

1. General questions

1.1. Information on the country

- 1.1.1. Please provide a brief description of the country, including its geographic size and the number of inhabitants.
- 1.1.2. What are the main ethnic/religious groups, approximately how large are these groups, and where do they live for the most part? What is the relationship between ethnicity and religion?
- 1.1.3. Please describe the system of government in brief.
- 1.1.4. Please briefly describe Sri Lanka's security organs, that is, the army, the police and the security service. In discussing the police, please briefly describe the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and the Terrorist Investigation Division (TID) and explain their tasks.
- 1.1.5. What central registration systems do the Sri Lankan authorities maintain, and how are they used?
- 1.1.6. For the benefit of the reader, please briefly explain the decades-long civil war between the LTTE and successive governments, which ended in 2009.

1.2. Political developments

- 1.2.1. What are the most important political developments that have occurred under the various presidents the country has had since the last country report in 2014? In answering the previous question, please pay particular attention to the following:
 - 1.2.1.1. any changes that may have occurred with respect to presidential powers.
 - 1.2.1.2. the governing style in general and the attitude of successive governments towards the country's minorities.
 - 1.2.1.3. any developments related to the 13th amendment to the constitution (devolution of powers to the provinces) and the extent to which it has been fully implemented (particularly in the Eastern and Northern Provinces, where most Tamils live).
 - 1.2.1.4. any developments with respect to the authorities' assumption of responsibility for human rights violations committed by the authorities during the war with the LTTE and afterwards.
 - 1.2.1.5. any developments regarding a truth and reconciliation committee.
- 1.2.2. Please describe the events leading up to the protests that led to Gotabaya Rajapaksa stepping down as president in July 2022.
- 1.2.3. Does the Rajapaksa family still play a major role in Sri Lankan politics, at either national or provincial level? If so, where and in what way(s)?
- 1.2.4. Does the LTTE still play any significant role in Sri Lanka? If so, where and in what way(s)?
- 1.2.5. Do Tamil political parties play a significant role in Sri Lanka, either at national or provincial level? If so, where and in what way(s)?

1.3. Legislation

- 1.3.1. Broadly speaking, what has been the nature of the debate surrounding the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) over the past few years? Has that led to any amendments to the PTA? If so, please specify. What special powers does the PTA give to the country's security organisations, particularly the police (including the CID and TID)?

1.4. Legal protection

- 1.4.1. What is the status of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka? To what extent has the Commission been able to operate independently and impartially over the past few years, and what is the current situation? Who currently appoints the members of the Commission? How many complaints has the Commission handled over the past year? What was the nature of the complaints? Were there also cases involving Tamils and/or people who defend the interests of Tamils? How did the Commission rule in those cases, and what was done with that judgment?

2. Identity and documents

2.1. *Compulsory identification and identity documents*

- 2.1.1. Are there laws on compulsory identification, applicable either to everyone or to specific groups?
 - 2.1.1.1. If so, from what age is identification compulsory?
 - 2.1.1.2. How strictly is compulsory identification enforced in practice?
- 2.1.2. What documents can be used for identification and travel purposes?
 - 2.1.2.1. Do these documents include the holder's ethnicity?
 - 2.1.2.2. How long are these documents valid?
 - 2.1.2.3. To what body are applications and renewal requests for these documents submitted?
- 2.1.3. In principle, can anyone obtain these documents, including Tamils?
- 2.1.4. Are fingerprints, passport photographs and biometric or other data recorded in a central database? If so, what bodies are charged with this task?
 - 2.1.4.1.
 - 2.1.4.2. Whose data is recorded in this database?
 - 2.1.4.3. Does the database also include ethnicity?
 - 2.1.4.4. What bodies have access to this central database?
- 2.1.5. If someone is wanted by the authorities (e.g. the police, either in general or more specifically by the CID or TID), are they registered in a central database?
 - 2.1.5.1. If so, what is the nature of the database(s)?
 - 2.1.5.2. And if so, it is possible for someone who is wanted by the authorities (e.g. the police, either in general or more specifically by the CID or TID) to obtain an identity card or passport?
- 2.1.6. If someone is released on bail following their arrest (e.g. by the police, either in general or more specifically by the CID or TID), are they registered by the authorities in a central or other database?
 - 2.1.6.1. If so, what is the nature of the database(s)?
 - 2.1.6.2. And if so, is it possible for someone who was released on bail following their arrest (e.g. by the police, either in general, or more specifically by the CID or TID) to obtain an identity card or passport?

3. Human rights

3.1. *Position of political dissidents/journalists/human rights defenders*

- 3.1.1.1. In general, how much scope has the government given political dissidents/journalists/human rights defenders to operate in recent years? And what is the current situation? Have they experienced any problems, and if so, what was the nature and scale of the problems, and what party or parties is causing or has caused the problems? And if so, what issues were/are considered the most sensitive?
 - 3.1.1.1.1. Please answer these questions with particular reference to political dissidents/journalists/human rights defenders of Tamil origin and/or those who were/are involved with issues/interests that relate to Tamils.
- 3.1.1.2. Are political dissidents/journalists/human rights defenders monitored in Sri Lanka, and if so, how and on what scale?
 - 3.1.1.2.1. Please answer this question with particular reference to political dissidents/journalists/human rights defenders of Tamil origin and/or those who were/are involved with issues/interests that relate to Tamils.
- 3.1.1.3. Do the authorities attempt to monitor the Facebook pages, X (formerly Twitter) accounts and internet discussion groups of political dissidents/journalists/human rights defenders in Sri Lanka and abroad, and if so, how and on what scale?
 - 3.1.1.3.1. Please answer this question with particular reference to political dissidents/journalists/human rights defenders of Tamil origin and/or those who were/are involved with issues/interests that relate to Tamils.
- 3.1.1.4. Are there any cases known of political dissidents/journalists/human rights defenders being convicted of a crime on the basis of the content of their blog, Facebook page, X account, etc.? If so, on what scale and on the basis of what legislative provision or provisions?

3.1.1.4.1. Please answer this question with particular reference to political dissidents/journalists/human rights defenders of Tamil origin and/or those who were/are involved with issues/interests that relate to Tamils.

3.1.1.5. Do political dissidents/journalists/human rights defenders (including both general activists and those of Tamil origin and/or those who were/are involved with issues/interests that relate to Tamils) experience problems from third parties? If so, from whom, in what way and on what scale? And if so, have they been able to receive protection from the authorities when they encounter problems from third parties?

3.2. *The position of Tamils*

3.2.1. In general, how the Sri Lankan authorities treat Tamils? Do the authorities impose restrictions that interfere with their daily lives? If so, in what way(s) and on what scale?

3.2.2. In the period around the end of the armed conflict between the authorities and the LTTE in 2009, hundreds of thousands of Tamils ended up in displaced persons' camps. In your country report from 2014 you stated that these camps no longer existed but that there were 'Welfare Centres' housing displaced persons. Are there still Welfare Centres housing long-term displaced persons from that time? If so, where are they located, how many people are living in these centres and what are conditions like? And if not, when were the last Welfare Centres closed?

3.2.3. People suspected of having ties with the LTTE were put in so-called rehabilitation camps. How many Tamils in total wound up in those types of camps? Can you also indicate how many such camps still exist and how many Tamils are still being held there? If there are still Tamils being held in such camps, what is the degree of their affiliation with the LTTE?

3.2.4. How do authorities view Tamils who are related to actual or suspected ex-LTTE members/sympathisers? Do they currently experience problems from the authorities and if so, what kind of problems, and on what scale? And if so, does the degree of the family member's LTTE affiliation play a role in this?

3.2.5. Are there any Tamil organisations active in Sri Lanka at present? If so, what kind of organisations? In what areas are these organisations active?

3.2.6. What can be said about the militarisation in the north and east of the country where most Tamils live? Is this still occurring, and if so, what form does it take? If it has decreased, since when has that been the case?

3.2.7. Freedom of movement

3.2.7.1. Do Tamils in the country experience internal travel restrictions? If so, where, and what form do these restrictions take? Do the authorities (e.g. the army or the police) still maintain checkpoints on the road, and if so, where and on what scale? Do they always check the identity of travellers?

3.2.7.2. Do the authorities monitor Tamils, and if so, where and how does this occur, and on what scale?

3.2.7.2.1. In answering the previous question, please pay particular attention to Tamils who have been held in rehabilitation camps,

3.2.7.2.2. and to Tamils who are related to actual or suspected ex-LTTE members/sympathisers. In answering the previous question, please note the degree of the family member's affiliation with the LTTE.

3.2.7.3. Do Tamils who wish to leave the country encounter problems? If so, what kinds of problems?

3.2.7.4. Is possible for people, specifically Tamils, who are wanted by the authorities (e.g. the police, either in general or more specifically by the CID or TID) to leave the country?

3.2.7.5. Is possible for people, specifically Tamils, who have been released on bail after being arrested by the authorities (e.g. the police, either in general or more specifically by the CID or TID) to leave the country?

4. Return

- 4.1.1. How does the entry of migrants who are returning to the country (either voluntarily or forcibly) proceed in practice at Colombo international airport?
- 4.1.2. Are there known cases of migrants who, having returned to Sri Lanka (either voluntarily or forcibly), experienced problems with the authorities upon arrival? If so, on what scale did that happen, and how were they treated (upon arrival at the airport and afterwards, if relevant)?
 - 4.1.2.1. Can you describe what the actual problems were?
 - 4.1.2.2. Did it make a difference what type of travel document an individual had with them when they returned?
 - 4.1.2.3. Did it matter in this regard whether the person was of Tamil origin? In this connection, how would the authorities determine someone's ethnicity?
 - 4.1.2.4. Are there known cases of Tamils encountering problems upon returning to Sri Lanka due to plainly visible scars or tattoos that are associated with the LTTE? If so, on what scale, and what was the nature of the problems?
 - 4.1.2.5. Are there known cases of Tamils encountering problem upon returning to Sri Lanka because they are related to suspected or actual ex-LTTE members/sympathisers? If so, on what scale, and what was the nature of the problems? And if so, did the degree of the family member's LTTE affiliation play a role in this connection?
 - 4.1.2.6. Are there any known cases of Tamils encountering problems upon return to Sri Lanka because they had been involved in a Tamil organisation, whether in the Netherlands or elsewhere? If so, on what scale, and what was the nature of the problems? And if so, what activities attracted the authorities' attention? Were these necessarily people who had played a prominent role in such an organisation?
 - 4.1.2.7. Are there cases known of Tamils encountering problems upon returning to Sri Lanka because they had taken part in demonstrations, whether in the Netherlands or elsewhere, that sought to draw attention to the situation of Tamils in Sri Lanka? If so, what was the nature and scale of the demonstrations, and what kind of problems did they experience?
 - 4.1.2.8. Do the authorities make use of facial recognition to identify Tamils who are active abroad in defence of the Tamil cause?
 - 4.1.2.9. When they return to Sri Lanka, do the authorities check their online activities?
 - 4.1.2.10. Are there known cases of people being detained after returning (whether voluntarily or forcibly) to the country? If so, on what scale, for what reasons, and in how many cases were the people in question Tamils, and in how many cases members of another ethnic group?
 - 4.1.2.11. Do the authorities make use of a 'watch list'? If so, what is the profile of the people who appear on it?
 - 4.1.2.12. What is the profile of a person who would receive heightened attention from the authorities upon returning to Sri Lanka?