



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

5 August 2025

Dear civil society representatives and other signatories,

I wish to thank you for your letters dated 14 July 2025 and 4 August 2025 regarding my recent visit to Sri Lanka and my upcoming report to the 60th session of the Human Rights Council. I am grateful for the opportunity to have met some of you during my visit, as well as for the many submissions and letters I received from civil society actors prior to and during our meetings.

The issue of accountability for past and present human rights violations and international crimes was central to my visit and discussions with the Government, and will continue to be so going forward. During my visit, I emphasized and reiterated all the concerns highlighted by my Office in our previous reports, including the need to release military-held lands, stop new land seizures in the north and east, release all long-term detainees under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, end surveillance and harassment, and decriminalize and support victim's memorialization initiatives. Addressing these issues is a critical and necessary step to build confidence and trust with victims and affected communities.

My meetings with many victims-survivors throughout my visit were deeply moving, as was my visit to the Chemmani mass grave site with affected families and lawyers, including witnessing the large commemoration vigil held nearby. I hope that these engagements have given visibility and urgency to the need for preservation of evidence and thorough and independent investigations, both with respect to the mass grave site and the issue of enforced disappearances more generally.

Successive governments have failed so far to establish accountability mechanisms that are independent, fair, effective and meet the full range of international human rights standards. I encouraged the Government to move ahead with a comprehensive process to ensure truth, justice and accountability that enjoys the confidence of victims and the international community. I also will continue to advocate for complementary strategies to provide pathways to advance justice for victims at the international level.

I hope you will find that my forthcoming report to the Human Rights Council reflects your concerns. My Office remains committed to working in close cooperation with you all to advance truth, justice, and accountability in Sri Lanka.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Volker Türk', written in a cursive style.

Volker Türk

Political parties and civil society organizations signatory to the letters dated 14 July 2025 and 4 August 2025