

KARUNA

The Evidence File

Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan, alias 'Colonel Karuna' / 'Karuna Amman'
and the Karuna group / Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (TMVP)

What UN bodies, governments, courts and human rights researchers
have placed on the public record. Version 1.0 · Aarambam era.

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How to read this file

This file gathers what has already been placed on the public record about one man and the armed group he led. It is arranged by the strength of the source: **Tier A** (UN bodies, governments, courts), **Tier B** (established human rights organisations and major news agencies), **Tier C** (advocacy or single-outlet reporting, used only for dates or for his own words).

Every line carries a confidence tag:

Tag	Meaning
PROVEN	A court, government or UN body has formally decided or recorded it (for example a conviction, a sanctions designation, or a UN listing).
FOUND	A UN mission or established investigator reported it on evidence, but no court has ruled on it.
ALLEGED	Reported by credible sources, not formally decided.
DENIED	He has publicly rejected the allegation. His denial is recorded beside it.
SINGLE-SOURCE	Only one outlet reports it so far. Treat with caution.

Rules this file keeps

- TLTE issues no verdict. The file says what the UN found, what a court heard, or what a government decided, and never that he is guilty.
- Only Karuna and Pillayan are named, because UN bodies, governments and courts have already named them. No victim, witness, family member or serving officer is named. Officials appear only by office.
- No figures are combined into TLTE totals. Every number stays with its own source.
- No judgement on either the LTTE or the Sri Lankan state. The subject is what has been documented about one man and the group he led, both before and after he left the LTTE in 2004.
- Nothing from social media. Anything reported by only one outlet is marked as single-source.
- This file accepts no testimony or reports from the public. Anyone holding evidence should take it to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Sri Lanka Accountability Project) or the International Truth and Justice Project (ITJP).

1 · Timeline

When	What the record says	Tag	Source
1990 (June)	HRW reports that forces under his command as an LTTE eastern commander were implicated in the summary execution of several hundred police officers who had surrendered.	ALLEGED	HRW 2013 and 2020
3–4 Mar 2004	He breaks from the LTTE's northern leadership after refusing an order to send eastern fighters north. The split is announced from Batticaloa.	PROVEN (public event)	Al Jazeera 3 Mar 2004; Frontline Apr 2004; Refugee Council briefing 1 Apr 2004
2004–2007	His breakaway group (later the TMVP) operates in the East against the LTTE.	PROVEN	UK FCDO 24 Mar 2025
13 Nov 2006	UN mission led by Allan Rock finds that the Karuna faction is abducting children in the East, and reports strong and credible evidence that elements of the state security forces supported and sometimes took part in these abductions. 135 under-age abduction cases had been reported to UNICEF since May 2006.	FOUND	UN News 14 Nov 2006
4 Dec 2006	After the group is listed in Annex II of the UN Secretary-General's report on children and armed conflict, he contacts the UN Special Representative and commits to work with the UN to end child recruitment.	PROVEN	Office of the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, 7 Dec 2006
23 Jan 2007	HRW publishes <i>Complicit in Crime: State Collusion in Abductions and Child Recruitment by the Karuna Group</i> .	FOUND	HRW, vol. 19 no. 1(C)
Nov 2007	He is arrested in the UK for travelling on a false document.	PROVEN	BBC; HRW 2020
25 Jan 2008	He pleads guilty and is sentenced in the UK to nine months in prison for entering Britain on a Sri Lankan passport in another name. He testifies that the then Defence Secretary arranged the diplomatic passport.	PROVEN (conviction); his claim about the passport is his own testimony	BBC Sinhala 25 Jan 2008; TamilNet 25 Jan 2008; HRW 2020
May 2008	Released from prison but held under UK immigration detention powers, then returned to Sri Lanka.	PROVEN	TamilNet 9 May 2008
2009	Appointed a minister in the Sri Lankan government, with the national integration portfolio.	PROVEN	HRW 2020 (AP photograph, May 2009)
Jun 2012	Sri Lanka is removed from the UN children-and-armed-conflict list after completing its Security Council action plan. The TMVP welcomes the decision.	PROVEN	BBC 12 Jun 2012; Colombo Gazette 17 Jun 2012
19–25 Jun 2020	At a public meeting in Ampara he says he killed 2,000 to 3,000 soldiers in one night at Elephant Pass. The CID opens an inquiry and he gives a statement.	PROVEN (statement and inquiry)	Daily Mirror via GTN 25 Jun 2020; HRW 23 Jun 2020
24 Mar 2025	The UK designates him under the Global Human Rights Sanctions Regulations 2020, which means a travel ban and an asset freeze. UK list reference GHR0151.	PROVEN	FCDO 24 Mar 2025; OFSI notice; Reuters 24 Mar 2025

When	What the record says	Tag	Source
Apr 2025	He rejects the sanctions as politically motivated and denies the abuse allegations in a BBC Tamil interview.	DENIED	Tamil Guardian 9 Apr 2025 (reporting BBC Tamil)
8-12 Apr 2025	Pillayan (Sivanesathurai Chandrakanthan), who followed him as TMVP leader, is arrested by the CID in Batticaloa over the 2006 abduction and disappearance of a university vice-chancellor. He is detained for 90 days under the PTA.	PROVEN (arrest and detention)	Newsire 9 and 12 Apr 2025; Ceylon Today 10 Apr 2025
Jul 2026	The CID records his statement as part of investigations linked to the Easter Sunday attacks. The reported content concerns links between the Pillayan faction and a former senior state intelligence official, and a CID inquiry into an alleged torture camp at Welikanda.	SINGLE-SOURCE	The Morning Telegraph 4 Jul 2026
29 Sep 2026	Pillayan is further remanded until 13 October by the Batticaloa Magistrate's Court in connection with five killings in Batticaloa.	PROVEN (remand order)	Virakesari 30 Sep 2026

2 · The seven layers of evidence

Layer 1 · UN and international bodies (Tier A)

UN children-and-armed-conflict mechanism. The Karuna faction/TMVP was listed in Annex II of the UN Secretary-General's annual report on children and armed conflict, the list of parties that recruit and use children. The 2006 Allan Rock mission recorded child abductions by the faction in government-controlled areas of the East, especially Batticaloa district, and found strong and credible evidence that certain elements of the security forces supported and sometimes took part in them. Later Security Council documents track the follow-up: the Working Group conclusions S/AC.51/2010/2 and the Secretary-General's fourth country report S/2011/793. Tag: FOUND / PROVEN (listing).

UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. HRW cites the Working Group's 2012 country documentation (A/HRC/WGEID/100/1) as one of the records attributing enforced disappearances to the TMVP. Tag: FOUND.

UN Panel of Experts (2011) and OHCHR OISL (2015). Both reports address paramilitary groups working alongside the state in the East, including the Karuna group. Paragraph-level extraction from both reports is still outstanding (see Section 5, Gaps). Tag: to be confirmed at paragraph level in v1.1.

United Kingdom government. On 24 March 2025 the FCDO designated Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan, together with three former senior Sri Lankan military commanders, describing him as a former LTTE military commander who subsequently created and led the paramilitary Karuna Group, which worked on behalf of the Sri Lankan Army. The stated grounds are serious human rights violations and abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture and/or sexual violence. The measures are a travel ban and asset freeze. UK list reference GHR0151; his date of birth is listed as 22/06/1966. Tag: PROVEN (designation). A designation is an executive decision, not a criminal conviction.

Layer 2 · Court records

United Kingdom, 2008. Pleaded guilty and was sentenced to nine months for entering the UK on a false passport. This is the only criminal conviction against him found on the public record so far. PROVEN.

Sri Lanka, 2020. CID inquiry following his Elephant Pass statement. No charge has been found on the public record. PROVEN (inquiry), no outcome recorded.

Sri Lanka, 2025-2026. Criminal proceedings against his successor Pillayan before Batticaloa courts: a 2006 disappearance and five killings, with remand running to 13 October 2026. Case numbers have not yet been published in the sources consulted. PROVEN (proceedings exist).

Layer 3 · Human rights research (Tier B)

Human Rights Watch. Complicit in Crime (January 2007) documents abductions and child recruitment by the Karuna group and alleges state collusion. HRW's November 2006 release Stop Child Abductions by Karuna Group, its 2013 call to begin LTTE crimes probes with Karuna, and its June 2020 dispatch together state that he has never been held accountable, and that his forces were implicated in the 1990 police killings and, after 2004, in enforced disappearances, torture and child recruitment. FOUND / ALLEGED.

Still to be added in v1.1: Amnesty International, International Crisis Group, International Commission of Jurists, ITJP submissions, and UTHR(J) special reports from the Batticaloa years.

Layer 4 · The written public record and his own words

The 2004 split. Contemporary reporting (Al Jazeera, Frontline/The Hindu, Rediff analysis, and a UK Refugee Council briefing) describes a dispute over orders to send about 1,000 eastern fighters north, together with grievances in the East about how easterners were treated within the movement. PROVEN (event); the reasons given are the parties' own accounts.

His own statements. The 2020 Elephant Pass remark, and his 2025 BBC Tamil interview rejecting the sanctions. In September 2026 he also gave public political comments in Batticaloa (Lanka Times, in Tamil). His own words are recorded as evidence of what he said, not as evidence that what he said is true.

Layer 5 · Parliament and politics

He moved from the LTTE to his own armed group, then to government office, and has held ministerial office (2009). UK Hansard debates on the March 2025 sanctions, and Sri Lankan Hansard references, are to be extracted in v1.1.

Layer 6 · His denials

He has called the UK sanctions politically motivated and influenced by parts of the Tamil diaspora, and has rejected the human rights allegations (April 2025). As set out in Section 3, each allegation is shown alongside his reply wherever he has given one.

Layer 7 · Cross-check

Every claim in this file is checked against at least two independent sources wherever possible. Where it is not, it is marked SINGLE-SOURCE.

3 · Allegations against findings

Allegation	Strongest source	Status	His reply
Abduction and recruitment of children by the Karuna group (2006-07)	UN Allan Rock mission (2006); UN Annex II listing; HRW 2007	FOUND (UN); listing PROVEN	Committed to work with the UN to end child recruitment (Dec 2006)
Support from parts of the state security forces for those abductions	UN Allan Rock mission (2006); HRW 2007	FOUND	Not recorded
Serious human rights violations (extrajudicial killings, torture and/or sexual violence)	UK FCDO designation 2025	PROVEN (designation, not a conviction)	DENIED (Apr 2025)
Enforced disappearances by the TMVP	UN Working Group on Disappearances (as cited by HRW); HRW	FOUND	General denial (Apr 2025)
1990 killings of surrendered police officers by forces under his command	HRW 2013 and 2020	ALLEGED	Not recorded

Allegation	Strongest source	Status	His reply
False passport	UK court, 2008	PROVEN (guilty plea)	Said the passport was arranged by the then Defence Secretary

4 · The other line of the Karuna group

Pillayan (Sivanesathurai Chandrakanthan) was a former TMVP leader and Chief Minister of the Eastern Province. The two later went separate political ways. The current criminal cases against Pillayan are the most active judicial thread connected to the group. This file records them by court and date only, and names no one affected.

5 · Gaps: what has not yet been examined

- No criminal court in any country has tried him for the abuses alleged in the UN and HRW records. The only conviction is the 2008 UK passport offence.
- No published outcome has been found for the 2020 CID inquiry into the Elephant Pass statement.
- Paragraph-level references in the UN Panel of Experts 2011 and OHCHR OISL 2015 reports are still to be extracted.
- The full UK Statement of Reasons text for GHR0151 has not been reproduced here. Only the government's published summary is used.
- Sri Lankan case numbers for the current Pillayan proceedings are not public in the sources consulted.
- Records from Amnesty, ICG, ICJ, ITJP, UTHR(J), and both Parliaments are pending for version 1.1.
- The July 2026 CID statement is single-source and has not been independently confirmed.

6 · Sources

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- [11] BBC Sinhala, 'Gotabhaya gave me passport', 25 Jan 2008; TamilNet, 25 Jan 2008 and 9 May 2008
- [12] BBC News, 'Sri Lanka removed from UN child conflict blacklist', 12 Jun 2012; Colombo Gazette, 17 Jun 2012

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[16] Newswire, 9 and 12 Apr 2025; Ceylon Today, 10 Apr 2025 (Pillayan arrest and PTA detention)

[17] Virakesari, 'Pillayan further remanded over five Batticaloa killings', 30 Sep 2026

[18] The Morning Telegraph, 4 Jul 2026 (single-source)

[19] Lanka Times (Tamil), 7 Sep 2026 (his public political remarks)

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