

The Human Ledger — What Happened to the People of the North-East

Every figure attributed 'as published by [source] in [year].' ICRC ~16,000 tracing requests; OMP located 16 alive of ~6,000 inquiries; UN PoE 'as many as 40,000' as a floor at Mullivaikkal; OHCHR 'tens of thousands'; Petrie on the UN's own suppressed data; Northern Province ~4% of national GDP in 2024.

No aggregation in TLTE voice. No individuals named. The point is not a single TLTE number — the point is that the ledger has never been closed, and the gap is itself the finding.

§1 The disappeared

OMP Sri Lanka (2018–24): ~6,000 inquiries received; 16 located alive. ICRC (2016): more than 16,000 still missing tracing requests open. UN WGEID: Sri Lanka among countries with the highest outstanding caseloads in Asia. OMP lacks prosecutorial power.

§2 Mullivaikkal — Jan–May 2009

UN PoE (31 Mar 2011): 'as many as 40,000 civilian deaths' — explicitly a floor. OISL A/HRC/30/CRP.2 (16 Sep 2015): 'tens of thousands of civilians were killed'; reasonable grounds to believe war crimes and crimes against humanity by both parties; para 234 rejects the GoSL 'zero casualties' position. Petrie 2012: a 'grave failure of the United Nations.'

§3 IDP camps

OCHA (17 Jul 2009): Manik Farm 221,119; total across districts 281,621. UNHCR (2012): Manik Farm formally closed September 2012 — 40 months after opening; ~115,000 still displaced at closure (IDMC Oct 2012). HRW characterised the camps as de facto detention.

§4 War widows and women-headed households

IRIN (26 Oct 2010): 'tens of thousands of war widows cannot be reached due to a lack of funds.' Northern Provincial Council Vital Statistics (31 Dec 2023): WHHs concentrated in Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi DS divisions.

§5 Land

CPA Land Restitution work (2016, 2023). Oakland Institute — Endless War (2024) on Trincomalee. 672 acres released in 2025 (GoSL Oct 2025) implies the cumulative unreleased balance is large. PEARL — Erased (2024) on Sinhalisation patterns.

§6 The economic floor

CBSL Provincial GDP 2024: Northern Province ~4% of national GDP — essentially unchanged from the immediate post-war period. The promised 'development dividend' is, on the published CBSL and World Bank ledger, largely absent.

Sources

- UN Panel of Experts (Darusman) 2011.
- OHCHR OISL 2015 — A/HRC/30/CRP.2.
- Petrie — Internal Review Panel (2012).

- Office on Missing Persons — Sri Lanka.
- PEARL — Disappearances briefings.
- PEARL — Erased (2024).
- CPA — Land Restitution work.
- Oakland Institute — Endless War (2024).
- Central Bank of Sri Lanka — Provincial GDP 2024.

What this is not

- This dossier does not aggregate counts in TLTE voice.
- This dossier does not name a single missing person or family — route to PEARL, ITJP, OMP, OHCHR, UN WGEID.
- This dossier does not accept survivor or family intake on the public site.