

**SRI LANKA'S UN
PEACEKEEPERS
LET THE PUNISHMENT FIT THE
CRIME**

13 November 2017

INTERNATIONAL
TRUTH
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PROJECT

A Joint Report with Journalists for Democracy in Sri Lanka.



Journalists for Democracy in Sri Lanka

LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION BY SRI LANKAN PEACEKEEPERS

INTRODUCTION

Sri Lanka is attending a UN peacekeeping conference in Vancouver on 14-15 November 2017 but has yet to hold any of its 134 peacekeepers against whom a UN inquiry found prima facie evidence of child sexual exploitation in Haiti a decade ago, accountable. This alone makes a mockery of its pledges to the international community to deliver on accountability.

Worse still, the Sri Lankan army went on to commit alleged war crimes in their own country in 2009, including sexual violence during and after the war that was so extensive, systematic and widespread that a UN inquiry later concluded it was “part of an institutional policy within the security forces¹”. Despite these findings and because of the prevailing climate of impunity, the Sri Lankan security forces have continued to perpetrate violations; the ITJP has collected evidence of hundreds of post war abductions by the police and army, including torture and rape in military camps, continuing right up to the present day².

Sri Lanka is not an isolated case – a ground breaking Associated Press investigation earlier this year found nearly 2,000 allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation by UN peacekeepers and other personnel around the world in the last 12 years but only a fraction of the alleged perpetrators served jail time.

SRI LANKA IN HAITI 2004-7

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

A 2007 confidential inquiry³ by the UN’s Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), conducted in conjunction with the Sri Lankan Army, identified 134 Sri Lankan soldiers alleged to have sexually exploited nine Haitian boys and girls from late 2004 to mid 2007, some in return for as little as 0.75 cents. The UN’s report said, “the acts of sexual exploitation and abuse were frequent, occurred usually at night, and at virtually every location where Sri Lankan military were deployed”.

¹ Para 591, OISL, A/HRC/30/CRP.2

² Also reported on by Associated Press, Dozens of men say Sri Lankan forces raped and tortured them, Paisley Dodds, 8 November 2017, <https://apnews.com/ced017bd441f46ba838aaedf6ff5dbe2>

³ Redacted version available at https://usun.state.gov/sites/default/files/organization_pdf/163699.pdf but ITJP has a copy of the confidential report.

What is not clear is whether there was any follow up to identify other children and witnesses after the sixth Sri Lankan contingent was repatriated in 2007. The OIOS report quotes a female victim saying that she saw a male victim “and other boys performing oral sex on Sri Lankan soldiers at the Habitation Leclerc⁴” base; were the “other boys” located and interviewed? According to the same report, another victim provided the investigators with the names of 6 additional girls and 1 boy whom she said were also victims – it is not clear what if any follow up was done to identify, interview and rehabilitate these children⁵. The scale of the problem is probably huge with the numbers of victims probably an undercount. What, if any, assistance was given to the victims by the UN after the investigators left and was any attempt made to discover the extent of the problem?

The OIOS report authors state, “The sexual acts described by the nine victims are simply too many to be presented exhaustively”. One girl who was having sex with Sri Lankan soldiers was so young she didn’t even have breasts⁶; a boy said he had both anal and oral sex with more than 100 Sri Lankan peacekeepers. Indeed while the investigators were interviewing one Haitian girl she started receiving calls on her mobile from Sri Lankan soldiers who had been given her number by the departing contingent.

The OIOS report also alleges soldiers bought marijuana and there were holes in the UN camps’ perimeter fence through which the children entered and exited – both major security concerns. It also says one victim had a house where soldiers came in groups to have sex with the children “whilst the others waited outside for their turn⁷”. And in the capital, the OIOS report says a victim said that she “usually had sex in the back of UN military trucks. If the truck was occupied by a girl having sex with another soldier, she would wait her turn until they would finish⁸”. This suggests widespread knowledge and tolerance of the child sexual exploitation, and little likelihood of command structures not having knowledge of the sexual exploitation.

IDENTIFICATION OF ALLEGED PERPETRATORS

The report names one of the Sri Lankan military police officers sent to investigate (who has since been promoted); it comments that the Sri Lankans were surprised by how familiar the Haitian children were with the Sinhala language, in particular their knowledge of “various sexual expressions”. Indeed some of the interviews with the children were actually conducted in Sinhala indicating how prolonged their exposure was to the Sri Lankan peacekeepers. One

⁴ OIOS Para 69.

⁵ OIOS Para 101

⁶ “V01 was about 12 years old when she first had sex with a Sri Lankan soldier for USD5 to buy food. She stated that at that time she did not even have breasts”, Para 45, OIOS report. Note that the same girl was 15 years old at the time of the inquiry and she alleged she had been exploited by Sri Lankan peacekeepers for 3 years (ie since they first arrived in late 2004).

⁷ OIOS para 81.

⁸ OIOS Para 93.

Haitian interviewed had just suffered a miscarriage, another had a baby whose father she identified in the line-up of photographs as a Sri Lankan soldier and a third was pregnant at the time of the interview.

The UN inquiry made considerable headway in identifying the alleged rapists from showing the victims hundreds of photographs, investigating sites, checking mobile phone numbers and messages and taking corroborating witness testimony. It's noteworthy that the Sri Lankan peacekeepers removed their nametags from their uniforms⁹ before they had sex with the children around their bases but several victims knew the names and mobile numbers of the soldiers or could describe identifying features.

ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF COMMANDING OFFICERS

In the 2007 UN OIOS inquiry, five of the Haitian children describe having sex on multiple occasions with senior Sri Lankan officers whom they refer to as the "commandants", either based in the specific camps or visiting to oversee. The OIOS inquiry also included the identification of the alleged perpetrators through photographs and other means. The children were clear that the commanding officers had uniforms with three stars and they could also describe markings on junior ranks' uniforms.

OIOS ref.	Identified Sri Lankans from Photos	Had Sex with camp commandant
V1 ¹⁰	32	Yes
V2 ¹¹	27	Yes
V3 ¹²	11	Yes, two commandants
V4 ¹³	13	
V5	1 - not the father of her baby	
V6 ¹⁴	10 - including alleged father of her baby	
V7 ¹⁵	10	yes ¹⁶
V8 ¹⁷	14	
V9 ¹⁸	16 (had sex with 100)	Yes

⁹ The same practice of removing nametags from military uniforms has been noted by victims in Sri Lanka.

¹⁰ OIOS report says V01 slept with 30 soldiers in Jacmel on several occasions, 15 in Petit Goave including the commandant, and she was sent on by a soldier to Leogane to have sex with more soldiers.

¹¹ "According to V02 she slept with all Sri Lankan soldiers as they rotated through Habitation Leclerc, including the "Commandant", who visited them periodically...", Para 61, OIOS report. Note that V02 was 15 years old when this started. A medical report confirmed she had just had a miscarriage. According to OIOS, V02 could identify the Sri Lankan soldier who got her pregnant.

¹² OIOS Para 73 says she began having sex with Sri Lankan peacekeepers aged 12, two years before the inquiry. OIOS says (para 77) "At Jacmel, V03 repeatedly had sex with about 21 soldiers, except when a strict "Commandant" visited the base and therefore contact was not possible".

¹³ OIOS says she started having sex with Sri Lankan soldiers aged 12 and a half years. OIOS Para 96 says she "had sex with corporals and sergeants, and at the Sri Lankan military base of Killick, near Port-au-Prince, with a captain (who she said has since returned to Sri Lanka) and two senior officers with decorations on their shoulders". She identified more than 20 locations where she said she had sexual encounters (Para 103).

¹⁴ OIOS says she was 6 months pregnant when they interviewed her. She described "repeated sexual encounters in exchange for food and money over several years" (para 113).

¹⁵ V07 is a young single mother who says between July 2006 and July 2007 she had sex with more than 50 Sri Lankan soldiers, including a "Commandant" (OIOS Para 116).

¹⁶ "She identified a three-star "Commandant" who left Haiti in June 2007. She repeatedly had sex with him whilst he visited the Habitation Leclerc in a UN patrol vehicle and at a nearby house" OIOS Para 117. According to V07 some Sri Lankan soldiers were passing her contact details to incoming contingent members, who subsequently called her for sex", OIOS Para 211.

¹⁷ OIOS says V08 was 17 in 2007 but had started having sex with 20 Sri Lankan soldiers from 2004, when he would have been 14. OIOS Para 134.

One girl identified from photographs the commandant of a UN camp, whose location she knew, and said the officer had left Haiti in June 2007, just months before the inquiry took place. This would likely put him in the fifth contingent. There is no information as to what the process was that led to this officer not being put behind bars for allegedly buying sex from a child. In another case covered in the OIOS inquiry report, the “commandant” in a camp in Haiti allegedly had sex with the victim and then sent her on to his soldiers; again it is unclear if he was ever held accountable later on in Sri Lanka¹⁹.

MANAGEMENT

There is also the responsibility of the contingent commander to discipline his men. The OIOS report says there were “clear indications of red flags” of sexual exploitation and abuse at the Sri Lankan bases but the Sri Lankan commanders failed to take action. The OIOS report is clear the contingent commanders and commandants failed in their duties. In August 2007 for example, a victim says a Commandant came to her house and found a soldier having sex with her; the OIOS report says he merely slapped the soldier and transferred him to another base. This is in spite of pre-deployment training, which a Sri Lankan military delegate to a peacekeeping conference later boasted included “knowledge of ROE [Rules of Engagement], women rights, child protection and child rights and the avoidance of child abuse under International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights”²⁰. This underlines the fact that training in and of itself without any efforts to hold perpetrators accountable does not stop or prevent serious violations like this.

At the time the sixth contingent was repatriated, an officer who had been on the Haiti mission told The Island newspaper in Sri Lanka that free condoms were issued to soldiers deployed there and the UN was well aware of the practice. “Why on earth were condoms issued if they (UN) expected the men to remain celibate,” he asked the Island reporter²¹, failing to grasp the gravity of the charges.

¹⁸ According to OIOS Para 141 he started having sex with Sri Lankan soldiers from 2004 when he was aged 15. OIOS Para 148 says V09 identified two Sri Lankan soldiers by name and provided their mobile phone numbers.

¹⁹ “V01 had sex with the “Commandant”, who gave her the local equivalent of USD 0.75 and sent her on her own to the Sri Lankan military base at Petit Goave6 because some soldiers based there had telephoned and asked for her”, Para 48, OIOS report.

²⁰ <http://icrcndresourcecentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Regional-Seminar-Report-Final3.pdf>, SEMINAR REPORT REGIONAL SEMINAR ON “CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES IN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL) RELATED TO UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS” , Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, India 09-10 September 2015

²¹ More men on their way, Shamindra Ferdinando, The Island, 14 December 2007, <http://www.island.lk/2007/12/14/news22.html>

ACCOUNTABILITY

SRI LANKAN PROMISES

When Sri Lankan troops were sent home in 2007, Colombo assured the world the soldiers would be held accountable. "If they are proved guilty the maximum punishment will be given according to the Sri Lankan law and military law," the military spokesman at the time, Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara, told Reuters news agency, adding, "If they are proved guilty, then that's a black mark".

A decade later it's not even clear if they were disciplined and any legal action was taken, let alone if there was fitting punishment.

SRI LANKA'S SUBMISSION TO THE UN & SEEMING INCONSISTENCIES

In a 2016 submission to the UN²², Sri Lanka finally made public some sketchy details of how the peacekeepers were dealt with.

How many courts?

The Government said it had established a military court of inquiry. But in a November 2017 article, the High Commissioner to Canada, Ahmed A. Jawad, said there were two courts of inquiry conducted, by the Sri Lankan army and the navy respectively²³. This is the first time anything has been said in public about the navy being involved.

How many contingents investigated and the temporal mandate?

In its 2016 submission to the UN, Sri Lanka further states that a military court of inquiry was set up to investigate allegations against some members of the 6th contingent deployed to Haiti. This is problematic because the OIOS inquiry report makes it clear the violations didn't just start in 2007, they had been going on since 2004 from the arrival of the first contingent of Sri Lankans in Haiti. It appears that only one contingent was disciplined by Sri Lanka, not six. However Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Canada later said they dealt with allegations pertaining to sexual exploitation in 2006 and 2007 without explaining why 2004-5 violations were left out²⁴.

The OIOS report is clear that "the evidence shows that from late 2004 to mid-October 2007, at least 134 military members of the current and previous Sri Lankan contingents, sexually exploited and abused at least nine Haitian children". Indeed the UN investigators said they showed the victims 1074

²² <http://www.itjpsl.com/assets/G1528269.pdf> , Para 108, CAT/C/LKA/5

²³ Sri Lanka: Our Forces are fit to work as UN Peacekeepers, 12 November 2017, Sri Lanka Guardian, Ahmed A Jawad, <https://www.slguardian.org/2017/11/sri-lanka-forces-fit-work-un-peacekeepers/>

²⁴ Sri Lanka: Our Forces are fit to work as UN Peacekeepers, 12 November 2017, Sri Lanka Guardian, Ahmed A Jawad, <https://www.slguardian.org/2017/11/sri-lanka-forces-fit-work-un-peacekeepers/>

photographs of peacekeepers; media reports say Sri Lanka only sent 750 peacekeepers (49 officers and 701 troops) to Haiti in June 2007²⁵.

Sri Lanka claims that “out of an abundance of caution” it withdrew the entire contingent of 134 officers so that the allegations could be investigated fully. The Government added that: “It did not mean that all 134 personnel were implicated” (underlined as in government submission)²⁶. This statements seem deliberately misleading since the UN did indeed suspect 134 men were implicated.

Furthermore, the UN says there was evidence against 134 men from various contingents; from the public statements it appears Sri Lanka appears to have only focused its investigation on 134 men from the sixth contingent.

On the surface the specific numbers given by different Sri Lankan officials for how many officers and troops were punished also do not seem to correlate.

Source	Officers	Troops
Sri Lanka to UNCAT in 2016 references 6 th Battalion.	10 convicted [1 = retired 1 = commission withdrawn 8 = unspecified punishment]	13 convicted [3 = died in combat 1 = discharged 9 = unspecified punishments]
Military Spokesman in 2017	Contingent commander retired 8 others dismissed	Remainder disciplined for non serious actions such as withholding evidence.
UN OIOS Report in 2007	1 x Lt Colonel repatriated 2 x Majors Repatriated	In total 134 Allegations against soldiers/officers from various contingents; violations occurred 2004-7.

No jail sentences for child rape

Of the 10 officers convicted, the Government says one had his commission withdrawn, one was retired and eight were given punishments “based on the gravity of the offences committed”. Given the allegation was child sexual exploitation it’s hard to understand how any punishment without jail time fits the crime.

Were the suspects suspended from combat duty pending conviction?

Sri Lanka’s submission to the UN says the court convicted 23 peacekeepers and took “disciplinary action” against 10 officers and 13 soldiers. It explains that of the 13 soldiers, one was discharged from service. As regards the other 12, their regiments were ordered to “take punitive action according to the gravity of the offences committed by each of them”. No details have been given

²⁵ SLLI contingent leaves for Haiti, The Island newspaper, 9 June 2007, <http://www.island.lk/2007/06/09/news13.html>

²⁶ Written Additional Information submitted by the Government of Sri Lanka on the 5th Periodic Report to the UN Committee Against Torture (CAT), http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=1085&Lang=en

of what this meant in practice. However Sri Lanka's submission adds that 3 of the soldiers died "on operational duties", begging the question of why they were presumably fighting in the civil war and not suspended given the gravity of the charges of which they were at some point convicted. This implies the military court made its ruling well before 2009 when the war ended but no details of the date of the proceedings has been made public.

SRI LANKAN MILITARY STATEMENT IN 2017

Was the 6th contingent commander forcibly retired?

In an interview after AP's investigation into peacekeeping was published in 2017, Sri Lanka's military spokesman said that "the contingent commander was sent on compulsory retirement following the investigations and eight others were dismissed... the remaining soldiers were disciplined as the allegations were not serious and included withholding evidence²⁷".

Research into who led the six contingents in Haiti has been obstructed by a number of relevant stories being removed offline, which is telling in itself. However from the information we could still locate online from Sri Lankan media sources about who the commanders were, it appears that that the sixth contingent commander may have been promoted to Brigadier after the war ended in 2009 and his deputies are now Major Generals. This is information we plan to share with OHCHR for further follow up.

Indeed the first and sixth contingents appear to both come from the Sri Lanka Light Infantry Regiment; with the man allegedly serving as the first contingent commander now very senior in the army. The question is was he ever investigated for his role in preventing sexual abuse of Haitian children in 2004-5 when he was in command?

The onus is now on the Government of Sri Lanka to be transparent about whether the perpetrators of child sexual exploitation were actually even disciplined at all and why it thinks retirement is a punishment "commensurate with the gravity of the crime".

UN RESPONSE

Sri Lanka's submission to the UN states that in June 2015 the UN Secretariat noted the outcome of its military court process and confirmed the matter closed. Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Canada later said that the UN

²⁷ Army Accused Of Turning Blind Eye On Haiti Rape, Easwaran Rutnam, 23 April 2017, The Sunday Leader, <http://www.thesundayleader.lk/2017/04/23/army-accused-of-turning-blind-eye-on-haiti-rape/> and <http://www.bbc.com/sinhala/sri-lanka-39601074> and <http://www.bbc.com/sinhala/sri-lanka-41870227> which says: "A high level delegation had been sent by the Army to Haiti and an investigation was conducted and those found guilty were dealt with," Seneviratne said. He said that the contingent commander was sent on compulsory retirement following the investigations and eight others were dismissed."

Secretariat wrote to the Government to say that as of 29 September 2014 it considered the matter closed²⁸. It's not clear why different dates are given.

No statement has been issued by the UN to contradict the Sri Lankan assertion that the issue is closed. This seems extraordinary the lack of criminal accountability for what is organised child sexual exploitation committed over many years by multiple contingents in the face of the "zero tolerance" policy on sexual exploitation and abuse advocated by the Secretary General.

FUTURE DEPLOYMENTS

2013 RAPE ALLEGATION IN HAITI

Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Canada says the allegation by a Haitian woman that she was raped by a Sri Lankan peacekeeper in 2013 was found by a Sri Lankan military court of inquiry to be false²⁹. He says "senior officials who travelled to Haiti and met with a number of witnesses, including the alleged victim".

This is contradicted by the Associated Press which interviewed the then Adjutant General, Major General Jagath Dias, who was in charge of the investigation in Haiti. AP reported that:

"Dias didn't talk to the accuser, he told The Associated Press, nor did he interview medical staff who examined her. But he did clear his soldier, who remained in the Sri Lankan military".

It is worth noting Jagath Dias is not an appropriate rape investigator given the extensive and well documented allegations against him for his role as a commander of the 57 Division of the Sri Lankan army in the 2008-9 war³⁰.

FAILED VETTING AFTER 2013 INCIDENT

The ITJP has prima facie evidence to indicate that Sri Lanka recently sent abroad as a UN peacekeeping contingent commander a man who allegedly ran military intelligence in Joseph Camp, a site notorious for torture. The ITJP has witness testimony alleging his command responsibility for torture as well as individual responsibility for raping a detainee in another site. The fact that such an officer slipped through the vetting procedures indicates its continued failures.

²⁸ Sri Lanka: Our Forces are fit to work as UN Peacekeepers, 12 November 2017, Sri Lanka Guardian, Ahmed A Jawad, <https://www.slguardian.org/2017/11/sri-lanka-forces-fit-work-un-peacekeepers/>

²⁹ As earlier quoted, Sri Lanka Guardian.

³⁰ <http://www.itjpsl.com/reports/jagath-dias-dossier>

INCREASED DEPLOYMENTS

Meanwhile diplomats say the UN has agreed with the Sirisena Government that Sri Lanka will contribute 3,500 peacekeepers to the UN. The country's paramilitary police unit, the Special Task Force, known as STF, is to be deployed for peacekeeping for the first time, despite its egregious human rights record and the lack of accountability which is of deep concern³¹. It's perhaps not so surprising as the STF commander from 2003-2008 during the war³² in the East of Sri Lanka where the STF was involved in abductions and disappearances was recently brought out of retirement to become the President Sirisena's security adviser³³.

FUTURE VETTING

The initial contingent of Sri Lankan troops for Mali in 2017 was subjected to vigorous vetting by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva, acting on a brief from the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York.

Henceforth vetting is to be done in country by the military itself and by the national Human Rights Commission. There are serious questions as to whether this will be effective given the level of political intimidation and lack of transparency on the part of the Sri Lankan military and its past track record. In addition, there is the question of political will – so far there has been a total lack of any vetting of public and security officials, despite Sri Lanka's 2015 commitment to the Human Rights Council to do so³⁴.

SRI LANKA WHITEWASHED A DECADE ON

Impunity for peacekeeping child sexual exploitation came full circle in September 2017. Sri Lanka boasted it was included in the UN's "Circle of Leadership" on preventing sexual exploitation, after it made a donation of \$10,000 to a fund for victims³⁵. Hardly the "victim centric" approach to stop this recurring that the UN Secretary General promised.

³¹ STF to be used for UN peacekeeping operations, 2 February 2017, FT Online Lanka, <http://www.ft.lk/article/595462/STF-to-be-used-for-UN-peacekeeping-operations> . Reports say 300 were trained.

³² Mentioned in OISL, Para 133, "The current STF Commander is DIG R.W.M.C Ranawana (appointed on 24 March 2001). He was preceded by DIG K.M.L. Sarathchandra (appointed on 24 March 2008), DIG Nimal Lewke (appointed on 10 September 2003), and DIG Nimal Gunatilleke (appointed on 01 June 1998)". One newspaper article said Lewke was synonymous with the STF, Salute to an illustrious career, Tribute to Nimal Lewke on his retirement, 20 March 2011, Sunday Times Lanka, http://www.sundaytimes.lk/110320/Plus/plus_22.html

³³ NIMAL LEWKE PRESIDENT'S SECURITY ADVISER, 10 OCTOBER 2016, DAILY MIRROR LANKA [HTTP://WWW.DAILYMIRROR.LK/ARTICLE/NIMAL-LEWKE-PRESIDENT-S-SECURITY-ADVISER-116976.HTML](http://www.dailymirror.lk/article/nimal-lewke-president-s-security-adviser-116976.html)

Nimal Lewke, President Security Advisor, 6 October 2016, Daily News, <http://www.dailynews.lk/2016/10/06/local/95141>

Nimal Lewke Appointed As President's Security Adviser, 6 October 2016, <http://www.asianmirror.lk/news/item/19609-nimal-lewke-appointed-as-president-s-security-adviser>

³⁴ In UNHRC Resolution 30/1.

³⁵ <http://www.itjpsl.com/assets/press/UN.pdf> and Sri Lanka: Our Forces are fit to work as UN Peacekeepers, 12 November 2017, Sri Lanka Guardian, Ahmed A Jawad, <https://www.slguardian.org/2017/11/sri-lanka-forces-fit-work-un-peacekeepers/>

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR:

The Government of Sri Lanka

That the Government of Sri Lanka makes a full disclosure on how it dealt with the 134 soldiers allegedly implicated in the sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) including of minors in Haiti. This should include the following:

- Names, ranks and command units of the 134 soldiers;
- The investigations carried out in respect of the 134 and conducted by whom; were all of the 6 contingents stationed in Haiti from 2004-7 investigated for child sexual exploitation? If not, why?
- The findings of each investigation as well as recommendations;
- the disciplinary measures taken including military prosecution as well as the names of the Military Judges and prosecutors;
- The findings and sentences rendered;
- The current status of the 134 soldiers and whether they were discharged from service or transferred into other units;
- Confirmation as to how many of them went on to serve in other peacekeeping units;
- If any of the Commanders was ever charged or held accountable for command responsibility in terms of their failure to act against individuals under their command;
- Full disclosure on the details of such prosecutions including their full names, current ranks etc.

The United Nations – DPKO, OHCHR

- To disclose what action was taken in ensuring that Sri Lanka complied with their obligations in terms of the 134 soldiers repatriated and the UN OIOS Inquiry to ensure accountability; Did the UN, or Sri Lanka, investigate other leads and track down more UNPKF victims of the Sri Lankan peacekeeper child sex rings? Does the UN consider the case closed now and if so why? Was the sixth contingent commander to Haiti really forcibly retired?
- To advise on what measures were put in place to ensure that those implicated in the OIOS Inquiry were not included in future peacekeeping missions;
- To advise on current vetting and screening measures in place and what action is taken to ensure that OHCHR is resourced to enable them to carry out vetting and screening;
- To advise on what measures and procedures will be put in place, including criteria to be used, by the Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission to vet and screen at a national level;

- What Coordination mechanisms are in place to ensure that the OHCHR process and the national process build synergy and coordination;
- Disclose the standards and criteria utilised by DPKO to ensure that sexual predators and paedophiles are not allowed into peacekeeping troops i.e. is there now a register of those implicated in such crimes across the world?

Ms. Jane Connors - Victims' Rights Advocate

The Secretary-General in his report on "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse: a new approach", pledged that the United Nations will put the rights and dignity of victims at the forefront of its efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse. As Victims' Rights Advocate, Ms. Connors will support an integrated, strategic response to victim assistance in coordination with United Nations system actors with responsibility for assisting victims. She will work with government institutions, civil society, and national and legal and human rights organizations to build networks of support and to help ensure that the full effect of local laws, including remedies for victims, are brought to bear.

We call upon Ms. Jane Connors:

- To call officially for the UN OIOS Report regarding Sri Lankan Peacekeepers serving in Haiti, to examine its contents and to demand from the Government of Sri Lanka a full disclosure of the accountability measures taken by them in respect of the 134 soldiers implicated in SEA in Haiti;
- To establish if the UN followed up with the 9 victims after the OIOS two week investigation and provided long term psychosocial support?
- To investigate whether any action was taken in respect of the legal obligations of the Sri Lankan soldiers towards their victims and whether any criminal action was taken or compensation or reparations paid to the victim either by the Government of Sri Lanka or any of the alleged perpetrators individually.
- To ask why Sri Lanka is in the "circle of leadership" for preventing sexual exploitation? Is this a quid pro quo for a tiny donation to the victims fund?
- To ask if the UN itself finds a military has committed systematic and widespread sexual violence in its own country whether it is appropriate to send them to someone else's country in crisis?

Sri Lanka should be regarded as a test case for the Office of the Victims' Advocate.

END/