

Attribution, Not Denial · Child Recruitment in Sri Lanka's North-East — MP Evidence Pack

Citation-only re-reading of child-recruitment allegations in Sri Lanka's North-East — separated by year, district, controlling force, and command structure across the 3 March 2004 Karuna split. UN SG CAAC reports under UNSCR 1612 (2005) listed the LTTE and the Karuna faction as separate parties in Annex II of every global SG CAAC report from S/2006/826 onward. The pack equips UK MPs and FCDO to mirror that distinction in ministerial statements. Never names a child, family, or non-Tier-A commander. Never aggregates counts in TLTE voice. Children were victims first.

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Audience

- UK MPs
- Lords
- FCDO South Asia
- Home Office
- MoD
- APPG for Tamils
- UN PoE / OHCHR readers

Best used for

- FCDO written questions on accurate factional attribution of child-recruitment allegations in UK ministerial statements
- Home Office written questions on the treatment of former Karuna group / TMVP figures under UK law (post-2008 Karuna Crown Court conviction precedent)
- MoD written questions on OP-CAC compliance review of Sri Lanka
- APPG-Tamils session on UNSG CAAC Annex II discipline and the children-first principle

Tier-A evidence anchors

- HRW — Living in Fear: Child Soldiers and the Tamil Tigers (Nov 2004)
- HRW — Complicit in Crime: State Collusion in Abductions and Child Recruitment by the Karuna Group (Jan 2007)
- HRW — Recurring Nightmare (Mar 2008)
- UNSG CAAC Sri Lanka — S/2006/1006
- UNSG CAAC Sri Lanka — S/2007/758
- UNSG CAAC Sri Lanka — S/2009/325
- UNSG CAAC Sri Lanka — S/2011/793

- UNSCR 1612 (2005) — Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism
- Rome Statute Art 8(2)(e)(vii) — conscripting / enlisting under-15s in NIAC
- Optional Protocol to the CRC on Children in Armed Conflict (OP-CAC), Art 4
- Paris Principles 2007 §2.1
- UNICEF–LTTE Action Plan (4 March 2003)
- UNICEF Sri Lanka — call on Karuna faction (April 2007)
- ICG Asia Report N°159 — Sri Lanka's Eastern Province (15 Oct 2008)
- Becker — Child Recruitment in Burma, Sri Lanka and Nepal (2007)
- Karuna — UK Crown Court conviction (25 January 2008)
- Pillayan — Pararajasingham indictment (acquittal 13 Jan 2021)
- UTHR(J) Information Bulletins (Karuna split period)
- D.B.S. Jeyaraj — Karuna split chronology (11 April 2014)
- Staniland — Networks of Rebellion (Cornell 2014), Ch. 6

Policy asks

- UK Government (FCDO): Ensure that UK ministerial statements, FCDO country reports, and UPR submissions on Sri Lanka mirror the UN Secretary-General's CAAC Annex II discipline by treating the LTTE and the Karuna group / TMVP as legally distinct parties when referencing child-recruitment allegations from 2004 onward.
- UK Government (FCDO): Publish a UK assessment of Sri Lanka's compliance with its obligations under the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OP-CAC, ratified 8 September 2000), with reference to UNSG reports S/2006/1006, S/2007/758, S/2009/325 and S/2011/793.
- UK Government (Home Office): Set out the Home Office position on the treatment under UK immigration and counter-terrorism law of former senior figures of the Karuna group / TMVP, having regard to the 25 January 2008 Crown Court conviction of Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan (Karuna).
- UK Government (MoD): Confirm the UK Ministry of Defence's position on the application of Article 8(2)(e)(vii) of the Rome Statute to child-recruitment in non-international armed conflict, with reference to UK training and engagement policy in respect of armed forces of states with documented OP-CAC reporting gaps.

Draft parliamentary questions

- [FCDO] What steps is the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office taking to ensure that UK ministerial statements and Country Information Notes on Sri Lanka attribute child-recruitment allegations from 2004 onward by reference to the parties separately listed in Annex II of the United Nations Secretary-General's Children and Armed Conflict reports — the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Karuna faction / Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal?
- [FCDO] What assessment has the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office made of the Government of Sri Lanka's compliance with its obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, having regard to United Nations Secretary-General reports S/2006/1006, S/2007/758, S/2009/325 and S/2011/793?
- [Home Office] What is the Home Office's position on the treatment under United Kingdom immigration and counter-terrorism law of former senior figures of the Karuna group or Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal, having regard to the 25 January 2008 conviction of Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan at Croydon Crown Court for offences relating to a fraudulently obtained passport?
- [MoD] What assessment has the Ministry of Defence made of the applicability of Article 8(2)(e)(vii) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court to the conscription or enlistment of children under the age of

fifteen years into armed forces or groups in non-international armed conflict, in the context of United Kingdom defence engagement with States Parties whose reporting under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict has been the subject of recommendations by the Committee on the Rights of the Child?

Civic remembrance

This pack does not deny that child recruitment occurred. Every credible source confirms it did, and the children were victims first. The pack asks only that the responsible command structure be identified correctly — Vanni LTTE, Eastern LTTE under Karuna pre-split, Karuna group / TMVP post-split, or actors operating with documented Sri Lankan state complicity. Accurate attribution is part of justice.

Pack rules

- Never names a child, a family member of a child, a school, or a village.
- Names Karuna (Vinayagamorthy Muralitharan) and Pillayan (Sivanesathurai Chandrakanthan) only because both are publicly named in UNSG CAAC annex reports, the Sri Lankan court indictment in the Pararajasingham case, and (for Karuna) the 25 January 2008 UK Crown Court conviction record.
- Never names any other commander unless a Tier-A body (UNSG CAAC, OISL, UN PoE, ICC, OHCHR, an accredited court) has already named them.
- Never aggregates child-recruitment counts in TLTE voice. Every figure is quoted as 'as published by [HRW 2004] / [UNSG S/2007/758] / [OISL 2015 §X]'.
- Never asserts 'Karuna deliberately framed the LTTE' as a TLTE finding. The political-benefit observation is published only as a cautious hypothesis with explicit falsifiers.
- Never glorifies any armed group (UK Terrorism Act 2000 §12) — applies equally to LTTE, Karuna group, TMVP, EPDP, PLOTE, TELO, EPRLF (Varathar), and state paramilitaries.
- Never accepts intake from families, witnesses, or former child recruits. Always routes to UNICEF Sri Lanka, ITJP, PEARL, OMP, OHCHR, UN WGEID, Adayaalam, Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, NSPCC (0800 800 5000), Childline (0800 1111), and 999 in immediate danger.

Transparency

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