STAND UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMAND JUSTICE IN SRI LANKA

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
Sri Lanka: Demand Justice

Human Rights Concerns

Sri Lanka's brutal 26-year civil war between the government forces and separatists from the Tamil minority ended with a government victory in May 2009. During the war, both sides committed gross human rights abuses, including war crimes, for which no one has been held accountable. Enforced disappearances and torture have continued to be reported since the war's end. Hundreds remain detained without charge or trial. Independent journalists and human rights defenders have been harassed and attacked. Draconian security laws inconsistent with international standards remain in place.

During 1983 - 2009, Sri Lanka was wracked by a civil war between the security forces (who are mostly from the majority Sinhalese community) and the armed Tamil opposition group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who were seeking an independent state for the Tamil minority in the north and east of the island. While human rights abuses were committed by both sides during the long decades of conflict, the final years of the war saw a heightened intensity of fighting, accompanied by soaring human rights abuses: hundreds of enforced disappearances, unlawful killings of aid workers, arbitrary arrests, torture and the use of child soldiers. Some of these abuses may constitute war crimes. An independent international investigation into these reported abuses is needed in order to achieve truth and justice for the victims and their families. On March 27, 2014, the U.N. Human Rights Council finally authorized the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights to carry out such an investigation.

Since the end of the war, the Sri Lankan government has launched an aggressive campaign against those in Sri Lanka advocating for accountability and an end to impunity. Human rights defenders, journalists and activists critical of the government have been threatened and harassed. The draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) has been used to detain without charge or trial peaceful critics and those suspected of links to the LTTE. Torture of prisoners is common in Sri Lanka despite laws prohibiting it. The PTA facilitates torture by reversing the burden of proof where torture or ill-treatment of detainees is alleged. Hundreds continue to languish in prison without ever being charged with a crime or given a trial. Arrests under the PTA are continuing to be made by the security forces.

“Demand Justice”

This toolkit will focus on the need to end unlawful detention and torture in Sri Lanka. It will also focus on two specific cases of individuals whose human rights have been violated by the Sri Lankan government: Ragihar Manoharan and Prageeth Eknaligoda.
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Head of state and government: Mahinda Rajapaksa

Unlawful detentions, torture and enforced disappearances remained rife and went unpunished. Government officials and supporters harassed and threatened human rights defenders, journalists and members of the judiciary who spoke out about abuses of power or advocated human rights accountability. More than three years after the armed conflict between the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ended, impunity persisted for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity. The government failed to implement recommendations aimed at accountability made by Sri Lanka's Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) and the UN Human Rights Council. The authorities continued to rely on the Prevention of Terrorism Act to arrest and detain suspects for lengthy periods without charge or trial. Despite government claims, many people displaced by the armed conflict were not fully settled, including some whose land remained occupied by the Sri Lankan military.

Enforced disappearances

More than 20 alleged enforced disappearances were reported. Victims included political activists, business people and suspected criminals. Prominent cases from past years remained unresolved.

- Armed men abducted Tamil businessman Ramasamy Prabaharan on 11 February, just two days before the Supreme Court was scheduled to hear his complaints against arbitrary arrest, detention and torture by police and seizure of his business in May 2009.
- In April, Frontline Socialist Party activists Premakumar Gunaratnam and Dimuthu Attigala were abducted shortly before the launch of the new party; both were interrogated and eventually released. Premakumar Gunaratnam, an Australian citizen, said he was tortured by his abductors, who he believed were linked to the government.
- Investigations failed to progress into the cases of political activists Lalith Kumar Weeraraj and Kugan Muruganathan – both allegedly victims of enforced disappearance by the army in Jaffna in December 2011. The two had been planning a peaceful protest by families of the disappeared. The Court of Appeal repeatedly postponed the habeas corpus case filed by relatives of the missing men.
- In June, former Attorney General Mohan Peiris was ordered to appear at a habeas corpus hearing into the disappearance of political cartoonist Prageeth Eknaligoda after he told the UN Committee against Torture in 2011 that Eknaligoda was living in a foreign country. At the hearing, Mohan Peiris admitted that he did not know Prageeth Eknaligoda's whereabouts and claimed he could not remember who said he was in exile.
**Arbitrary arrests and detentions**

The authorities continued to arrest people without warrants and detain them for extended periods without charge or trial. As of October, the authorities acknowledged holding almost 500 alleged former LTTE members without charge for what they termed “rehabilitation”. Hundreds of other Tamil prisoners remained in administrative detention pending investigation into their suspected links with the LTTE; many had been detained for years. Surveillance and re-arrest of people released from rehabilitation continued.

**Excessive use of force**

- In February Antony Warnakulasuriya was killed and three others were wounded when the Special Task Force (STF), a commando unit, fired live ammunition into a crowd of people from the fishing community who were protesting against fuel price increases outside the west coast town of Chilaw. Police reportedly blocked protesters from taking the injured to hospital by land, forcing them to go by boat.

**Torture and other ill-treatment**

Torture in police custody persisted. In at least five cases, victims died in custody after beatings or other ill-treatment by the police.

- On 15 April, Chandrasiri Dassanayake, a witness in a human rights case filed with the Supreme Court against the Officer-in-Charge of Wadduwa Police Station, died in custody there. Police claimed they arrested him for cannabis possession and that he fell sick in his cell and was admitted to hospital. The victim's son reported seeing his father lying on the floor of the cell bleeding and said Chandrasiri Dassanayake told him he had been beaten by police. The death led to local protests and the Officer-in-Charge, a sergeant and two other police constables were transferred to other police stations, but no further action was taken.

- Thirty Tamil prisoners were assaulted and two died of injuries inflicted by STF members who reportedly beat them in retaliation for a prison uprising in Vavuniya in June.

- Twenty-seven inmates died in a clash between prisoners and STF members at Welikada prison on 9 November. Results of an official inquiry into allegations that some prisoners were extrajudicially executed were not made public.

**Lack of accountability**

The UN Human Rights Council adopted resolution 19/2 in March, calling on Sri Lanka to implement the LLRC's human rights recommendations and address accountability for alleged violations of international law. The government's Plan of Action on the LLRC recommendations, unveiled in July, failed to commit to new or independent investigations, and relied on the military and police – implicated in serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law – to police themselves. Sri Lanka's human rights record was assessed under the UN Universal Periodic Review in November; Sri Lanka maintained that it did not need independent investigations into alleged human rights violations and past crimes under international law despite concerns raised by UN members.

A report by the UN Secretary-General's Internal Review Panel on UN Action in Sri Lanka, released on 14 November, acknowledged the UN's failure to protect civilians during the country's armed conflict.
Human rights defenders

Government officials and state-owned media lashed out at human rights defenders who attended the UN Human Rights Council session in March, calling them traitors. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the President of the Human Rights Council denounced Sri Lanka's threats and called for an investigation. On 23 March, Sri Lanka's Public Relations Minister threatened physical harm against journalists and human rights defenders, and claimed responsibility for a violent attack in 2010 on a journalist who then went into exile. The Health Minister accused the Catholic organization Caritas of conspiring to undermine the government.

Freedom of expression – journalists

Journalists continued to come under pressure for their reporting.

- On 5 July, Secretary of Defence Gotabaya Rajapaksa threatened Sunday Leader journalist Frederica Jansz with death when she attempted to interview him about an alleged abuse of power. In September, the newspaper's new owner fired her and she left the country.
- Journalist Shantha Wijesooriya of the news website Lanka X News told police that assailants he believed to be members of the security forces attempted to abduct him on 5 July. A week earlier police had raided the office where he worked.
- In September, journalist Nirmala Kannangara and a photographer were surrounded and threatened by army personnel when they tried to report on the relocation of displaced people from Manik Farm.

Justice system

On 7 October, armed assailants assaulted Manjula Thilakaratne, a senior high court judge and Secretary to Sri Lanka's Judicial Services Commission (JSC), and attempted to drag him from his car. On 18 September, he had issued a statement on behalf of the JSC complaining of attempts to interfere with the independence of the judiciary and particularly with the JSC through threats and intimidation.

In December, Parliament initiated impeachment proceedings against Chief Justice Shirani Bandaranayake. The UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers criticized the impeachment process as “extremely politicized,” and lacking due process and fair trial guarantees.

Internally displaced people

In late September, the authorities closed the vast Manik Farm displacement camp and announced that the last of more than 200,000 inhabitants had returned home. According to UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, tens of thousands of displaced people still could not go home or fully resettle elsewhere by the end of the year and depended on host families for shelter and assistance.

- On 30 September, nearly 350 displaced people at Manik Farm boarded army buses expecting to return home to Keppapilavu village, but were relocated to a barren plot of land in Mullaitivu district because the army still occupied their land. Displaced people complained that the new camp had no infrastructure and inadequate drinking water. Other relocated villagers had similar experiences.
END ARBITRARY DETENTION IN SRI LANKA

Mano, a 29-year-old Tamil man, was arrested in March 2007 in Sri Lanka “on suspicion” of being a member of the opposition Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). While in custody, he was tortured and his right index finger broken. He has never been charged with any crime.

Hundreds of people suspected, like Mano, of links to the LTTE are languishing in prison without charge or trial under Sri Lanka’s repressive Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), even though the LTTE was defeated by the Sri Lankan government in May 2009. The PTA restricts freedom of expression and association, permits extended administrative detention, and reverses the burden of proof where torture or other ill-treatment of detainees is alleged. By reversing the burden of proof, the PTA facilitates torture of detainees. Torture of detainees is pervasive in Sri Lankan detention facilities despite laws prohibiting it.

Since the end of the war with the LTTE, the Sri Lankan government has launched an aggressive campaign against those in Sri Lanka advocating for accountability for war crimes committed by both sides during the war and an end to impunity for past human rights abuses. Human rights defenders, journalists and activists critical of the government have been threatened and harassed. The PTA has been used to detain without charge or trial not only those suspected of links to the LTTE but also peaceful critics of the government. Arrests under the PTA by the security forces continue to be reported, with at least 40 people reportedly detained in the first two months of 2013 alone and more in early 2014. The government persists in using the same unlawful tactics against peaceful critics (including journalists) that were in place during decades of war. Opponents are still being silenced through harassment – and even disappeared. Frequent transfers of detainees between facilities make it difficult for relatives to track their whereabouts. Access to legal counsel is often obstructed by the police. Release from detention provides little relief, with former detainees subjected to surveillance and harassment; in some cases, former detainees have been rearrested and physically attacked or killed.

Amnesty International is calling on the Sri Lankan government to: (1) repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act and end the system of administrative detention, (2) promptly release the detainees unless they are charged with recognizable crimes and given fair trials, and (3) provide care and compensation to torture victims and hold their torturers accountable.

Take Action Today

Go to http://tinyurl.com/EndArbitraryDetention and send an online letter to the Sri Lankan government calling for the repeal of the PTA, the release or charge of all administrative detainees, and justice for victims of torture.

Promote the online action to your followers on Twitter and share with your friends on Facebook and other social media.

Sign the enclosed petition to President Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka, get others in your school or community to sign and mail the signed petitions to Jim McDonald, the AIUSA Sri Lanka Country Specialist.

Take photos of yourself and your friends holding the enclosed signs “#BreaktheBars” and “Say No to Torture in Sri Lanka” and share the photos through social media (including tweeting them to President Rajapaksa - @PresRajapaksa).

Make sure to share any photos with Jim McDonald, the AIUSA Sri Lanka Country Specialist.

Email: jmcdonald@aiusacs.org
Twitter: @jmccdon
Facebook: Jim McDonald Aiusa Srilanka
DEMAND JUSTICE FOR RAGIHR MANOHARAN IN SRI LANKA

Ragihar Manoharan, a 20-year-old young man, was part of a group of students who had gathered for a chat at about 7:00 P.M. on January 2, 2006, near the seafront in Trincomalee in northern Sri Lanka, when a grenade was thrown at them from a passing auto rickshaw. The students ran, but at least three of them were injured in the explosion. A short while later a group of 10 to 15 officers in uniform, believed to be police from the elite Special Task Force, arrived. They put the injured students into their jeep and beat them with rifle butts, and then pushed them out onto the road. According to a witness, the security forces personnel then shot five students dead, including Ragihar Manoharan. The five students have since become known in Sri Lanka and elsewhere as the Trinco 5.

Shortly before his death, Ragihar Manoharan left a frantic message on his father's telephone saying he was surrounded by security forces. A post-mortem concluded that the five students died from gunshot wounds, although security forces had claimed they were killed in the grenade attack.

After giving evidence at an inquest on January 10, 2006, Dr. Manoharan and his family were subject to threats and harassment, including death threats. Ultimately, they were forced to leave the country and claim asylum abroad. Thirteen security forces personnel were detained in connection with the killings, but were later released.

An initial police investigation into the killings did not disclose who killed the students or lead to any prosecutions. In September 2006, President Mahinda Rajapaksa established an ad hoc commission of inquiry examine this case and certain others. The commission's final report has never been made public, nor has anyone been held responsible for these murders.

Take action today and call on the Sri Lankan government to release the commission's report and to bring the killers of Ragihar Manoharan and the other four students to justice.

Take Action Today


Promote the online action to your followers on Twitter and share with your friends on Facebook.

Sign the enclosed petition on Ragihar's case, get others in your school or community to sign and mail the petitions to President Rajapaksa.

Take photos of yourself and your friends holding the enclosed signs "Justice4theTrinco5" and "JusticeforRagihar" and share the photos through social media (including tweeting them to President Rajapaksa - @PresRajapaksa; please use the hashtag #JusticeforRagihar).

Make sure to share any photos with Jim McDonald, the AIUSA Sri Lanka Country Specialist

Email: jmcdonald@aiusacs.org
Twitter: @jmcddon
Facebook: Jim McDonald AIUSA Sri Lanka
DISAPPEARANCE OF JOURNALIST

Prageeth Ekmaligoda is a Sri Lankan journalist, cartoonist and political analyst who has been missing since he left work on the evening of January 24, 2010, just days before a presidential election in Sri Lanka.

Shortly before his "disappearance," Prageeth Ekmaligoda had completed a comparative analysis of the two main presidential candidates, coming out in favor of the opposition. In the days leading up to his "disappearance," he told a close friend that he believed he was being followed. Local residents reported seeing a white van without numbered plates close to his house around the time he went missing.

White vans have been used in many abductions and enforced "disappearances" in Sri Lanka, particularly since 2006, when state agents and paramilitary groups allied to the government stepped up attacks on government critics. On Jan. 25, 2010, his wife, Sandya Ekmaligoda, went to lodge a complaint with the Homagama police about his presumed abduction. Instead of promptly responding to her complaint, the police detained her for several hours at the police station before releasing her.

She believes her husband was abducted on orders of the government because of his criticism of the Sri Lankan government. She also suggests he may have been targeted because he had investigated allegations that the Sri Lankan army used chemical weapons in northern Sri Lanka in 2008.

Since Prageeth Ekmaligoda "disappeared" in 2010, two government officials have claimed they had information that he had fled overseas. Neither has been able to provide any credible evidence for these claims. Since 2006, fifteen journalists have been killed and a further 25 forced to flee Sri Lanka in fear of their lives.

Amnesty International is concerned that Prageeth may have been subjected to enforced disappearance due to his professional activities as a journalist.

Take Action Today

Go to http://tinyurl.com/WhereisPrageeth and send an online letter to the Sri Lankan government about Prageeth.

Promote the online action to your followers on Twitter and share with your friends on Facebook.

Sign the enclosed petition on Prageeth's case, get others in your school or community to sign and mail the petitions to AIUSA Group 471.

Take photos of yourself and your friends holding the enclosed sign "WhereisPrageeth?" and share the photos through social media (including tweeting them to President Rajapaksa - @PresRajapaksa; please use the hashtag #WhereisPrageeth?).

Make sure to share any photos with Jim McDonald, the AIUSA Sri Lanka Country Specialist
  Email: jmcdonald@aiusa.org
  Twitter: @jmccdon
  Facebook: Jim McDonald Aiusa Srilanka
OUR STORY, YOUR STORY

Our vision is of a world where every person - regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity - enjoys the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and other international human rights standards. The UDHR states that "the recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights" of all people is "the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world."

Amnesty International unites people across the world to fight for human rights through research, action, and advocacy. We believe in the universality of all human rights and we believe that human rights are indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. Our story reaches back over 50 years and includes many voices of people like you who have stood up for human rights. Because of our collective action and global solidarity, over 40,000 Prisoners of Conscience have been released. And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

You are a leader with Amnesty International. Ours is a shared story. You can motivate others to take action by sharing the story of why you joined Amnesty and why you hold a leadership role in the Amnesty movement. Craft your story with your Student Activist Coordinator (SAC) or Area Coordinator (AC). Tell your story at rallies, when you introduce film screenings, when you meet new people, or when you catch up with old friends. You can inspire people to make a difference, move people to action, and change the world.

Every good story of change has an urgent challenge, a strategic choice, and a hopeful outcome. Good stories also include details and emotions that paint a picture that conveys the values you live by.

When you talk about ending human rights abuses in Sri Lanka with Amnesty, here are some questions to keep in mind:

• Why are you called to fight for human rights and to end the impunity for human rights abuses in Sri Lanka?
• What motivates you to fight for justice and where did those values come from?
• When did you decide to be a leader within the Amnesty International movement? Where were you? What happened? Who were you with?
• How will the world be different if more people raise their voices about human rights abuses in Sri Lanka? What can they do to get involved?

Take Action: Strategy and Tactics

Your activism will energize and inspire activists on the ground in Sri Lanka and put pressure on the government. When Sri Lankan and international voices combine to demand that the government end its system of administrative detention and prosecute those responsible for torture, enforced disappearances, political killings and countless other human rights abuses, they will be forced to respond. There are many ways to get the word out about the human rights violations in Sri Lanka; we've listed ways to get started below. Whatever you end up doing, make sure you let us know by sending updates and pictures to your Student Activist Coordinator, Area Coordinator, or Field Organizer!

Getting Attention: How can you be seen on campus and/or in your community?

Your goal is to get as many people as possible to know the facts and then take action by signing the petitions. Work with your Student Activist Coordinator or Field Organizer to brainstorm ideas that will work in your community.

You can also:
• Ask teachers to give you five minutes at the start of a class to tell people about human rights in Sri Lanka and what they can do.

• Set up a table in a heavily-trafficked, central area and ask passers-by to sign the petitions.

• Hang flyers across your community featuring the Amnesty logo, some information about the situation in Sri Lanka, and http://tinyurl.com/SriLankanonlineactions that links to the online actions. Remember to include contact information and/or information about your next group meeting so you’re always recruiting new members!

**Getting Action: How can you get as many people as possible involved?**

Devote at least one upcoming group meeting to educating yourselves and your group about this issue, sign the online actions at http://tinyurl.com/SriLankanonlineactions and plan your next steps. You can also:

• Take your tabling to the next level by setting up action stations around your community where people can quickly sign online using a laptop or smartphone, tweet about the issue, and/or sign the paper petitions.

• Set up an event or stand where people can participate in a photo action demonstrating their support for Sri Lankan human rights activists. Use these photos to post on Facebook, Imgur, Tumblr, or other forms of social media. Consider also using them to make flyers or collages to post around your community.

• Show that Sri Lankans have support all around the world by using iconic spaces in your photo action. Take pictures of yourself and others using the attached #Justice4theTrinco5, #JusticeforRagihar, #WhereisPrageeth?, and #JusticeinSriLanka signs in a series of locations around your community, and post it with a message of solidarity online.

**Getting Creative: What will capture people’s attention?**

Being a part of Amnesty includes building community and finding creative ways to bring people together. What do people on your campus or community like to do? How can you make your next action both meaningful and fun, so that the message that freedom of expression is essential and a human right, and the crackdown must end is heard by as many people as possible?

• Use costumes and props – have fun, but be respectful to the Sri Lankan people – to make a statement! You can wear sarongs or saris, play Kandyan drums, or something else that connects to the issue. Set yourselves up in a high-traffic area, and when people stop to see what you’re up to, get them to sign the petitions and ask them to join the group.

• Organize a flash mob! Flashmobs are a great tool to bring new members into your group. When planning for a flashmob, make sure that it lasts less than five minutes, takes place in a high traffic area, and that all of your participants have done a run-through beforehand. Keep in mind that your flashmob should be centrally located and easily dispersed. Your flashmob should be a way to start a conversation about rights abuses in Sri Lanka and how to take action.

• Hold a candlelight vigil or memorial service for the Trinco 5. Have people light candles, read letters of support, and share a moment of silence to remember the five high school students who were killed in 2006 and for whom still no justice has been done. A memorial service is a great way to both remember why you are fighting for human rights and to also connect to the broader issue of human rights abuse in Sri Lanka on a more personal level.
Getting Social: How will you share your actions with the world?

Social media can offer powerful tools for spreading the Amnesty message far and wide when we coordinate. When we all act together, sending the same messages and at the same time, we can make an impact by educating and mobilizing people to end human rights violations in Sri Lanka. Here are some ways to maximize your social media presence:

Facebook:

• The best thing you can do on Facebook is be loud and proud about your Amnesty membership, and to use the space to educate and mobilize people. Pick a time with your group for everyone to post the online actions at http://tinyurl.com/SriLankanonlineactions along with messages like:

  “I support the demand for truth in Sri Lanka! 8 years have now passed since 5 high school students were murdered by security forces in Trincomalee, and still nothing has been done to bring their murderers to justice. Now is our chance to shine a light on President Rajapaksa’s suppression of truth. Like and share if you care about defending justice, too!”

Hundreds of people are languishing in prison in Sri Lanka without charge or trial under repressive security laws. The Sri Lankan government persists in using the same unlawful tactics against peaceful critics (including journalists) that were in place during decades of war against the separatist Tamil Tiger rebels. Opponents are still being silenced through harassment – and even disappeared. Torture of detainees is pervasive. **Like and share if you join me in calling on the Sri Lankan government to end its system of administrative detention, release all the security detainees or charge them promptly with recognizable crimes and provide them fair trials in accordance with international standards, and provide justice to any detainees who have been tortured in custody.**

"Where is Prageeth Eknaligoda? The Sri Lankan journalist and cartoonist has been missing since leaving his office on the evening of Jan. 24, 2010, two days before a presidential election in Sri Lanka. Two days earlier, he had published an article critical of President Rajapaksa. The Sri Lankan authorities have yet to conduct an effective investigation into his enforced disappearance. His family fears that he has been abducted on orders of the government due to his criticism of the government. **Like and share if you join me in calling on the Sri Lankan government to investigate Prageeth’s enforced disappearance, make the results public and hold accountable those responsible for this crime!”**

“Ragihar Manoharan was one of five Sri Lankan Tamil students killed by security forces in January 2006 in the city of Trincomalee. Authorities have failed to prosecute anyone for their murder. His case is emblematic of the thousands of people subjected to human rights violations and war crimes in Sri Lanka by government forces or their paramilitary agents. A 2006 commission of inquiry examined the murder of the five students but its report has never been made public. **Like and share if you believe in joining me on calling the Sri Lankan government to release the commission’s report and to bring the killers of Ragihar Manoharan and the other four students to justice!**“

• Be sure to follow [www.facebook.com/AIUSAyouth](http://www.facebook.com/AIUSAyouth) and repost news about human rights abuses in Sri Lanka, pictures, actions, and other status updates.

Twitter:

A keen tweeter, and champion of 158,000 Facebook likes, we know President Rajapaksa loves social media. So what better way to ask the President to answer our call for action on human rights violations? See some tips below for the best way to grab President Rajapaksa’s attention.
Take Action on Twitter Now:

@PresRajapaksa: Show you are committed to ending human rights violations in Sri Lanka. #DemandJustice
It is time for #SriLanka to provide justice for victims of torture and alleged #warcrimes! @PresRajapaksa
@PresRajapaksa: When will you release the final report of the 2006 commission of inquiry into the #Trinco5 students & other human rights abuses?
@PresRajapaksa: When will the #SriLanka government determine the whereabouts of the disappeared journalist Prageeth #Eknaligoda?
@PresRajapaksa: When will the families of the #Trinco5 students receive justice?
@PresRajapaksa: Repeal the PTA & end arbitrary detention in #SriLanka now!
@PresRajapaksa: Provide torture victims in #SriLanka with medical care & compensation now!
@PresRajapaksa: Investigate & prosecute torture of detainees in #SriLanka now!

Spread the word:

Platforms like Imgur and Reddit are great for sharing images and educating people about human rights abuses in Sri Lanka. Both sites tend to be image oriented - so visit www.amnestyusa.org/srilanka and other Amnesty sites or contact your SAC, AC, or Jim McDonald to find images that you can use to raise awareness of human rights violations in Sri Lanka.

Remember to make your post personal. Focus on an individual like Ragihar Manoharan (& the rest of the Trinco 5) or Prageeth Eknaligoda. People will identify more with your post if they can sympathize with a specific person’s tale. While your post should focus on informing people of stories like the Trinco 5, make sure to include links to our online actions at the bottom of your posts or in the comment section!

Posts can follow a formula similar to this:

[Insert Picture of Ragihar Manoharan] Caption: This is Ragihar Manoharan.

[Insert Map of Sri Lanka] Caption: He was from the small country of Sri Lanka.

[Insert image of Trinco 5 killings] Caption: In January 2006, Ragihar and four other Sri Lankan Tamil Students were killed by security forces in the city of Trincomalee. Authorities have failed to prosecute anyone for their murder.

[Insert image of human rights abuses in Sri Lanka] Caption: His case is emblematic of the thousands of people subjected to human rights violations and war crimes in Sri Lanka by government forces or their paramilitary agents.

[Insert another image of Ragihar] Caption: A 2006 commission of inquiry examined the murder of the five students but its report has never been made public.

[Insert image of Dr. Manoharan] Caption: Ragihar’s father has begged the Sri Lankan government for an explanation, but to no avail.

[Insert image of past campaign] Caption: Despite support from organizations like Amnesty International, the Sri Lankan government refuses to reveal the truth about the 2006 killings.


In comment section: Help demand justice for the Trinco 5 by signing the petition at http://tinyurl.com/DemandJusticeforRagihar.
**Tell your story:**

Use Instagram and Storify to amplify your message tell the story of your group’s activism to stand up for human rights in Sri Lanka. When you do events, group meetings, and actions, take pictures and upload them to Instagram and link to Facebook and Twitter. Storify can help take your message to the next level, and here are a few tips:

Set up a Storify account by going to [www.storify.com](http://www.storify.com)

Live tweet, update your Facebook page, and post pictures on Instagram during an event, group meeting, or action

Sign into your Storify account, and then collect the media you’ve posted, along with any other relevant news stories, Amnesty blog posts or press releases, or social media activity by other Amnesty members

Write up your story, publish it, and then share on your Facebook and Twitter using any of the following:

#JusticeinSriLanka, #BreaktheBars, #Justice4theTrinco5, #JusticeforRagihar, #WhereisPrageeth?

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Dr. Kasippillai Manoharan is calling on Sri Lanka’s authorities to tell the truth about what happened to his son.

**Will you?**

**Additional Resources**

To learn more about the campaign to demand truth and justice in Sri Lanka, visit [www.amnestyusa.org/srilanka](http://www.amnestyusa.org/srilanka), or contact your Student Activist Coordinator (SAC) or Area Coordinator (AC).
TO: President Mahinda Rajapaksa, Presidential Secretariat, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka

We are deeply concerned about the murder on January 2, 2006 of Ragihar Manoharan and four other students, who were reportedly killed by the Sri Lankan security forces in the city of Trincomalee. No one has yet been held accountable for these crimes. Sri Lanka is obligated under international law to launch genuine investigations into these killings. We respectfully request that your government do so without delay and that their killers are promptly brought to justice.
TO: Inspector General of Police Service N. K. Illangakoon

Dear IGP:

On January 24th 2010 Prageeth Ekmaligoda, a journalist and cartoonist who had written articles critical of the Sri Lankan government disappeared. Reportedly 15 journalists have been killed since 2006 without prosecutions occurring for these crimes. Amnesty International believes his support for the opposition candidate prior to the January 26th 2010 Presidential election may have made him a target.

Neighbors saw white van without ID plates near Prageeth's home the day of the disappearance. There are reports that others have been abducted by para-military groups and state agents as far back as 2006. Prageeth himself was abducted by such a van in 2009 and released after a day.

Please use your position to investigate the disappearance of Prageeth Ekmaligoda. Please make the results of this investigation public and hold accountable those responsible.

Respectfully:

Printed name __________________________ Signature __________________________ City / State Zip Code __________________________
RELEASE OR CHARGE SRI LANKAN PRISONERS AND PREVENT THEIR TORTURE BY THE GOVERNMENT

Petition to President Mahinda Rajapaksa, Presidential Secretariat, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka:

Hundreds of people are languishing in prison in Sri Lanka without charge or trial under repressive anti-terrorism laws. Many of them have been tortured while in detention. We respectfully urge you to immediately release those arrested under anti-terrorism laws, unless they are charged with recognizably criminal offenses. Victims of torture should be given medical care and compensation; those responsible for their torture should be promptly prosecuted. The system of detention without charge or trial should be abolished without delay.

NAME (Please print legibly)                  CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

When completed, send to: Jim McDonald, AIUSA Sri Lanka Country Specialist, 4408 N. La Crosse Ave., #2N, Chicago, IL 60630

Amnesty International USA - 5 Penn Plaza, 16th FL - New York, NY 10001 - T 212.807.8400 - F 212.627.1451 - security@aiusa.org
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#WhereisPrageeth?

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RAGIHIR
MANOHARAN
AND STILL WAITING FOR
JUSTICE
#BreaktheBars
End Arbitrary Detention in Sri Lanka

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SAY NO TO TORTURE IN SRI LANKA

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