

MP Pack #34 — Beyond Chemmani · island-wide mass graves and the forensic gap — MP Evidence Pack

Citation-only pack pairing with the vault dossier at </case/suppression/mass-graves-forensic-matrix>.

Chemmani is not alone: publicly reported mass-grave sites across the North, East and South (including Mannar, Kokkuthoduvai, Matale and others) share a pattern of halted excavations, contested custody of remains, slow or absent DNA identification, and limited international forensic oversight. The policy artefact is the forensic gap between excavation and identification — not a TLTE count of victims.

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Audience

- UK MPs
- Lords
- FCDO South Asia
- APPG for Tamils
- Journalists
- Forensic and human-rights NGOs

Best used for

- FCDO written questions on whether HMG has offered or funded independent forensic expertise for Sri Lankan mass-grave sites beyond Chemmani
- Questions on the Office on Missing Persons' published outputs against its statutory mandate
- Questions on whether the UK supports International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) engagement with Sri Lanka
- APPG briefings linking mass-grave forensic standards to the OHCHR Sri Lanka Accountability Project

Tier-A evidence anchors

- OHCHR — Sri Lanka Accountability Project and High Commissioner reports — <https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/sri-lanka>
- UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances — Sri Lanka — <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/wg-disappearances>
- International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) — <https://www.icmp.int/>
- Office on Missing Persons, Sri Lanka — <https://omp.gov.lk/>
- Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death (2016) — <https://www.ohchr.org/en/publications/policy-and-methodological-publications/minnesota-protocol-investigation-potentially>
- Bournemouth Protocol on Mass Grave Protection and Investigation (2020) — <https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/research/projects/bournemouth-protocol-mass-grave-protection-investigation>

Policy asks

- UK Government (FCDO): Set out whether HM Government will offer or fund independent international forensic expertise, consistent with the Minnesota and Bournemouth Protocols, for mass-grave sites in Sri Lanka beyond Chemmani.
- UK Government (FCDO): Set out what assessment HM Government has made of the published outputs of Sri Lanka's Office on Missing Persons against its statutory mandate.
- UK Parliament (APPG for Tamils): Convene a briefing on the gap between excavation and identification at Sri Lankan mass-grave sites, with forensic and accountability institutions.

Draft parliamentary questions

- [FCDO] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether her Department has offered or will offer independent forensic expertise to support the investigation of mass-grave sites in Sri Lanka other than Chemmani, consistent with the Minnesota Protocol.
- [FCDO] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment her Department has made of the number of human remains identified through DNA analysis at mass-grave sites in Sri Lanka as published by Sri Lankan authorities.
- [FCDO] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether her Department supports engagement by the International Commission on Missing Persons with the Government of Sri Lanka.
- [FCDO] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment her Department has made of the outputs of Sri Lanka's Office on Missing Persons against its statutory mandate.

Civic remembrance

Each site holds people who were someone's child, parent or neighbour. This pack counts nothing on its own authority; it asks only that the remains be identified and returned under standards the world already agreed.

Pack rules

- Never names individual perpetrators, survivors, victims or families — cite institutions only.
- Never aggregates remains counts on TLTE authority; any figure carried out of this pack is the publisher's own, with source and date.
- Never attributes any site to a specific perpetrator where no court or Tier-A body has done so.
- Never makes collective claims about Sinhalese civilians or any community.

Transparency

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