.2023: **Amnesty** - According to Economy Next, Amnesty International Executive Director Deprese Muchena, who is on an official visit to SL, will meet with IMF officials to discuss a USD 2.9 billion deal and its socio-economic implications. The Zimbabwean-born human rights activist also called for transparency and accountability in SL's dealings with the international lender and other organisations.

30.03.2023: **HRW** - According to Economy Next, Human Rights Watch (HRW) is sceptical of the IMF deal with SL. HRW calls for policies that do not further erode economic and social rights.

**HAMSHI**  
AP Cartoonist &  
Thoduvaanam Member



SOMETIMES RELIGION IS MORE THAN  
JUST BELIEF.

# YOUNG PHOENIX



## FOR OUR PEOPLE

On the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the Mullivaikkal massacre, we as Phoenix want to donate our blood to commemorate the many bloodsheds and victims

01.05.23-17.05.23



## NO FIRE ZONE

Meet & Discuss

**Zentweg 27**  
**3006 Bern**

Screening  
16:00-18:00

Meet & Discuss  
18:00-20:00

Guest  
Manimozhli

18.05.2023

# Yearnings



03.03.2023: **Lebanon** - According to SL's MoD's website, a contingent of 125 SL soldiers have left SL to Lebanon for the United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon (UNIFIL).

07.03.2023: **US** - According to SL's MoD's website the US Embassy of Sri Lanka and the Directorate of Training at SL's Air Force Headquarters coordinated a special training program. The training program was on 'Human Rights Mobile Training Team (MTT) and Maritime Law Institutional Capacity Building (ICB).

13.03.2023: **Indo-Pacific** - According to

the US Embassy in Colombo, the USS Charleston made a refuelling visit to Trincomalee and were welcomed by occupational SL Navy. Reports indicate that the visit is a part of US-SL ongoing efforts to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific.

16.03.2023: **Maldives** - According to SL's MoD's website, the Maldives High Commissioner expressed appreciation for the offer to Maldivian Defence Force made by SL military training institutes

24.03.2023: **Japan** - According to SL's MoD's website, the Japan-Lanka Friendship

Association donated a Nissan Ambulance and a consignment of reading spectacles to SL's Air Force.

28.03.2023: **US** - According to SL's MoD's website the US has donated equipment to the triforms of SL. These equipment will benefit SL's forces in the fields of air mobility, maritime Interdiction and peacekeeping operations.

28.03.2023: **Australia** - According to SL's MoD's website the Australian High Commissioner to SL met SL's Minister of Defence. Discussion on matters of bilateral importance and mutual relevance were held.

## WHAM

11.03.2023: **WHAM** - According to SL's MoD's website the occupational Sri Lankan Army (SLA) built 02 houses for Tamil families. 01 was built in Jaffna and the other in Mullaitivu.



# Military News

02.03.2023: **Jaffna Mayor** - According to Kalaikathir, the election of the new Mayor of Jaffna will be held on 10.03.2023.

11.03.2023: **Fishermen** - The President of the Mullaitivu Fisheries' Association, V. Arulnathan made a statement at the Mullaitivu Press Club warning the Indian and SL Governments, reports Lanka Files. "If both the Indian and SL governments do not take swift action to prevent Indian boats from entering territorial waters, we will engage in violence."

18.03.2023: **Ferry Service** - According to Eelanadu the Ferry Service between KKS (TE) and Karaikal (TN) will commence on 29.04.2023.

18.03.2023: **Release** - According to Eelanadu, 12 fishermen from Tamil Nadu were released by the Paruththithurai Court. They also ordered the seizure of their boats and the handover to the Indian consulate. These fishermen were arrested on 12.03.2023 near Neduntivu.

29.03.2023: **Trinco** - According to Economy Next, SL has given approval for the construction of a 135-

megawatt solar power plant in Sampur, Trincomalee, as a joint venture between the state-owned Ceylon Electricity Board and India's National Thermal Power Corporation. The solar power plant is located at the same site near Trincomalee port where a 500-MW coal-fired plant was previously planned with NTPC.

29.03.2023: **Fisheries** - The SL Minister for Fisheries, Douglas Devananda has declared that due to illegal fishing practices in the Vadamarachchi area fishermen must now obtain permission from occupational SL Navy before they can carry out any work in the region.

## Sri Lanka

06.03.2023: **Elections** - 08 political parties submitted a statement calling the SL Election Commission to conduct GoSL elections before or on 19.03.2023 and have sought an emergency meeting to be held on 07.03.2023, reports Lanka Files.

- ◆ Mano Ganesan - TPA
- ◆ Rishad Bathiudeen
- ◆ Rauff Hakeem
- ◆ Shanakiyan Rasamanikkam - TNA
- ◆ M. A. Sumanthiran - TNA
- ◆ Dayasriri Jeyasekara

07.03.2023: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, the IMF program

for SL will be approved by the IMF Executive Board on 20.03.2023, following assurances from China on debt restructuring. This paves the way for the IMF Executive Board's consideration on 20.03.2023 to approve the Staff Level Agreement reached on 01.09.2022 for financing



under an Extended Fund Facility.

08.03.2023: **Women** - According to Economy Next, policymakers and organisations should consider women-friendly policies to encourage greater participation by women, according to the Institute of Policy Studies. This is because gender disadvantage is seen in SL, where women make up over 50% of the population.

11.03.2023: **Hacked** - According to Kalaikathir, 02 websites from SL have been hacked. It is noteworthy that 01 was a site from SL's MoD. Personal data such as email, telephone numbers have been stolen, the news further reports.

10.03.2023: **Fundamental Rights** - According to Economy Next, the head of SL's electricity regulator has filed a fundamental rights (FR) lawsuit in SL's Supreme Court against the recent 66 % electricity tariff hike. The deficit-ridden state-owned Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) had imposed a 66 % increase in electricity tariff after a protracted conflict between CEB

and PUCSL chief Ratnayaka.

16.03.2023: **JAAF** - According to Economy Next, SL's Joint Apparel Association Forum, representing exporting companies, has welcomed an upcoming program with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This includes reforming state-owned enterprises, reforming labour laws and pursuing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with countries which have enormous potential.

- ◆ Australia
- ◆ Japan
- ◆ Korea
- ◆ Canada

19.03.2023: **Crane** - According to Economy Next, SL's Chinese-backed Hambantota port said a crawler crane weighing 1,000 tonnes was safely unloaded. This is the first time such a large crane has been exported. There are few cranes of this capacity in Japan, and only 03 are available in all of South Asia.

20.03.2023: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, the IMF's Executive Board has approved SL's program. R. Wickremesinghe committed to full

transparency in all discussions with financial institutions and creditors. IMF has approved a 48-month program for SL worth USD 03 billion (2.286 billion Special Drawing Rights), or 395 % of SL's quota.

23.03.2023: **Aviation** - According to Economy Next, SL has established an expert committee under SL's State Civil Aviation Authority to investigate aircraft accidents and take precautionary measures in SL's airspace. According to the CAA's annual reports, there were about 2,700 minor aircraft accidents and incidents in SL in the 19 years to 2021 - most of which occurred on the ground.

30.03.2023: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe has said that SL must go beyond a 04-year IMF stabilisation program and grow the economy by addressing the ethnic issue as the ethnic issue is the biggest problem, he said.

**ECONOMIC PROFILE – March 2023**

<b>FOREX Reserves</b>	January 2023	↑ by 4.5% to USD 2,217 million
<b>Remittances</b>	February 2023	↑ 98% to 407.4
<b>Trade</b>	February 2023	
Exports		↓ by 8.06% to USD 1,005.2 million
BOP	January 2023	USD 211 million
<b>State</b>		
Central Government Debt	End of year 2022	↑ to 115.2% of GDP
Privat Credit	January 2023	↓ USD 96 billion to 7,318 billion
State enterprises		↑ by LKR 13.3 billion to 1,747 billion
Government		↑ by LKR 7,611 billion
Budget Deficit		↓ to 5.5% from 8.6% last year
<b>GDP</b>	Year 2022	↑ by 7.8%
Nominal GDP		↑ to LKR 24.1 trillion
Agriculture		↓ 4.6%
Industry		↓ 1.6%
Services		↓ 2.0%
<b>Inflation</b>	February 2023	↓ to 50.6% from 51.7%
CCPI		↑ 0.9%
food sub-index		↓ 2.2%
nonfood-index		↑ 1.8%
clothing & footwear		↑ 4.3%
housing, water, electricity & gas		↑ 3.5%
Standing Deposit Facility Rate (SDFR) February 2023		14.5%
Standing Lending Facility Rate (SLFR)		15.5%
Market interest rates		30%

**RANJINI**  
AP Economic Analyst  
& Coordinator

01.03.2023: **World Bank** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe met with World Bank Vice President Martin Raiser to discuss planned reform programs. The World Bank had pledged technical assistance for the reform legislation.

03.03.2023: **Monetary Policy** - According to Economy Next, SL will remove the exchange rate peg and the return rule starting next week, allowing the LKR to trade more freely. However, SL's central bank will purchase to build reserves whenever it can.

05.03.2023: **India** - According to Economy Next, the use of the Indian rupee for cross-border transactions is being pushed with SL after banks opened accounts to enable the process for tourism, and the possibility of expanding to handle trade and capital transactions. Bank of Ceylon, State Bank of India and Indian Bank have already established Vostro/Nostro accounts in Indian rupees after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Central Bank of Sri Lanka cleared the process in 2022.

10.03.2023: **Fitch** - SL's foreign currency rating was downgraded to restricted default (RD) after the country defaulted on bilateral and private debt but continued to service multilateral loans. According to Economy Next, Fitch says SL's post-default rating depends on the speed at which debt is reduced under an IMF program.

14.03.2023: **FOREX** - According to Economy Next, the spread between the buying and selling rates of foreign exchange at most commercial banks in SL has almost doubled from 2.9 % to about 5.5 %. The reason is the policy of ad hoc interventions after the removal of a return rule.

14.03.2023: **Currency Law** - According to Economy Next, SL's Central Bank executives have written to the Speaker of Parliament expressing their concern over the draft currency law. The bill gives the Minister of Finance the power to determine the number of deputy governors and appoint them with the approval of the Governing Board, which will be interpreted as direct interference in the

management of the Central Bank.

21.03.2023: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, SL will phase out existing import restrictions as the foreign exchange situation improves. The EFF-supported program aims to restore SL's macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability, mitigate the economic impact on the poor and vulnerable, ensure financial sector stability, and strengthen governance and growth potential.

28.03.2023: **Hambantota** - According to Economy Next, SL received seven responses to an expression of interest to build an export-oriented oil refinery in Hambantota, on the island's southern coast. Grant & Shearer Ltd of Nigeria, Sinopec of China, Petrichor Capital of Malaysia, Vitol Group of Singapore, Dandeniya Engineering Sales and Service Syndicate, a local company, as well as Harree Management of Sri Lanka and Marka Invest of the United Arab Emirates and Martin Tejarat of Iran submitted their expressions of interest.



# XI

## Tamil Grievances submitted

According to Lanka Files, when Wasantha Mudalige was questioned by Jaffna Undergraduates during a press conference regarding the role of the genocidal war on Tamils in affecting SL's gas crisis, he had agreed.

According to K. Kumanan, Jaffna University students submitted their conditions addressing Tamils' grievances to Wasantha Mudalige during his visit to Jaffna.

- I** It should be accepted that the Tamil people, native to the North East provinces, are a distinct nation with a distinct language, religion and cultural identity.
- II** It should be accepted that the combined North-East provinces are the traditional Tamil homeland.
- III** Accept that Tamils deserve the right to self-determination.
- IV** It should be accepted that Tamils have the right to self-determination, which is inclusive of every race, and thereby Tamils have the right to determine their political destiny.
- V** Accept that Tamils should be given the opportunity to decide their political destiny through an internationally monitored referendum.
- VI** It should be accepted that justice should be given through the international justice mechanism to the genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and enforced disappearances perpetrated against the Tamils.
- VII** It should be accepted that the occupying army stationed in the Tamil homeland should be withdrawn immediately.
- VIII** It should be accepted that the all occupied Tamil lands should be released immediately.
- IX** It should be accepted that the 6<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act of the Sri Lankan Political System should be abolished and a political space should be established for the Tamil people to express their political aspirations.
- X** PTA Act should be repealed and all Tamil political prisoners should be released.
- XI** A permanent solution to the ethnic issue in Sri Lanka and thereby a solution to the economic crisis can be reached only where the above demands make a decisive revelation.

# Oppression & Resistance

01.03.2023: **Strike** - According to Economy Next, unions representing health care, banking, and other sectors in SL are on strike, demanding the rollback of an IMF-backed tax hike, at a significant cost to the island nation's ailing economy. Some 40 unions from the state sector and some private companies joined the campaign against the 06%-36% income tax on people earning more than LKR 100,000 a month.

03.03.2023: **Protest** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe has said that a change of government in SL can only be brought about by a general election and that the street is not an alternative to a legislature. He made this remark at an SL Air Force event in Trincomalee on 03.03.2023.

04.03.2023: **Kachchaitivu** - According to Eelanadu, a delegation of Buddhist monks from Nainativu went to Kachchaitivu to visit several areas under the occupational SL Navy's control. It is noteworthy that this visit coincides with St. Anthony church's

festivities. According to Lanka Files, 06 Buddhist monks made the visit.

03.03.2023: **Arrest** - According to JDS Lanka, Sellapakkiyam Suthakaran from Trincomalee who has been alleged to be a former LTTE cadre was arrested at Katunayake Airport on 25.02.2023 after returning from India. Further reports indicate that he is held at the Butani Capital Tower in Colombo by SL's Counter Terrorism Investigation Division.

07.03.2023: **Commemoration** - According to Thiru Sivanesan, the 15th commemoration of Mamanithar Kiddinan Sivanesan was held in Batticaloa by the TNPf. According to Lanka Files, a commemoration was also held at the TNA Media Office in Batticaloa.

07.03.2023: **Sick Leave** - According to Economy Next, SL's medical technicians and medical support staff will hold a 24-hour sick leave campaign on 08.03.2023 to demand higher wages to compensate for inflation, and to seek the withdrawal of an essential services regulation. The decision was made after a

meeting with SL Health Ministry Secretary Janaka Chandraguptha and Director General of Unions Saman Deshapriya.

08.03.2023: **Protest** - According to Economy Next, 17 ships calling at Colombo port have turned back after port unions recently organised a protest against the tax. The protest was part of a series of agitation campaigns organised by trade unions and professional associations of various sectors calling on the government to revoke the Official Gazette announcing the new taxes.

08.03.2023: **Protest** - According to Lanka Files, Tamil mothers in Mullaitivu staged the 07th consecutive year of protest demanding the release of political prisoners, the whereabouts of their forcibly disappeared relatives and accountability for SL war crimes.

09.03.2023: **Commemoration** - The 31st birthday of Jaffna University student, Sulaxshan who was shot and killed alongside Kajan by occupational SL Police on 21.10.2016

was commemorated in Chunnakam near the commemoration site for the students, reports Lanka Files.

10.03.2023: **Arrest** - According to Tamil journalist K. Kumanan, the President of the Association of forcibly disappeared persons in the Tamil Homeland was arrested by occupational Vavuniya Police based on allegations of illegally obtaining electricity for a protest tent.

10.03.2023: **Strike** - According to Economy Next, academics in SL are on strike for the 02nd consecutive day against an International Monetary Fund (IMF)-backed increase in income tax, bringing academic operations to a halt at a number of state universities. The strike will continue through 15.03.2023.

13.03.2023: **Block** - According to Tamil journalist S. Thavaseelan, a bus due to transport students along the A9 Road to the Mankulam Mahavidyaalayam for an exam had refused to accept students aboard. Occupational SL authorities failed to implement an appropriate solution

causing distress for the students. Later reports from Lanka Files on 18.03.2023 indicate that Thavaseelan had received death threats for highlighting the issue in his coverage. Consequently, according to the Lanka Leader LK, he had filed a complaint with audio recordings of the death threats to the occupational Mankulam Police on 16.03.2023.

16.03.2023: **Strike** - According to Lanka Files, teachers across the Tamil homeland joined the SL-wide strike by the Ceylon Teachers' Union and other trade unions posing several demands including the revocations of SL's newly-imposed tax policy. The strike was launched on 15.03.2023.

- ◆ Jaffna
- ◆ Vavuniya
- ◆ Batticaloa

17.03.2023: **PTA** - According to Jera Thampi, Tamil political prisoner Selliah Satheeskumar who was arrested under the PTA and detained for over 14 years was released on 17.03.2023. Further reports from Lanka Files indicate that Satheeskumar was released on an SL Presidential pardon.

20.03.2023: **Commemoration** - According to Lanka Files, locals had held a commemoration in Naavaladi, Batticaloa to mark the launch date of Annai Poopathy's 32-day fast-into-death 35 years ago in opposition of IPKF occupation.

23.03.2023: **Protest** - According to Lanka Leader LK, a mass protest was held in Mannar in condemnation of Indian fisher trawlers in Tamil territorial waters, reports Lanka Files. Further reports from Lanka Files, they had condemned Ali Sabry's statement in SL Parliament mentioning that talks were being conducted to issue licences for Indian Trawlers to fish within the occupied waters.

25.03.2023: **Protest** - According to Lanka Files, SL lawyers staged a protest against the SL Parliament's summoning of SL Supreme Court judges regarding their interim order which ordered SL's Finance Ministry's Secretary and Attorney General not to withhold funds for SL's local government elections.

27.03.2023: **Unions** - According to Economy



Next, unions and professional associations in SL plan to strike if the SL President does not meet to discuss a temporary solution to the fiscal problems. The response of the Secretary of SL's President to seek an interim solution based on the recommendations of the professionals is positive, he said.

27.03.2023: **Biography** - According to Newswire LK, the biography of assassinated journalist Lasantha

Wickrematunge, "Unbowed & Unafraid" was launched by his ex-wife Raine Wickrematunge. Reports indicate that books will be available across SL bookstores from March 2023.

30.03.2023: **Protest** - Mothers of the forcibly disappeared Tamils who have been protesting demanding the whereabouts of their missing relatives have marked 06 years of continuous protest from March 2017.

According to JDS Lanka, they marked this with a protest staged in Mullaitivu on 30.03.2023.

31.03.2023: **Protest** - According to Lanka Files, Tamils protested against SL's Archaeological Department's classification of artefacts found at Vishnuputra Vedyarasan's Fort in Delft Island, Jaffna as Buddhist ruins. The protest was led by TNPF's S. Kajendran.

# SIGNS OF STRUCTURAL GENOCIDE

*Any occurrence which reflects the implementation of Tamil genocidal ideology in a structural manner.*

05.03.2023: **Buddhification** - According to Tamil journalist Kumanan, Buddhist monks had shared a Facebook post celebrating the completion of the construction of the Kurandi Vehara in violation of court orders in Kurunthormalai.

15.03.2023: **Buddhification** - The Vedyarasan Fort on Neduntivu has been declared as a Buddhist site by SL's Archaeological Department, reports K. Kumanan.

15.03.2023: **Buddhification** - According to Tamil journalist K. Kumanan, the Kanniya Hot Springs with a rich Tamil culture has been claimed to have Buddhist origins by SL's genocidal Department of Archaeology. The Department claims that, "[the] Kanniya Hot Spring Wells have been used [since] the Anuradhapura period and it was situated at a Buddhist religion premises proved by Archaeological evidences."

19.03.2023: **Protest** - Tamils protested against the visit of genocidaire and SL Chief of Defence Staff, General Shavendra Silva to Navatkuli, Jaffna to open the occupational Sri Samiddhi Sumana Vihara. According to Lanka Files, the protest was led by the TNPf and condemned the visit and inauguration as an extension of SL's Sinhalicisation of the Tamil homeland.

21.03.2023: **Land Border** - According to Kalaikathir, land borders were marked without prior notice to private landowners at Kokkuththoduvaai. Through that SL's Land Survey Department grabbed several acres of Land.

23.03.2023: **Buddhification** - According to Tamil journalist, K. Kumanan, SL MP Charles Nirmalanathan mentioned in SL Parliament that Bo Trees had been planted and Buddha statues had been established across Kachaitivu. Earlier reports indicate that the SL Department of Archaeology had requested the Mullaitivu District Secretary to identify 229 acres of agricultural land in Kurunthoormalai. The identification has been requested to declare the area as an archaeological site and conduct land surveys.

27.03.2023: **Buddhification** - According to K. Kumanan, Vavuniya North Nedunkerni Vedukkunaarimalai Aathilingeswarar Koyil has been renamed as Waddamanana Parwatha Viharaya (an ancient Buddhist temple) on Google Maps. Earlier reports indicate that existing Tamil idols had all been vandalised at the site.

28.03.2023: **Land** - According to Kalaikathir, 65 acres of agricultural land under the Northern Provincial Council needs to be transferred to SL's central government. These lands are located in

Thandikulam, Vavuniya near the Agricultural University.

30.03.2023: **Buddhification** - According to Tamil journalist K. Kumanan, the Buddhification process of Vedukkunaarimalai has been accelerated. He reports that on the Facebook Page of "Northern Our Rights" it had been mentioned that as Hindu idols are to be placed at Vedukkunaarimalai, all must call 119 to complain and prepare themselves to place Buddhist idols there instead.

31.03.2023: **Protest** - According to Jera Thampi, a protest was held in Vavuniya to save Vedukkunaarimalai and against Buddhification of the Tamil homeland.



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