

1990 Northern Muslim Expulsion — MP Evidence Pack

In October 1990 the LTTE expelled the entire Northern Muslim population — over 70,000 people — from Jaffna, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi and Vavuniya at short notice. A Tamil-acknowledged wound. The acknowledgement IS the political work — no 'context' framing, no minimisation.

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Audience

- UK MPs
- Lords
- Inter-faith APPGs
- APPG for British Muslims
- APPG for Tamils
- FCDO South Asia

Best used for

- Inter-community statements on Sri Lanka (anniversaries fall in October)
- Letters supporting Northern Muslim right-of-return cases
- Reconciliation framings — never as a 'whataboutism' against accountability for state violence
- Engagement with the Sri Lanka Muslim Council, Citizens for Justice and Peace, and Northern Muslim civil society

Tier-A evidence anchors

- UN OHCHR OISL 2015 — sections referencing LTTE violations including the 1990 expulsion
- International Crisis Group — Sri Lanka's Muslims: Caught in the Crossfire (2007)
- Sri Lanka Muslim Council — 1990 expulsion documentation
- Citizens for Justice and Peace (Sri Lanka) — Northern Muslim displacement archive
- Centre for Policy Alternatives — Northern Muslim right-of-return studies
- Adayaalam Centre — multi-community Northern Province documentation

Policy asks

- UK Government (FCDO): Publicly support Northern Muslim right-of-return and land-restitution within Sri Lanka's transitional justice framework.
- UK MPs: Mark the October anniversary with a Hansard statement that names the wound, names the perpetrator (LTTE) at organisational level, and cites Tier-A UN or ICG sources.
- UK MPs: Refuse 'whataboutism' framing: this acknowledgement strengthens — not undermines — the accountability file on state violence against Tamils.

Draft parliamentary questions

- [FCDO] What recent representations has the Government made to Sri Lanka on the right-of-return and land-restitution of Northern Muslims expelled from the Northern Province in October 1990?

- [FCDO] What assessment has the Government made of progress on inter-community reconciliation between Tamil and Muslim populations in the Northern Province?
- [FCDO] What engagement has the Government had with the Sri Lanka Muslim Council on Northern Muslim displacement?

Civic remembrance

October 1990 is the anniversary the diaspora can mark honestly. Naming the wound is not weakness — it is the basis on which any Tamil claim to accountability is credible.

Pack rules

- TLTE acknowledges this wound. No 'context' framing that minimises LTTE organisational responsibility. The acknowledgement IS the political work.
- Never name individual expelled families. Cite the Sri Lanka Muslim Council, ICG, OHCHR, CPA, and Citizens for Justice and Peace at organisational level.
- Never use this file as 'whataboutism' against state violence accountability. Both files are open. Both matter.
- Always include Northern Muslim civil society voices alongside Tamil voices — never speak for them.

Transparency

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