

Fill in the authority's name

Government organ address

Name of the country

Help Sri Lanka from becoming a failed state and sanction those who plundered its wealth

Dear sir/madam,

We write to you to bring your attention to Sri Lanka's current situation and request support on behalf of its people who are protesting in the streets for their fundamental human rights. [I am a Sri Lankan residing in/ We are of Sri Lankan heritage.] The Sri Lankan Government has declared bankruptcy facing the worst economic crisis in its history, mainly due to the plundering of the country's national wealth by the Rajapaksa Regimes.

There have been severe allegations of forced disappearances¹, crimes against humanity², and gross human rights violations³ of the Sri Lankan people. Moreover, the Rajapaksa family and their cohorts have stolen vast sums of tax money through various government schemes, hiding behind many mega-developmental projects for over a decade. The country's economy has been paralysed, and the Sri Lankan rupee has hit rock bottom as the worst-performing currency in the world.

Today there is a severe shortage of fuel and gas, and the country is crippled by island-wide power cuts of ten to fifteen hour-long, with many innocent people dying due to delays in much-needed surgeries in hospitals. Civilians die at the roadside waiting in long queues for basic necessities. New-born babies die without much needed medical supplies and the healthcare system is crashing down leaving people devastated, forcing them to the streets to fight for their right to life, dignity and future. Corruption has had devastating effects on my people's right to life, liberty, and dignity.

This situation has also affected social and economic justice, unity of society, and the people's fundamental rights as a whole.

Sri Lanka is ranked 102 in the Corruption Perception Index 2021.

¹ Disappearance of Prageeth Eknaligoda journalist & cartoonist

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/pdfs/srilanka11.pdf>

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/OISL/Abduction.doc>

² Report of the OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka (OISL) Human Rights Council

https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session30/Documents/A.HRC.30.CRP.2_E.docx

³ Allegations of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, sexual and gender-based violence - OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/OISL/Allegations.doc>

Numerous credible allegations are being made in the public domain to the effect that such black money is invested in buying properties and business enterprises in the name of their confidants abroad and hiding some in tax havens by the Rajapaksa family.⁴

This, coupled with economic mismanagement, has resulted in Sri Lanka's present dire financial situation.

We, [the Sri Lankan people/ people of Sri Lankan origin in,] want to hold the corrupted Rajapaksa family and their regime accountable. We want them to be brought to justice for these crimes and return reportedly over ten billion American dollars stolen from the Sri Lankan people.

Evidence has been brought to light through the armed forces and the Rajapaksa family confidants that they are planning to flee the country with stolen money, never to return to face the justice of democratic Sri Lanka and its people who voted them to power.

We ask the support of the Parliament to uphold the rule of law and help protect the human rights and economic rights of the Sri Lankan people by adhering to the applicable international Human rights and anti-money laundering law⁵. Please do not harbour these political criminals - who are involved in international money laundering - in Do not let them invest their black money in or provide them with a haven to reside, thus enabling them to flee justice in Sri Lanka.

We kindly request the Parliament to investigate, in coordination with financial intelligence unit, the financial activities in of the current Sri Lankan president Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, his brother Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, and the Rajapaksa family members who are in positions of power, and apply the targeted financial sanctions including asset freezes and travel bans expeditiously. Their ill-gotten assets include real estate properties, cryptocurrency, bank accounts and commercial investments bought with Sri Lanka's plundered wealth.

We seek your urgent consideration before Sri Lanka is completely unable to provide for its peoples' right to life, and to prevent their anger and frustration from turning into political anarchy.

Thank You.

Yours sincerely,

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⁴Sri Lankan power couple piled up luxury homes, artworks and cash offshore as the ruling family rose and rose <https://www.icij.org/investigations/pandora-papers/sri-lanka-rajapaksa-family-offshore-wealth-power/>

⁵ Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006 - <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Series/C2006A00169>
Anti-Money Laundering EU Directive - 91/308/EEC, 2005/60/EC