

Domestic inquiries into rights violations insufficient: UN

In an address to Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council, Philip Alston, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, said that national probes will not only be insufficient but result in "comprehensive impunity". Mr. Alston stressed the need for an independent international inquiry citing examples relating to Gaza and new evidence concerning the massacre of thousands of civilians in Sri Lanka, further adding that domestic inquiries since 1977 had "all failed". [More...](#)



Sri Lankan government threatens to execute Fonseka



Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Sri Lanka's powerful defence secretary has threatened to hang former army chief, Sarath Fonseka, if he commits "treason" by cooperating with any investigation into war crimes. [Watch interview on BBC's HARDtalk](#)

Mass grave discovered by Danish De-mining Group (DDG)

De-mining workers of DDG have stumbled upon a mass grave in Naachchikkudaa in Mannaar, containing 75-100 skeletal remains. This was one of the areas the Sri Lankan Army had not permitted resettlement, citing landmines. The SLA have refused to release further information on this matter, supporting TNA's initial suspicions in October 2009 that "The Sri Lankan government fears that, if the international community gets involved in the de-mining, they may stumble on to mass graves of Tamil victims killed during the last stages of fighting between the Sri Lanka military and the Tamil Tigers,". [More...](#)



10,000 Tamil youth held indefinitely in detention

At a press conference in Colombo, the Tamil opposition party, Tamil National Alliance (TNA) revealed that about 10,000 Tamil youth have been held in detention since the war last year. Most are believed to have surrendered in good faith on being promised to be freed after questioning but have yet to be released. [More...](#)



Street names of North erected in Sinhala

The Sri Lankan Army (SLA), who occupied Vanni since the war, have erected new road signs written in Sinhala only. Some are located at junctions adjoining sacred Hindu temples where the SLA have said they will be erecting Buddha statues. [More...](#)

Rajapaksa holds talks with Indian PM amidst protests

Hundreds of protestors took to the streets of Chennai, chanting slogans of genocide, in protest over Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapaksa's 3-day visit to India. PM Manmohan Singh has stressed the need for political settlement, giving Sri Lankan Tamils full civil and economic rights. [Click image to watch video](#)



Sri Lanka vs. Israel

MERCY MISSION (2009)

20 April- 'Captain Ali' begins journey from UK with 884 metric tons of supplies to break blockade of Vanni.

4 June- while in international waters, Captain Ali was hailed in by SL Navy. 13 Navy personnel search ship, find only humanitarian relief goods.

4 June- Mr. Atmananthan of SAI International Assoc, the consignee of the ship's goods is arrested without charge by CID.

8 June- SL Govt turns away Mercy Mission.

3 July- Mercy Mission unloads goods in Chennai. The Indian Red Cross (IRCS) agrees to transport goods to civilians.

22 October- Entire cargo released – majority of food nearing expiry dates.

FREEDOM FLOTILLA (2010)

30 May - Sets sail from Cyprus— carrying 663 people, 10,000 tons of humanitarian aid with attempt to break Gaza blockade

31 May- Israeli Govt warns to change course, however flotilla continues towards Gaza. Israeli soldiers raid & capture ship in international waters of the Mediterranean Sea. 9 activists killed by Israeli soldiers on the MV Marmara with a dozen passengers and seven soldiers injured. All on board arrested by the Israeli navy.

1 June- The supplies seized by the Israelis unloaded at the Ashdod port. Those items approved by Israel sent toward Gaza by land.

2 June- 620 people who were arrested got released.

4 June- Turkey, a notable ally of Israel who lost many citizens in flotilla attack, express outrage & threaten possible court action against Israel.

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