

20th February 2020

Letter to Mme Bachelet,
High Commissioner for Human Rights,
Geneva.

registry@ohchr.org

Dear High Commissioner,

We are a group of survivors of torture and write this appeal to you as a fellow survivor of torture.

We were all very recently detained and tortured by the security forces in our country and forced to flee for our lives. For many of us, our families are back home and are constantly threatened and intimidated into silence about what has happened to us. Neither we nor our families are able to speak safely about what happened. For that we rely on international bodies.

Your report this week to the United Nations Human Rights Council [A/HRC/43/19] caused us great hurt and anguish; you erased us from the record. Last year you said the Sri Lankan security forces continued to abduct, torture and rape between 2016-18. Though you must know this is still happening in 2019 – we are the living proof – this year you didn't mention it at all. In fact there are only two places where you mention torture in the whole report on Sri Lanka and they give the impression that it is something that only happened in the past. We do not want anyone else to go through what we have endured but that requires you to monitor and report on what's going on.

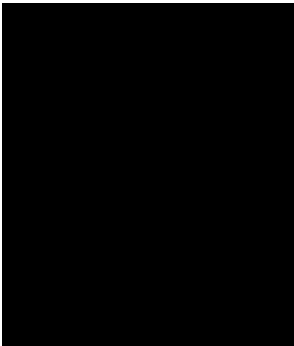
The Government of Sri Lanka can speak for itself. We cannot.

If by some chance you don't believe us – which is very painful – please come and visit us and see our tears and our scars for yourself.

Yours Sincerely,

Signed by:

(initials only and date of detention in Sri Lanka)



2015. 2016.
2012. 2016
2017 - April - 06
2019 - 2011

1

2018-09-██

██ | December | 2012

— 2018.06.██

2018.07.██

(2010-2013) & 2018.

2017

2009.

2017 | 11 | █

May. 2014

██.05.2019

2018.

2018-11-██, 2006

2015, 2009

2014-02-14

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2014, 2018 | 08 | 10

2019-01-██

2018.

25/08/2017

2009

2009.

2019

2017

2017.11.██

(NAMES + SPECIFIC DATES REDACTED)



Dec 2019

Dec 2017

Aug 2018

June 2018

Oct 2019

Feb. 2020

Sept 2019