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இலங்கை மனித உரிமைகள் ஆணைக்குழு  
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

## **Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka**

**7<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

The Human Rights commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) is pleased to submit its answers to the questions forwarding by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in preparation for its forthcoming comprehensive report in September 2024.

**1. Information on results of any investigations undertaken by the HRCSL into deaths in prison, allegations of extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests/detention and torture and ill-treatment by police, military, prison officials and other public officials. Number of recommendations issued during the last 12 months regarding torture, arbitrary arrests and detention.**

The HRCSL issued the (draft) General Guidelines and Recommendations to Sri Lanka Police on Preventing Custodial and Encounter Deaths in December 2023. The HRCSL is currently following up with the Sri Lanka Police to implement recommendations, conclude ongoing inquiries and finalise the (draft) General Guidelines and Recommendations.

➤ Number of recommendations issued by HRCSL

	<b>Types of Complaint</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter</b>
1	Torture	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>
2	Arbitrary arrest/ Detention	<b>4</b>	-
3	Other forms of harassment	<b>1</b>	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>

**2. Number and types of complaints received since January 2023 to April 2024. Further information on the cases categorized as concerning “missing persons” listed in the cases handled by the Human Rights Commission in their 2022 Statistics of Complaints.**

Details of complaints received to HRCSL from 2023 to 1st Quarter 2024

<b>Types of Complaints</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024</b>	<b>Total</b>
Personal Liberty	2,254	591	<b>2,845</b>
(a) Torture (Physical and Mental)	546	129	<b>675</b>
(b) Degrading Treatment	22	14	<b>36</b>
(c) Harassment	560	75	<b>635</b>
(d) Threats	73	9	<b>82</b>
(e) Sexual Harassment	4	-	<b>4</b>
(f) Arbitrary Arrest/Detention	986	356	<b>1,342</b>
(g) Death in Custody	24	2	<b>26</b>
(h) Extra-Judicial Killings	15	6	<b>21</b>
(i) Enforced or Involuntary disappearances *	2	-	<b>2</b>
(j) Prisoners’ Rights	22	-	<b>22</b>
<b>Other Civil &amp; Political Rights</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>33</b>

<b>Employment</b>	1,774	202	<b>1,976</b>
<b>Education</b>	364	129	<b>493</b>
<b>State Welfare Services</b>	63	74	<b>137</b>
<b>Infrastructure &amp; Utilities</b>	86	15	<b>101</b>
<b>Complaints Relating to Voter Registration</b>	73	2	<b>75</b>
<b>Complaints about Inaction of Gov. Entities</b>	1,685	188	<b>18,73</b>
<b>Child Rights</b>	34	7	<b>41</b>
<b>Rights of Persons with Disabilities</b>	5	-	<b>5</b>
<b>Language Rights</b>	7	1	<b>8</b>
<b>Migrant Workers' Rights</b>	28	14	<b>42</b>
<b>LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender) Rights</b>	102	28	<b>130</b>
<b>Health Rights</b>	30	18	<b>48</b>
<b>Land &amp; Property Rights</b>	578	77	<b>655</b>
<b>Environmental Rights</b>	46	17	<b>63</b>
<b>Administrative Matters</b>	513	301	<b>814</b>
<b>Rights of Women</b>	3	2	<b>5</b>
<b>Other Categories (including the complaints not within the mandate)</b>	2,028	82	<b>2,110</b>
(a) Referrals to other institutions	8	18	<b>26</b>
<b>Elders Rights</b>	1	-	<b>1</b>
<b>Religious Rights</b>	4	-	<b>4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,714</b>	<b>1,771</b>	<b><u>11,485</u></b>

\* Vavuniya Regional Office received complaint in 2023 but disappeared on 6 December 2003 and complaint referred to Office on Missing Persons

\* Jaffna Regional Office received complaint in 2023 but disappeared on 25 October 2006

\* A new complaint on enforced disappearance was received at the Head Office during the second quarter of 2024.

3. Information on the number of visits to police stations, detention centres and prisons conducted by the HRCSL since January 2023, and the number and the types of complaints received.

**Information of visits handling by HRCSL 2023/2024 (1st Quarter)**

**a) Information of visits**

	<b>Center</b>	<b>No. of visits 2023</b>	<b>1st Quarter 2024</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Police station	653	497	<b>1,150</b>
2	Prisons	38	21	<b>59</b>
3	Child-care/ child homes	31	10	<b>41</b>
4	Rehabilitation centers	3	1	<b>4</b>
5	Disable person's home	3	-	<b>3</b>
6	Elder homes	-	1	<b>1</b>
7	CID/TID	10	14	<b>24</b>
8	Other places	8	9	<b>17</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>1,299</b>

**b) Visits under the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) – 2023/2024**

	<b>Institution</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
1	Prison	15	21
2	Criminal investigation division	01	01
3	Terrorist investigation division	01	01
4	Elders' home	-	02
5	Drug rehabilitation centers	01	02
6	Children's home	21	21
7	Rehabilitation centers for disabled persons	-	02
8	Immigration detention centers	-	01
9	Women's detention home	-	02
10	Youthful offenders rehabilitation centers	01	04
11	Other detention centers (Homeless)	01	01
12	Police stations	26	71
	<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>129</b>

4. Number of cases of arrests and detention under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) notified by the authorities to the HRCSL in 2023 and in 2024, disaggregated by gender and region and number of visits made by HRCSL to PTA detainees.

**Cases of arrests and detention under the PTA**

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of cases</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
2023	28	25	03
2024 up to 30 <sup>th</sup> April	18	18	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>03</b>

**5. Number of cases categorized as ‘harassment’ for the year 2023 and until April 2024 and actions taken to address complaints of intimidation, harassment and surveillance of civil society and families of the disappeared in the Northern and Eastern provinces.**

- The HRCSL issued the (draft) General Guidelines and Recommendations on the Protection of the Rights of Human Rights Defenders in December 2023.
- A follow up meeting with civil society actors based in the North was held on 19 February 2024 in Jaffna to ascertain the conditions in the region.
- In the year 2023, the Jaffna Regional Office received two complaints from civil society members regarding harassment. The cases were settled between the parties through the mediation of the Commission.

**6. Actions taken to address human rights concerns related to ‘Yukthiya’ operations, including the number of visits taken to the places of detention? Any information on the inquiries conducted, findings of the investigations and recommendations issued.**

- Number of institution visits relating to the "Yukthiya Meheyuma" Operation

	<b>Institutions</b>	<b>No of visits</b>
1	Police Station	159
2	Terrorism Investigation Division	07
3	Crime Investigation Division	01
4	Prison	01
5	Rapid Response Visits	06
	<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>

- Number of cases related with "Yukthiya Meheyuma" Operation

	<b>Type of case</b>	<b>No of cases</b>
1	Arrest	44
2	Arrest and Torture	14
3	Harassment	02
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

In January 2024, the HRCSL published a press statement related to the “Yukthiya” Operation implemented by Sri Lanka Police and the Ministry of Public Security.

**7. Actions taken in relation to the protection of economic, social and cultural rights in the context of the current economic crisis, particularly with respect to vulnerable groups.**

- The HRCSL commemorated International Women’s Day on 12 March 2024, under the theme “Economic transformation through support for women’s response to the crisis”. The Discussion mainly focused on women in Free Trade Zone workers, Plantation sector and North and East.
- A study on the Rights of Workers in Free Trade Zone in Sri Lanka is being prepared.
- A study on Economic Crisis in Anuradhapura District is also being prepared.
- The HRCSL is also carrying out an inquiry related to the “Aswesuma” social welfare scheme.