

27 x 2015 Cases: 20 men, 7 women

Abductions: All but one abducted in “white vans” by plain-clothes security officials. 14 of the victims had been very low-level or forced, including under-aged, recruits to the LTTE who had also not been through the Government’s “rehabilitation” programme. 13 had been involved in some kind of human rights or democratic political work. They have been detained from anything ranging from a couple of days to many months.

Perpetrators: in a mixture of army uniforms and plain clothes; some only in plain clothes.

Sites: Three people believe they were held in Joseph Camp in Vavuniya during 2015 and one on the 4th Floor in Colombo. An additional 4 believed they were detained in an army camp but they do not know which one. In total 23 victims were held in secret sites.

Reprisals: all families faced reprisals after the victim was released - all but one victim released on payment of a bribe.

Corroboration: 21 of the 27 cases now have medico legal reports from independent forensic experts; in 2 additional cases ITJP photographed the torture scars pending medical examination; and one victim has already been granted asylum without a medico-legal report.

9 x 2016 Cases: 8 men, 1 woman

Abductions: All involved illegal detention and abduction in a white or off white van. The victim was generally abducted near or in their home. Six of the abductions occurred in the Vanni. The three most recent occurred in July 2016. They were held for periods of time ranging from between 4 days to two months. Three were junior or forced recruits to the LTTE cadres who had not been through the Government’s “rehabilitation” programme and four had been involved in human rights work or legitimate political activity for democratic Tamil political parties. Two have tried to commit suicide after reaching the UK this year.

Perpetrators: in a mixture of army uniforms and plain clothes; some were armed with AK47s. Others only plain clothes. In one case the abductors showed a TID card.

Sites: all locations were kept secret from the victims. Three victims described being forced to walk on gravel once exiting the white van, and being kept in cells with iron bars; in two of these cases they also describe seeing green paint on the walls of the building. One victim describes being held in an army camp and hearing helicopters landing which he thinks may be Joseph Camp; another was told by the smuggler who brokered his release that he had been detained in Joseph Camp.

Reprisals: Most cases involved reprisals against family members after the victim was released on payment of a bribe.

Corroboration: In all cases the scars of the victim have either been examined by an independent forensic expert or have been photographed by ITJP investigators, pending full medical examination.

Seniority: In three cases the interrogators appeared to include senior officers. One man remembered a large framed picture of a man shaking hands with Mahinda Rajapaksa on the wall and a group of people surrounding him; one of whom was in the interrogation room. A second victim described one of his interrogators as high-ranking, judging by the way other officers treated him. A third victim was told a senior officer was coming to see him and he described seeing Sinhalese writing on the shoulders of his uniform.

Seniority: in two instances victims describe being interrogated by senior officers; in a third case the torturers switched to speaking in English when they realised their victim understood some Sinhala, indicating their seniority.

Note: Numbers here differ from ITJP's UNCAT submission because we have collected more evidence after compiling that report.