

# PHOENIX

Monthly Newsletter

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September 2023



Akkinip Paravaikal

“*Thileepam – a borderless doctrine.*”

**Phoenix TNG**

**HFT2023**

A cohesive campaign, redefining a borderless empire united behind the political doctrine of Thileepam.

Phoenix TNG

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# HFT2023

## *Hungerstrike For Thileepan*

PHOENIX TNG

### HFT 2023

HFT stands for Hunger Strike for Thileepan. This is a commemoration campaign started by Phoenix TNG in 2017. To mark the 30th memorial of Lt. Col. Thileepan Memorial at that time, Phoenix TNG had organised a symbolic hunger strike in Switzerland and Australia. 10 demands were put forth. It is noteworthy that the inspiration for HFT was born, when a Phoenix TNG delegation visited Northern Ireland in 2017 to commemorate 18.05.2017 with the Irish.

### Switzerland

For the first time another non Tamil organisation was involved in the organisation of HFT. LOTTA - a leftist group from Basel co-organised several gatherings with Phoenix TNG to mobilise for this year's HFT.

On 03.09.2023 a public barbecue was organised at the Horburgpark in Basel, Switzerland and a graffiti artwork with Lt. Col. Thileepan's imagery was drawn. Further, on 10.09.2023 a "No Fire Zone" documentary screening was also organised in Basel.

For 23.09.2023 an Open Stage event was organised by Phoenix TNG in Biberist, CH.

Lt. Col. Thileepan and martyrs from other struggles such Bobby Sands were commemorated at the beginning of the event. Afterwards several cultural performances were staged and speeches from LOTTA, Samidoun (Palestinian organisation, Nomorecomitee and from Phoenix TNG were held. The event was concluded with a live act from Kathiravan, where he unveiled Phoenix TNG's official theme song.

On 26.09.2023 a public commemoration was held at Waisenhausplatz in Bern, CH. Later the event was shifted to the Tamilarkalary where public discussions and speeches were held. At 21.00CH local time the members of Phoenix TNG concluded their 30-hour hunger strike. It is noteworthy that prior to the public commemoration, a Zoom session was held with the HFT2023 participants from Malaysia. Also 06 letters were sent to Swiss, Australian and British officials with this year's 41 demands in it.

### Australia

HFT2023 in Australia developed into a cohesive campaign conducted throughout the entirety of the month of September across various states in an autonomous manner. This shift is reflective of a decisive growth of the Australia Division's role in the overall campaign and thus marks the beginning

of a new trajectory for the Tamils' liberation struggle.

### **WEEK 1**

Week 1 of HFT commemorations in Australia commenced with a studio recording session on 01.09.2023 at Peachtree Labs, Sydney for soundscape designs and audio voiceovers for the HFT Open Stage component. An artistic start to the month set an invigorating foundation for the forthcoming events in furthering revolutionary fervour amongst all stratas of the community.

This was followed by a workshop on Lt. Col. Thileepan and International Revolution on 10.09.2023 at the Sydney Tamil Resource centre which established the parameters of the concept of Thileepam as an evolving political doctrine which functions as a platform for international solidarity and thus collective liberation through resistance. This public discussion forum was preceded by a closed discussion on Lt. Col. Thileepan and Media Resistance with representatives from other subjugated communities with whom we engage with in furthering Phoenix's international solidarity initiatives. This engagement strengthened inter-struggle communications.

### **WEEK 2**

The 2nd week of HFT events in Australia consisted of a series of vigils and educational workshops. We commenced the week with a commemorative vigil on 15.09.2023 in memory of the commence date of Lt. Col. Thileepan's 12-day hunger-strike unto-death in a vigil at the Sydney Tamil Memorial at Rookwood Cemetery. This vigil was attended by Phoenix members and participants from the wider Tamil community and was

followed by a discussion on the legacy of Lt. Col. Thileepan.

This was followed by a demo vigil opposite the Indian Embassy in Canberra, Australia which was attended by local Tamils who conducted a peaceful candlelight vigil in memory of Lt. Col. Thileepan. An literary workshop examining valour, sacrifice and death in Sangam Literature - especially the classical text Puranaanuru was conducted in a hybrid virtual and in-person event by Mr. Thanalapasingham.

A comparison of the revival of Sangam Tamil traditions by the Tamil leadership and a juxtaposition of such values with Homer's iterations of a hero enabled the attendees to dissect not only Lt. Col. Thileepan but the application of such values to all such martyrs or revolutionaries who contribute to a struggle for liberation engrained in national duty and sacrifice.

It was further decided at this workshop that subsequent Sangam literature lessons would be conducted in a structured manner under Mr. Thanapalasingham to further dissect similar texts and songs in detail to enhance a comprehension of intrinsic Tamil values of valour.

### **WEEK 3**

The pinnacle of the HFT campaign - the 30-hour symbolic hunger strike was conducted by the Australia division of Phoenix TNG across 4 Australian states - NSW, ACT, MEL and NT. Participants engaged in dry and wet hunger-strikes. Namely, a commemorative event was held at the Sydney Tamil Resource centre where HFT functioned as a platform to reiterate that the distinct sovereignties of subjugated communities cannot be compromised.

This was asserted through the presence of photographs of martyrs from communities which we work with upon the basis of international solidarity. Namely, the significance of Armenian commemoration at this event is notable at a time where the Artsakh War threatens the lives of over 120,000 Armenians who are targeted by the genocidal Azeri regime.

A month of HFT events was concluded with a members' vigil conducted in memory of Lt. Col. Thileepan at the Tamil War Memorial at Springvale Cemetery in Melbourne which was followed by a multi-sensory HFT exhibition which was held at the Armenian Community Centre in Springvale. Soundscapes for the exhibition were designed by Senthuran Thevarajah and the Phoenix and Tamil Eelam flags were notably raised at the event.

### **Malaysia**

In Malaysia the repression against Eelam related activism is very high. Despite this Lt. Col. Thileepan commemoration was held for the first time in Malaysia. Eelam tamil refugees in Malaysia and Malaysian Tamils commemorated Lt. Col. Thileepan for the first time. At the end of the event a

zoom session was held with Phoenix members across the world, where future projects and strategies were discussed.

### **Tamil Nadu**

In the 26th of September a commemoration event was held in Rajmannarkudi, Thiruvavur in Tamil Nadu. Beside that Phoenix TNG members organized a food donation program at the Mannarkudi temple at and at the busstation.

### **United Kingdom**

HFT was also officially conducted for the first time in the UK on 26.09.2023. The event included a featured exhibition, speeches from distinguished speakers such as Dr. Thamilventhan and representatives from the Kurdish community.

### **Bulgaria**

A commemorative vigil was conducted in Bulgaria at Verona Beach where flowers were sent out to sea by attendees in a moving tribute to Lt. Col. Thileepan on 26.09.2023. This event was conducted in collaboration with MUV Tamil Society.



# International News

06.09.2023: **API** - According to Economy Next, SL will host the 02nd Application Programming Interfaces (API) Asia Conference in November, 2023. The conference will focus on 03 critical pillars of the digital ecosystem.

- ◆ Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- ◆ Smart Cities
- ◆ Financial Technology (FinTech)

08.09.2023: **WHO** - SL completed the International Health Regulations Joint External Evaluation held in Colombo between 04.09.2023-08.09.2023, reports Lanka Files. According to WHO, SL is the 12th country to have completed the evaluation.

09.09.2023: **Easter Sunday** - According to Lanka Files, SL's Ministry of Defence had condemned the Channel 4 documentary's allegations in an open statement.

"...Channel 4 will be held unequivocally accountable for any unforeseen actions or repercussions stemming from their unfounded, malevolent and poorly substantiated claims made in the video."

11.09.2023: **UNHRC** - The 54th UNHRC session had commenced. According to Lanka Files, UN top rights body was accused of "soft pedaling" on GoSL's human rights record. Further reports indicate that SL's Permanent Representative of SL to the

UN rejected all recommendations and dismissed the Sri Lanka Accountability Project (SLAP) with a "dubious mandate." However, many countries encouraged SL to turn their commitments on land issues of devolution of political authority to meaningful action to deliver results. Further reports indicate that India mentioned that SL's progress on commitments are inadequate and suggested Provincial Council elections to be held to ensure dignity for Tamils. Pakistan on the other hand responded to the UNHRC's Report on SL of not having addressed the impacts of global economic developments on the people of SL. ICJ Representatives further highlighted the repetitive failures of domestic transitional justice mechanisms in SL. The UK highlighted "an urgent need for an adequately resourced, independent, and transparent approach to dealing with the past." On the other hand, China expressed their firm support for SL's national sovereignty and dismissed the UNHRC 5/1 resolution as being unfair in objectivity. GoSL openly rejected the UNHRC report on SL which called upon GoSL to implement the UN's recommendations on human rights.

- ◆ Canada
- ◆ North Macedonia
- ◆ Malawi
- ◆ Montenegro
- ◆ UK

◆ **USA**

16.09.2023 - **UN/ New York** - Following his participation in the "G77 and China" Summit in Cuba, the SL President arrived in New York to attend the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in the US, reports SL's Presidential Secretariat.

17.09.2023: **Buddhism** - According to the SL's Presidential Secretariat, the 08th South China Sea Buddhist Shenzhen Roundtable is scheduled to occur in SL from 24.10.2023-26.10.2023. The institute was launched to conduct research on major theoretical and practical matters associated with the construction of the Maritime Silk Road, provide strategic insights and initiate international exchanges. It serves as a platform to exchange views and promote the sustainable development of Buddhism in the region.

22.09.2023: **UNGA** - According to Economy Next, Ranil Wickremesinghe told the General Assembly in New York that conflicts and tensions caused by the major powers are causing problems for the rest of the world. This is because they complicate the political environment for the rest of the world by unsettling economic and macro-financial stability, disrupting supply chains, and causing inflation and



food and energy insecurity.

22.09.2023: **UN** – R. Wickremesinghe addressed the UN General Assembly in New York on 21.09.2023 on the theme of “Rebuilding trust and reigniting solidarity” and its relevance to Sri Lanka’s recent challenges, reports defence.lk.

25.09.2023: **Diaspora** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe, and the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Baroness Patricia Scotland, recently discussed initiatives to engage the Diaspora in New York. The discussion was about further strengthening the relationship and

cooperation between SL and the Commonwealth. SL is seeking to attract more foreign investment from the Diaspora from Canada, the UK, US and the United Arab Emirates.

25.09.2023: **Climate** - According to Economy Next, SL, which is struggling with an unprecedented economic crisis, is attempting to initiate a climate justice forum at an upcoming Asia-Pacific regional forum to negotiate debt relief for climate-related vulnerabilities with developed countries. At the last climate conference (COP27), leaders of poor countries criticised rich nations and oil companies for causing global warming and demanded

that they pay for the damage inflicted upon their economies.

27.09.2023: **COP28** - According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet has approved the proposal of its Minister of Environment to maintain a country pavilion during the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to showcase "national initiatives related to climate change." The forum aims to provide a "common voice" for the aspirations of developing countries in the global dialogue on climate change, along with countries that are more vulnerable to global warming.

## *Bilateral*

01.09.2023: **Bangladesh** - According to Economy Next, SL has repaid another USD 100 million in the second installment of the USD 200 million loan Bangladesh provided as part of a currency swap. Colombo paid USD 50 million in August 2023 as the first installment of the loan repayment.

01.09.2023: **India** - According to Economy Next, Indian Defense Minister Shri Rajnath Singh will visit SL on 02.09.2023 to review bilateral defense relations. The Indian Defense Minister's visit comes against the backdrop of a Chinese request to berth its research vessel Shi Yan 6 in SL ports from 26.10.2023-10.11.2023. India has

already expressed security concerns to GoSL about the Chinese vessel.

02.09.2023: **India** - According to Economy Next, Indian Defense Minister Shri Rajnath Singh's scheduled two-day official visit to SL to review bilateral defense ties will be postponed within 06 hours of the announcement of the visit by the Indian High Commission in Colombo. A new date will be fixed at a later date.

06.09.2023: **China** - According to Economy Next, SL's state-owned Lanka Mineral Sands Limited will export 60,000 tonnes of Ilmenite to China. Earlier this week, a shipment of 30,000 tonnes of Zircon sand was shipped at

the Port of Trincomalee, which was observed by Industry Minister Ramesh Pathirana. Lanka Mineral Sands has the right to collect heavy beach sand at Pulmoddai on Tamil Eelam's occupied East coast.

06.09.2023: **Digitisation** - According to Economy Next, SL has already taken steps to ensure the digital security of an India-funded project for a one-time ID card. This has raised concerns about the privacy of SL's citizens and the protection of personal data.

09.09.2023: **Sweden** - According to Economy Next, visa delays threaten the chances of students from SL who have applied to study at Swedish Universities. Out of 980 applicants, only 406 students have received visas, said Aravinda Rathnayaka, chair of "Let's Love to Learn."

10.09.2023: **Disappearances** - According to Lanka Files, Tamil mothers of the Association of Relatives of the Enforced Disappearances (ARED) met international envoys in Colombo to reiterate their demands of international justice. The meeting was conducted in light of the upcoming 54th UNHRC session.

- ◆ New Zealand
- ◆ Australia
- ◆ UK
- ◆ Netherlands

11.09.2023: **Japan** - According to Economy Next, Japan will cover the cost of an expert to pioneer Power Sector reforms in SL. He will "strategically lead the reform process and provide input on technical, energy policy, and regulatory issues."

12.09.2023: **France** - According to Economy Next, SL's Marine Environment Protection Agency (MEPA)

has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with French satellite company Collecte Localisation Satellites (CLS) to deploy satellites to detect oil spills in the sea around SL. This is a pilot project by CLS, funded by the French government to the tune of EUR 600,000.

15.09.2023: **Cuba** - R. Wickremesinghe, embarked on an official visit to Cuba ahead of his participation in the G77 plus China Summit in Havana on 15.09.2023-16.09.2023, hosted by Cuba as the current Chair of the G77 plus China. Both nations have supported each other on issues such as the lifting of sanctions against Cuba and Human Rights issues. They identified areas of future cooperation, including public health, agriculture and sports, reports SL's Presidential Secretariat.

13.09.2023: **China** - According to Economy Next, a fish export association from Fujian Province in China has expressed interest in using the environment of small coastal ports in SL to process aquaculture yields and ship them to Europe and North America. Aquaculture, or aquatic farming, involves the raising, keeping and harvesting of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants.

13.09.2023: **Singapore** - According to Economy Next, the SL Cabinet has approved a proposal to improve the water quality of Lake Beira in Colombo through a pilot project by Group Pty Ltd (GPL), a Singaporean company. This project requires the importation of specialised machinery and equipment, which will be imported duty free.

14.09.2023: **Australia** - According to Economy Next, an Australian-based global renewable energy developer has proposed to build a 700 MW solar

power plant with a battery storage system at Lake Poonakary in Kilinochchi. The Northern Province Council, the Northern Province Irrigation Board and the Agricultural Development Board have agreed to give United Solar Energy Sri Lanka 1,080 hectares of the shallow area of Lake Poonakary under a 35-year lease. This will be the largest project of its kind in the North and East.

14.09.2023: **Kuwait** - According to Economy Next, SL and Kuwait will sign a memorandum of understanding for the establishment of a bilateral consultative mechanism on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly, which will be held in New York from 18.09.2023-26.09.2023. The SL National Chamber of Commerce and the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry had already signed a memorandum of understanding in February 2020 to promote trade and technical and economic cooperation between the 02 countries.

15.09.2023: **Korea** - According to Economy Next, Korean Minister of Labor and Employment Lee Jung-Sik assured that necessary steps will be taken to open new employment opportunities for Sri Lankans in Korea and increase the number of jobs for Sri Lankans. The discussion also focused on the need for manpower in the South Korean shipbuilding industry and the opportunities available for Sri Lankan professionals in the shipbuilding industry.

19.09.2023: **South Korea** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol discuss the importance of concluding a trade agreement between SL and South Korea. Likewise, strengthening investment ties between the two

countries should be accelerated to allow more Korean investment and bring new technologies to SL.

19.09.2023: **US** - According to Economy Next, government representatives from SL and the United States met at a meeting in Colombo on 18.09.2023. They met for the 14th meeting of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Council, where they discussed policies affecting the investment climate. Transparency and efficiency in foreign direct investment (FDI) approval were highlighted as important drivers for attracting foreign investment and domestic economic growth.

19.09.2023: **NY** - According to Economy Next, a high-level business roundtable in New York was attended by more than 40 U.S. companies seeking to explore investment and trade opportunities in SL. The talks were aimed at promoting economic opportunities and strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

20.09.2023: **Bangladesh** - According to Economy Next, Bangladesh was surprised by the quick repayment of a loan taken during a currency crisis. Ranil Wickremesinghe expressed his gratitude for the unwavering support and help in difficult times.

20.09.2023: **Australia** - According to Economy Next, a large number of Sri Lankan students seeking higher education opportunities attended an Australian education showcase in Colombo. The Study Australia Showcase was organized by the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade), an Australian government agency. An impressive number of students expressed their desire to choose

Australia as their preferred location for postsecondary education.

**20.09.2023: Nuclear Weapons -**

According to Economy Next, SL signed its instrument of accession to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 19.09.2023 United Nations Headquarters in New York. Thus, as the 69th State Party, SL has reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to nuclear disarmament for the benefit of international peace and security.

**20.09.2023: Nepal** - According to Economy Next, SL is looking to expand its long-standing relationship with Nepal into a dynamic political, trade and economic partnership by diversifying the areas of cooperation. Ranil Wickremesinghe pointed out that the inaugural meeting of the SL - Nepal Joint Commission to be held in Kathmandu at the end of this year will be an important step in expanding the long-standing relationship between the two countries.

**20.09.2023: Iran** - According to Economy Next, Iranian leader Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi has accepted an invitation from his Sri Lankan counterpart Ranil Wickremesinghe to visit the South Asian island nation in the near future. If visited, Raisi would be the first Iranian leader to visit Sri Lanka since Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in April 2008.

**21.09.2023: Malaysia** - According to Economy Next has agreed to support Sri Lanka's application for membership in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a major regional trade agreement. The RCEP is a free trade agreement between the Asia-Pacific countries of Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar,

New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

**24.09.2023: India** - According to

Economy Next, the Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS) will be held in Mumbai, India, from 17.10.2023-23.10.2023, with SL invited as a partner country. Sri Lanka Ports Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva has highlighted the desire of both governments to work closely together to develop the industrial zone in Trincomalee. At a launch event on 22.09.2023, Indian High Commissioner in Colombo Gopal Baglay had said that both countries are working to improve maritime connectivity as per a vision document.

**26.09.2023: Singapore** - According to Economy Next, SL's Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) will receive LKR 5.7 million annually for 05 years from Singapore-based marine litter solutions provider the Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW) to maintain 08 beach-cleaning machines. The donation will assist MEPA clean coastal areas throughout SL using BeachTech Hydro Sweepee beach cleaning machines previously donated by the organisation.

**26.09.2023: Japan** - According to Economy Next, SL in Japan will purchase floating pipes and spare parts for an offshore point mooring system used to offload oil. The contract to supply 26 rubber pipes and spare parts for the OPBM was awarded to Singapore-based Yokohama Industrial Products Asia Pacific (Pty) Ltd.



Framing Workshop at N. Mahesan Commemoration AU  
03.09.2023



Voice Referendum Rally, AU  
17.09.2023

# PHOENIX snapshot



Armenian Genocide Rally, AU  
25.09.2023

# Military News

10.09.2023: **SL Army Chief** - According to Lanka Files, R. Wickremesinghe has reportedly decided to implement a service extension for SL's Colonel Commandant of the Artillery Regiment, Major General Sanjaya Wanasinghe to appoint him as the 25th Commander of the SL Army. It is notable that the tenure of the current chief is set to end on 31.12.2023.

12.09.2023: **Lebanon** - The ceremonial medal awarding parade of the 14th Sri Lanka Force Protection Company (SLFPC) in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) got underway at Soedirman camp in Greenhill at the UNIFIL HQ premises in Naqoura on 06.09.2023, reports Defence LK.

14.09.2023: **Indian Navy** - Indian Naval Ship (INS) 'Nireekshak' arrived at the Trincomalee harbor on a formal visit on 14.09.2023. The crew will participate in several programmes, with a view to promoting cooperation and goodwill between

02 navies. In addition, diving training exercises with the SL Navy Diving Unit and visiting some of the tourist attractions will be held.

16.09.2023: **Land** - According to army.lk, SL Major General S.R.K Hettiarachchi Commander, Security Forces - Jaffna on the instructions of the Commander of the SL Army released a land patch of 1 acre 3 roods and 10.52 perches in Anandapuram, Kilinochchi, hitherto being used by troops for operational requirements in Kilinochchi on 14.09.2023 during a ceremony.

## WHAM

04.09.2023: **Jaffna** - The 4 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment (SLSR) troops of the 521 Infantry Brigade of the 52 Infantry Division under the Security Force HQ - Jaffna with the support of a donor arranged two scholarships to two tamil students, reports army.lk.

08.09.2023: **Mannar** - Troops of the 542nd Infantry Brigade under the 54th Infantry Division with the objective of promoting the habit of money-saving among students organised a programme to offer bank accounts, tills and school aids among 140 school students in Musali Divisional Secretariat area on 07.09.2023, reports Army LK. Each student received a sum of LKR 2000 in a bank account.

22.09.2023: **Vanni** - According to army.lk, situated covering a vast patch of dense jungles and cultivations, the occupational Security Force Headquarters - Vanni (SFHQ-Vanni) in Vavuniya, has been rendering essential services, related to SL's national security, peacekeeping, reconciliation and for the livelihood of deserving people has to-date constructed a total of 925 new houses after the peak of Tamil genocide in May 2009.

# Domestic News

05.09.2023: **Bombings** - According to Economy Next, opposition leader Sajith Premadasa is calling for an international investigation into the Easter Sunday bombings in SL. In addition, the Government of SL (GoSL) has signaled its enthusiasm to launch a new investigation following a documentary aired by the British television station Channel 4.

05.09.2023: **Bombings** - According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet of Ministers has decided to appoint a Parliamentary Select Committee to assess the Channel 4 documentary's allegations that SL's current Intelligence Chief Suresh Sallay was involved in the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings. Maj. Gen. Sallay masterminded the plot when he worked for the Directorate of Military Intelligence, with the aim of creating instability to enable the Rajapaksas' return to power. The Times newspaper reported Monday, citing the British Channel 4 documentary.

05.09.2023: **Censorship** - According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet of

Ministers approved a Bill to decide on the truthfulness of various statements published on the Internet, as well as on scams. The Bill came shortly after a Broadcasting Law targeting television and radio stations had been introduced. Various government spokesmen had previously mentioned that a Chinese-style Law on online publications and social media was required.

06.09.2023: **Digitisation** - According to Economy Next, all financial transactions by SL state institutions will be conducted digitally by 31.03.2024. The necessary legal procedures will implement the new policy under the "DigiEcon 2030" concept.

07.09.2023: **Alcohol** - According to Economy Next, SL has issued 538 non-alcoholic liquor licenses under SL's Tourism Sector promotion schemes which commenced in 2022. Anyone who had a tourist permit could apply for this license for their restaurant.

08.09.2023: **Protest** - According to Eelanadu, the Sinhalese public

have staged a protest against the release of the Channel 4 documentary which investigates findings of collusion and complicity with the Easter bombings of 2019.

07.09.2023: **Bombings** - According to Economy Next, British broadcaster Channel 4's documentary on the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings in SL was reported to be "an anti-Rajapaksa tirade." In a detailed statement released on 07.09.2023, about the documentary, Rajapaksa mentioned that the documentary aims to "blacken the legacy of the Rajapaksas since 2005, and that it is a tissue of lies, just like the earlier films aired by the same channel." He was likely referring to a highly controversial documentary aired by Channel 4 following the military victory of Sri Lankan government forces against the Tamil leadership in 2009.

07.09.2023: **Bombings** - According to Economy Next, the head of SL's Catholic Church, Cardinal Malcom Ranjith, has called on R. Wickremesinghe to launch an independent, international investigation into the alleged plot in the

Easter Sunday attacks and to suspend senior police officers who are alleged to have neglected their duties. The cardinal's new demands come after a documentary by British television station Channel 4 revealed whistleblower claims that the Easter Sunday attack on April 21, 2019, was a plot.

12.09.2023: **Nuclear Weapons** - According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet of Ministers is set to approve the signing of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This agreement prohibits SL from any nuclear activity.

14.09.2023: **Doctors** - According to Economy Next, SL's Ministry of Health has recalled retired doctors to duty after hundreds of doctors left SL following an unprecedented economic crisis and some IMF-led reforms such as tax hikes. Many hospitals across SL are struggling with doctor shortages after some specialists left SL for greener pastures.

15.09.2023: **Labor** - According to Economy Next, SL's Ministry of Foreign Employment will launch a survey to

determine the number of SLs who have left SL undocumented and offer them houses. SL's Ministry of Labour, the Office of Foreign Employment and other institutions will jointly conduct a survey in the coming days to determine the plight of SL migrants.

17.08.2023: **Gotabaya** - According to Eelanadu, G. Rajapaksa has denounced the rumours that he will be returning to politics.

19.09.2023: **Geopolitics** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe said in a statement issued by the Presidential Media Department (PMD) that SL's government is not allied with either India or China. He stressed that the Indian Ocean and South Pacific island nations do not want to be involved in the rivalry between the major world powers. "The Indian Ocean and South Pacific island nations have their own priorities that have nothing to do with the goals of the Quad (consisting of the U.S., India, Japan and Australia) or China," he said.

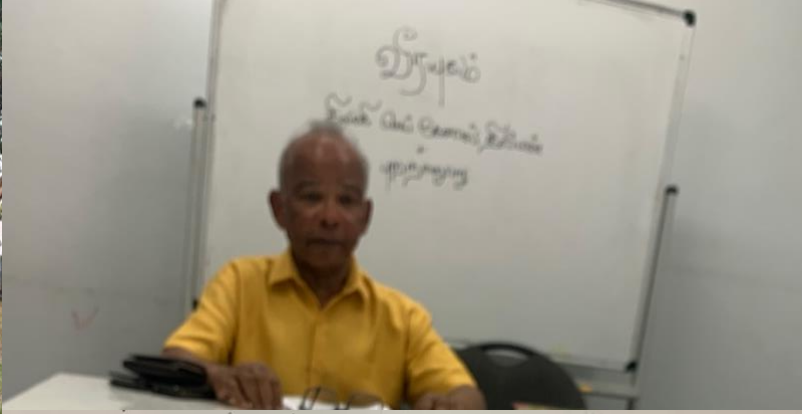
20.09.2023: **Corruption** - According to Economy

Next, the adoption of anti-corruption legislation in SL is delayed because the Anti-Corruption Commission is currently struggling with the task of recruiting staff with formal training. Given these circumstances, it is expected that another year will be needed to achieve the expected results of the anti-corruption law, making the timeframe for implementation approximately two years.

26.09.2023: **Petrochina** - According to Economy Next, SL's state-owned Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) will purchase diesel from Petrochina International (Singapore) Ltd. for the next 04 months from November 2023. The purchase is on a long-term contract basis.

27.09.2023: **Financial Zone** - According to Economy Next, SL is working on a new law for the Colombo Financial Zone in their port city and an economic commission to replace its Board of Investment. Reports indicate that SL aims to position itself as a central player in the region, offering services such as legal advice and dispute resolution.





**ECONOMIC PROFILE – September 2023**

<b>BIP</b>	Q2 of 2023	↓ to 3.1% in 12-months
Agriculture sector		↑ by 3.6%
Industry sector		↓ by 11.5%
Services sector		↓ by 0.8%
<b>Inflation</b>	September 2023	↑ by 1.3% to 5.3%
<b>Gross FOREX Reserves</b>	August 2023	↓ by USD 164 million to USD 3,598 million
<b>Remittances</b>	August 2023	↑ by 53% from a year ago to USD 499 million
<b>BOP</b>	June 2023	1,958 million US dollar surplus
<b>Trade</b>	July 2023	
Exports		↓ by 12.4% in July 2023 from a year ago
Imports		↑ by 7.8% in July 2023 from a year ago
<b>Fitch Ratings</b>		
Local currency		↑ to CCC- from restricted default

**RANJINI**  
 AP Economic Analyst  
 & Coordinator

05.09.2023: **Tax Law** - According to Economy Next, SL's new bill to amend the Tax Law is not unconstitutional and can be passed by Parliament with a simple majority. This decision will create credibility both domestically and internationally in terms of economic stability, he added.

07.09.2023: **FTZ** - According to Economy Next, SL plans to use the Biyagama Free Trade Zone as a blueprint for national industrialisation to achieve rapid development over 15-20 years. The crisis-hit South Asian country is targeting USD 1.5-2.0 billion in foreign investment by 2023, SL's state minister for investment promotion said.

09.09.2023: **Remittances** - SL received USD499 million in remittances through official channels in August 2023, up 53 percent from a year earlier. The August figure is slightly lower than the USD 541 million in July.

11.09.2023: **SOE** - According to Economy Next, SL is abolishing the SVAT to streamline

the VAT system under a program supported by the International Monetary Fund. It is introducing the French alternative as an alternative to the SVAT.

15.09.2023: **Monetary Policy** - According to Economy Next, SL's Speaker of Parliament Mahinda Abeywardana has signed into law a new central bank law that allows inflation policymakers to print money to boost growth (potential output target) and pursue discretionary policy. With IMF reserve targets, it is not possible to have a floating exchange rate, which is required for inflation targeting.

21.09.2023: **Arugam Bay** - According to Economy Next, the Arugam Bay Tourism Development Plan, which focuses on the challenges of infrastructure development in the area and the barriers that hinder the growth of the tourism sector, was discussed by government officials and key stakeholders. The main tourism plan for Arugam Bay, prepared by the Urban Development Authority (UDA), was presented by the Chief of the

Presidential Staff, Sagala Rathnayaka.

22.09.2023: **Central Bank** - According to Economy Next, SL's central bank has announced that its "board of directors," established under a new currency law, has held its first meeting. Board members will also be members of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka's Monetary Policy Committee, which sets interest rates.

26.09.2023: **Debt Management Agency** - According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet of Ministers has approved the bill to establish an independent debt management agency, which was included as a reform in a 2022 interim budget. The independent debt management agency was a priority reform under a program supported by the International Monetary Fund.

26.09.2023: **Budget Law** - According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet of Ministers has approved the draft Budget Law for 2024. The appropriation bills include spending plans for each ministry.



# INTIMIDATION

## *Prevention of Commemoration*

A convoy in memory of Lt. Col. Thileepan to Nallur from Pottuvil had departed, reports Lanka Files. SL MP S. Kajendran mentioned that “the Army Intelligence Unit followed the memorial vehicle threatened the organisers.”

Further reports from S. Thavaseelan indicate that the makeshift monument in memory of Lt. Col. Thileepan atop the convoy and the car were vandalized by Sinhalese mobs near Trincomalee Dockyard. S. Kajendran was also reportedly attacked who mentioned that this attack was incited by the SL state itself.

Occupational SL Police did not intervene to prevent the attack.

# Oppression & Resistance

01.09.2023: **Mass Graves** - According to Tamil journalist, S. Thavaseelan it had been brought to the attention of the Mullaitivu District Magistrate's Court that the lawyers engaged in the case of investigations into the excavation of mass graves in Kokuthoduvai had been threatened by occupational SL Intelligence Agencies.

01.09.2023: **Media Intimidation** - According to JDS Lanka, journalists in Batticaloa had made a complaint to HRCSL after many Tamil journalists such as Shashi and S. Nilanthan had been prevented from covering the District Development Committee's meeting which was held in Batticaloa on 31.08.2023. The journalists are also members of the Batticaloa District Tamil Journalists' Association.

01.09.2023: **Kurunthormalai** - According to Kalaikathir, Mullaitivu court ruled that SL's Archeological Department and SL's occupational Police forces have not implemented the ruling of the court. The court ruled the construction of the Buddhist temple as

illegal and ordered the cessation of the construction. However, the construction works continue.

02.09.2023: **OMP** - Sinhala Disappearance activists continue to express faith in the OMP despite the Tamil mothers' rejection of it, reports Lanka Files.

05.09.2023: **Commemoration** - According to Lanka Files, a blood donation camp was held in Chavakachcheri Jaffna to commemorate the 2nd memorial of Gnpragasam Prakash a journalist who had faced his demise due to a COVID-19 infection.

06.09.2023: **Mass Graves** - Forensic Archaeologist Professor Raj Somadeva and Professor of Archaeology Paramu Pushparatnam are reported to participate in the excavations, reports Lanka Files. Further reports indicate that excavations commenced on 06.09.2023 whilst occupational SL Army officers watched on. Somadeva commenced the excavations by noting measurements. According to JDS Lanka, authorities had been notified after members

of SL's occupational military had entered and photographed the excavation site despite police presence. Images of the trespass were captured by Tamil journalist S. Thavaseelan.

06.09.2023: **Easter Sunday** - Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, Catholic Archbishop of Colombo appealed to SL Police and Intelligence officials in a press release statement to share evidence of the Easter Sunday Bombings of 2019, reports Lanka Files. He had further urged an International Independent Investigation (III) into the C4 Dispatches findings in the Channel 4 Documentary published into the complicity of individuals in the bombings following a year of investigations.

07.09.2023: **Easter Sunday** - Genocidaire G. Rajapaksa denied C4 Dispatches allegations of his complicity in the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings in a press release issued on 07.09.2023 - the first of such since he was removed from his position as SL's President in 2022.

“The presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Easter Sunday bombings has stated quite clearly that signs of Muslim extremist build up were ignored by the government of 2015-2019.”

08.09.2023: **Mass Grave** - According to JMO Dr. Kanagasabapathy Vasudeva, “signs of suspected bullet marks can be observed on the clothes.” These findings were reported to present media following the excavation of ammunition shells and human remains of at least 02 individuals. Further reports from Thavaseelan indicate that Occupational Mullaitivu Police had threatened and obstructed Tamil journalists Vijayaratnam Saravanan and Balanathan Sathees from covering the findings of the 3rd day of excavations at the site. Lanka Files further reported that University of Jaffna’s undergraduate students had also visited the scene for educational observation. Men in camouflage uniform were also caught on camera by Jera Thami handling unearthed remains with naked hands - a mishandling of forensic evidence.

Human remains unearthed from the mass grave are suspected to be of at least 02 LTTE female cadres as the remains were unearthed alongside khaki shirts, trousers and undergarments. The evidence was labeled with the identification numbers of 3204, 3174 and 1564.

08.09.2023: **Commemoration** - The 33rd commemoration of the 1990 Batticaloa Massacre where 176 Tamils were killed was held in Batticaloa by locals, reports Lanka Files.

08.09.2023: **Commemoration** - The 27th commemoration of Krishanthi Kumaraswamy - a Tamil schoolgirl who was gang raped and murdered in Chemmani by occupational SL soldiers - was conducted in Chemmani by locals., reports Lanka Files.

08.09.2023: **Easter Sunday** - Genocidaire Sarath Fonseca mentioned in SL Parliament that he believes the allegations in the Channel 4 documentary regarding the Easter Sunday bombings, reports Lanka Files. He further

added that he was aware that SL SIS Chief Sallay had colluded with SL Major General Boniface Perera had detonated bombs during the 2010 Presidential Election in support of the Rajapaksas.

10.09.2023: **Mass Grave** - The 04th day of excavations found skeletal remains (skulls) and clothing, reports Lanka Files.

11.09.2023: **Transfer** - According to Lanka Files, SL’s Police Chief had transferred Senior Superintendent of SL Police, Prasanna Brahmanage with immediate effect for his failure of responsibility for the security of the Trincomalee District Committee which was stormed by a Buddhist monk on 28.08.2023. Reports indicate that the transfer was completed following the filing of a complaint by S. Thondaman.

12.09.2023: **Commemoration** - 33rd Sathurukondan Massacre was commemorated by locals and relatives in Batticaloa at a commemorative monument in memory of 190 Tamils who were abducted, sexually abused and murdered

by occupational SL security forces, reports Lanka Files.

12.09.2023: **Mass Grave**

- According to Lanka Files, 03 additional skeletons had been unearthed during excavations at the Kokkuthoduvai Mass Graves. Further reports from forensic expert Dr. Kanagasabapathy Vasudeva indicate that it would be difficult to pinpoint the exact number of skeletons as several are stacked atop each other. Later reports indicate the unearthing of a bullet and water purification device produced in Russia. On 14.09.2023 03 additional skeletons were exhumed with 02 ID tags and a cyanide capture. Dr. Vasudeva indicated that the recovered skeletal remains are stored at Mullaitivu hospital. Following 9 consecutive days of exhumations, the Kokkuthoduvai mass grave excavations have been temporarily suspended until the 3rd week of October 2023 due to the alternate commitments of Dr. Somadeva's team.

12.09.2023: **Protest** - Following the SL Parliament's defeat of a no confidence motion against SL's Health

Minister, doctors from Mullaitivu District Hospital joined solidarity protests demanding an immediate solution to the crisis in hospitals due to the departure of medics from SL, reports Lanka Files.

12.09.2023: **Strike** - According to Economy Next, 84 drivers out of a total of 18,000-20,000 railroad drivers decided to strike. They paralysed the operation of about 30-40 train lines and students, workers and patients could not get where they wanted to go. In the process, one youth died while riding on the roof of an overcrowded train.

13.09.2023: **Strike** - According to Economy Next, SL's railroad unionists defy an SL Presidential Decree and continue the strike. Thousands of commuters are affected and more trains will be canceled if the strike continues.

14.09.2023: **Protest** - Sinhalese and Tamil fishermen from Trincomalee staged a protest against GoSL for their permission for 176 fishermen to use Purse Seine nets for fishing which endangers their

livelihood, reports Lanka Files.

14.09.2023:

**Kurunthormalai** -

According to S. Thavaseelan, SL MPs S. Kajendran and Vinogarathalingam were arrested and released on bail in regards to the banning of the worship of occupational Buddhist monks at Kurunthormalai.

16.09.2023:

**Commemoration** -

According to Lanka Files, Lt. Col. Thileepan's commencement of his hunger strike unto death 36 years ago was commemorated at Nallur.

16.09.2023:

**Commemoration** -

According to Kalaikathir, the Manthuvil massacre was commemorated in Mullaitivu. In 1999, 24 Tamil civilians were killed due to bombing of SL's Air Force.

19.09.2023: **Blood**

**Donation** - According to Eelanadu a blood donation campaign is organized at the Technology faculty of the Jaffna university in Kilinochchi.

19.09.2023: **Protest** -

According to Kalaikathir, a protest

against the attack on the memorial of Lt. Col. Thileepan was organised in Devipuram, Mullaitivu.

19.09.2023: **Ban** - According to Kalaikathir, a requested ban on the memorial by the SL's police was rejected by the Vavuniya court.

20.09.2023: **Ban** - According to Eelanadu, courts in Colombo have banned the commemoration of Lt. Col. Thileepan at several places in Colombo. A commemoration was organized with the slogan "We stand with the oppressed Tamils". It is noteworthy that several slogans were seen in Colombo that called for attacks at this commemoration event.

20.09.2023: **Commemoration** - MP S. Kajendran, Father. M. Sakthivel, and TNPF's Amparai, Batticaloa and Trincomalee organisers were summoned to Jaffna's Magistrate court. According to Lanka Files, they had been summoned due to a petition filed by Jaffna's occupational police preventing the commemoration of Lt. Col. Thileepan. Earlier reports indicate that the case was rejected.

Father Sakthivel was further intimidated and surveilled by occupational SL Police.

21.09.2023: **Protest** - According to Lanka Files, a protest was held in Muttur to condemn the vandalism of a Lt. Col. Thileepan memorial motorcade in Trincomalee.

21.09.2023: **Ban** - According to Kalaikathir, the Court of Jaffna has postponed the hearing for the request of SL's Police to ban the commemoration of Lt. Col. Thileepan.

22.09.2023: **Protest** - According to Lanka Files, Tamils launched a protest in Mullaitivu demanding international investigations into the Kokkuthoduvai Mass Graves and enforced disappearances as well as the implementation of an international justice mechanism for alleged war crimes committed in SL.

22.09.2023: **SL Navy** - The families of 11 males allegedly abducted by SL Navy officers from Colombo and suburbs 15 years ago, requested UN SL to urge GoSL to expedite the court case against the accused including Wasantha

Karannagoda, reports Lanka Files.

23.09.2023: **Commemoration** - According to Lanka Files, the 28th memorial of the Nagerkoyil massacre was commemorated by locals.

23.09.2023: **Commemoration** - SSP Kalinga Jayasinghe, and Saminda Wickrama flew to the North of the occupied Tamil homeland to engage in an unsuccessful attempt to ban Lt.Col.Thileepan's commemorations, reports Lanka Files. The Jaffna Magistrate had once again rejected a prohibition order for the 2nd time within 2 consecutive days.

24.09.2023: **Easter Sunday** - According to Times Online LK, UK's communication regulator Ofcom had rejected a complaint by SL's SIS Major General Tuan Suresh Sallay against the Channel 4 Easter Sunday, reports Lanka Files.

25.09.2023: **Land Release** - After 33 years, locals have been allowed to worship at the Sri Muthumariamman Temple in Katuvan, Valikaamam North,



which has been under the control of the occupational SL Army since 1990, reports Lanka Files.

25.09.2023: **Release** - A 77-year-old differently-abled Tamil mother appealed to HRCSL to intervene and return her son Thillaiampalam Suthendirarasa alias Santhan who was released following a prison sentence for the Rajiv Gandhi assassination and sent to a special prison camp in Trichy, Tamil Nadu, reports Lanka Files.

25.09.2023: **Commemoration** - According to Kalaikathir, a commemoration event was held in Kilinochchi for Lt. Col. Thilepan.

26.09.2023: **Excavation** - According to Eelanadu, SL's occupational police have started excavation work in the East of Mullivaikkal in search of material related to the LTTE.

28.09.2023: **IMF** - According to Lanka Files, IMF indicates that despite SL's early signs of economic stabilisation full economic recovery is not assured.

28.09.2023: **OHCHR** - Dr. A. Ramadoss urged the UN states to implement the call for justice for mass atrocity crimes by GoSL through the use of OHCHR's SLAP, reports Lanka Files.

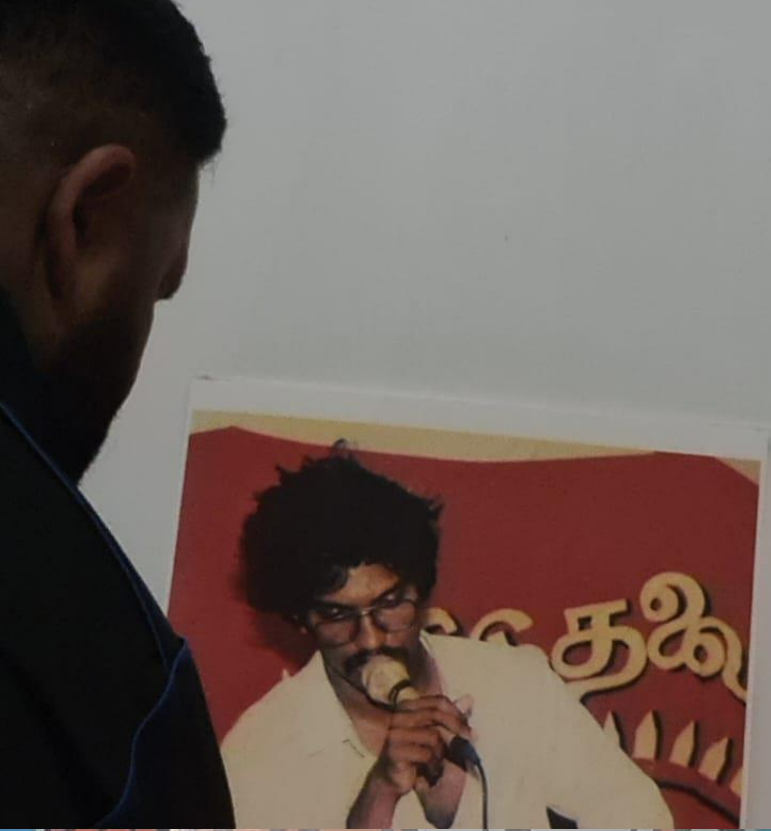
28.09.2023: **IMF** - According to Lanka Files, the IMF's senior mission chief for SL, Peter Breuer, mentioned that the release of the second tranche will depend on whether GoSL is capable of the sustenance of reforms to pay down debt.

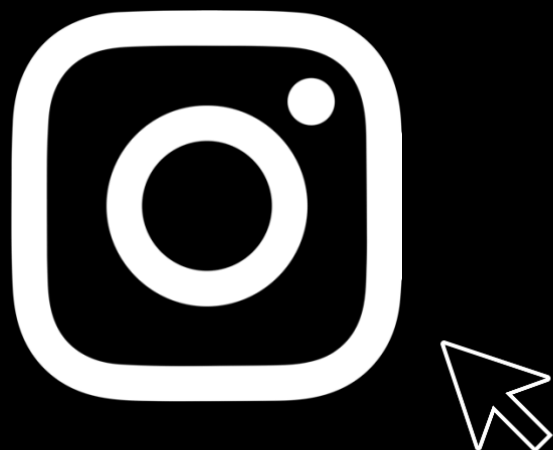
28.09.2023: **Appointment** - Former SL Human Rights Commissioner from the G. Rajapaksa regime, Senior SL State Counsel Anusuya Shanmuganathan has been appointed to SL's Election Commission, reports Lanka Files.

28.09.2023: **Bangladesh** - According to Lanka Files, SL rights activists conducted a protest opposite the Bangladeshi High Commission in Colombo to condemn the 2-year sentence imposed against human rights defenders Adilur Rahman and in restricting freedom of expression, and submitted a petition

demanding their release.

28.09.2023: **Resignation** - According to Jera Thampi, Muaitivu's District Magistrate had submitted a resignation letter citing his departure from the country due to death threats especially in regards with his involvement in the Kurunthormalai case, reports Lanka Files.





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# SIGNS OF STRUCTURAL GENOCIDE

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

01.09.2023: **Eastern Province** - According to Economy Next, Sri Lanka Railways land in the Eastern Province, some of which is now occupied by trespassers, can be leased in a transparent manner to develop the region. According to earlier statements by Minister Gunawardana, about 10 percent of the 14,000 hectares of land reserved for the railroads have been leased to third parties.

03.09.2023: **Buddhisation** - According to Tamil journalist K. Kumanan, the Tamil National movement called for a protest to be staged against the newly-constructed Buddhist temple in Periyakulam Village, Nilaveli of Trincomalee. It is notable that an injunction order had been obtained from the Trincomalee Court by occupational Nilaveli Police against 14

individuals including members of SL Parliament such as S. Kajendran, G.G. Ponnambalam and R. Shanakiyan to prevent them from participating in the protest. Further reports from Lanka Files indicate that the grassroots organisation, Tamil Parvai has been characterised as a 'fundamentalist civil organisation' in a court order issued by Trincomalee additional magistrate Darshani Annadurai which had banned protests by Tamil or Sinhala organisations near the occupational Boralukanda Buddhist Vihara site in Iluppukulam. The protest was thus shifted to the Uppuveli region.

04.09.2023: **Buddhist temple** - According to Eelanadu, Tamils have staged a protest at the bridge of Sampaltivu. The protest was conducted against the construction of a Buddhist

vihara at Illupaikulam, Trincomalee. It is noteworthy that the demographics of Illupaikulam and adjoining villages are predominantly composed of Tamils in residence.

13.09.2023: **Landgrab** - According to Veerakesari land measurements went interrupted in Thaiyaddi, Jaffna, after local residents resisted the attempt.

15.09.2023: **PTA** - During a press conference, SL Foreign Minister, Sabri mentioned that “there are no political prisoners. There are some who have been taken under PTA for terrorism against the country,” reports Lanka Files.

16.09.2023: **Protest** - According to Lanka Files, the farmers of Mathavanai Mylathamadu, Batticaloa engaged in a cyclical protest opposite the Chithandi School. They claim that their agricultural livelihood has been threatened by the heightened occupation of their lands - especially in preventing their rearing and breeding of livestock which form the staple of their local agricultural industry.

24.09.2023: **Landgrab** - According to K. Kumanan, extremist Buddhist monk Panamure Thilakavansa has allegedly been involved in the illegal appropriation of land owned by local Muslims. Furthermore, there are allegations that he has been threatening individuals who express their opposition to these land grab activities.

29.09.2023: **Ilupaikulam** - According to Kalaikathir, the residents of Ilupaikulam, Trincomalee have said that the construction work for the Buddhist temple is still ongoing despite a court ban.



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