

SHUT DOWN ALL DETENTION CAMPS

/SECRET



Tamil Solidarity:

**For the rights of workers & all oppressed people
in Sri Lanka**

இலங்கையில் ஒடுக்கப்படும் அனைவரது உரிமைகளுக்கும்
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TORTURE PRISONS

The current Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Ranil Wikramasinge, came to power with the promise of “democracy and good governance”. But he declared recently that there is no point in talking about the disappeared people and that all those missing were probably dead! This has further opened the wounds of the families of tens of thousands victims who are still missing.

In the aftermath of the genocidal slaughter committed by the previous Sri Lankan regime, numerous Tamil youth and political activists and journalists were arrested and held in various camps, detention centres and secret prisons, without charge and without any account of them being held by the government authorities. It is absolutely disgusting to see that the current government declared that most of them are dead, without any remorse, or sense of responsibility to investigate if such horrendous killings took place. Though many have been killed by the government authorities during their torture, Tamil Solidarity believes that many are still alive in various prisons.

In the so called “democratic Sri Lanka” it is not easy to obtain details of those who are held in prisons. Even after the last regime was voted out by the people, a secret torture prison was maintained in Trincomalee called “Gotabaya” named after notorious ex-defence minister and brother of the ex-president. A few victims who managed to escape these torture camps are living across in Europe in pieces as witness to this horrendous place.

Despite the repeated denials of the Sri Lankan government, Tamil Solidarity maintained from 2009 that such camps did exist and demanded they be shut down and the release of all prisoners. Only in 2015 the UN confirmed the existence of this torture prison. But the Sri Lankan government continues to deny the existence of torture places and refuses to take any action.

This new regime based on so-called “good governance” is now only concentrating on issuing “death certificates”. This is about as far from “adequate action” to satisfy the victims’ families as you can get. It is a further kick in the teeth for these families. We demand answers for the families and for justice.

Where is the list of all those arrested under the last regime?

Where are all the youth arrested by the Sri Lankan army?

In what circumstances did these prisoners die? For what reason were they killed?

What is the answer to those mothers and wives who voluntarily handed their loved ones to the army complying with their demands?

What is the justice for those families who daily search for their loved ones relentlessly?

Where is the Tamil leadership who is supposed to be on the side of these victims?

We must not stay in silence. We must raise our voice in solidarity and demand justice.

WHAT WE SAY:

- **All political prisoners should be released immediately**
- **Shut down the torture prisons and all detention centres**
- **Release all the information about who is held in the known 41 detention centres and other secret detention centres**
- **Senior commanders, secret service personnel, politicians and all those involved in this systematic torture must be investigated by a people’s tribunal that includes victims**
- **Full information and adequate compensations should be given to all the victim’s families. Adequate facilities and services should be created for these families to live without further fear and persecution**



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