

# People for Equality and Relief in Lanka (PEARL)

US-based, Tamil-led research and advocacy organisation founded 2007. Produces the highest-cited diaspora research base on land grabs, militarisation, demographic change, and enforced disappearance in the Tamil north-east. Its Erased (2024) demographic report and successive land briefings are anchor sources for the Land Desk and the Demographic-Displacement Function.

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PEARL is the diaspora-side research body that most closely mirrors ITJP in evidentiary discipline. Where ITJP specialises in survivor testimony for prosecutorial use, PEARL specialises in published demographic and land-use research for legislative and policy use. Its work is the principal diaspora-produced source the TLTE Land Desk relies on, alongside Oakland Institute and the Centre for Policy Alternatives.

## §1 What it does

PEARL publishes long-form research briefings on the north-east — Withering Land (2017), Erased: A Demographic Report on the North-East (2024), and a continuing series on militarisation, surveillance, and reparations. Its method couples Tier-A sources (Sri Lankan census data, gazetted land allocations, satellite imagery from independent providers, UN reporting) with named field interviews conducted by Tamil-speaking researchers under documented consent protocols.

It maintains a Washington DC policy presence, briefing US Congressional staff, the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, and successive State Department human-rights reporting cycles. It is one of the standing diaspora civil-society interlocutors of the UN Sri Lanka Accountability Project.

## §2 Why it matters to the case

PEARL's published evidence base directly supplies two of the five structural models in §03 Mathematics:  $D(r,t)$  (Demographic-Displacement Function) draws on Erased and successor briefings; PAI's MS variable draws on PEARL's militarisation reporting alongside SIPRI and IISS. Without PEARL's documentation, the demographic and militarisation branches of the case would rest on Sri Lankan government statistics alone — which is the structural problem the Narrowing Timeline itself documents.

It is not a substitute for ITJP, PEARL, OHCHR, or the OMP; it is one of a small number of standing diaspora research bodies whose work meets the citation discipline that TLTE's Charter requires.

## §3 Boundary with TLTE

PEARL is the upstream research body. TLTE does not duplicate PEARL's intake, does not aggregate PEARL's figures into TLTE-voice numbers without attribution, and does not republish field interviews. The Land Desk and Disappearances Desk route enquirers to PEARL by name. TLTE reads PEARL's record structurally; PEARL is the practitioner.

## Sources

- PEARL, Erased: A Demographic Report on the North-East (2024).
- PEARL, Withering Land: Sri Lanka's Tamil Lands (2017).
- Oakland Institute, Endless War (2024) — complementary land-use research.

## What this is not

- This article does not name any PEARL researcher, witness, or interviewee. Where PEARL has anonymised,

TLTE preserves the anonymisation absolutely.

- This article does not aggregate PEARL's figures into TLTE-voice numbers without attribution. All quantitative claims are attributed.
- This article is not a fundraising page for PEARL. TLTE accepts no donations and is not a charity.