

To the International Community,

We seek justice for the massacre committed against the people of Kumarapuram in the Trincomalee District only through an International Independent Investigation Mechanism (IIIM).

On this day, 11.02.2026, the 30th anniversary of the Kumarapuram Massacre, which took place in Kumarapuram village, located in the Muttur Divisional Secretariat Division of the Trincomalee District, Sri Lanka, we — the relatives of the victims, members of the public, youth, civil society organizations, women's organizations, human rights activists, politicians, and journalists — have gathered together to convey our demand for justice for the Kumarapuram Massacre.

On 11 February 1996, 26 people from our village, including children and women, were brutally murdered through hacking and shooting, subjected to sexual violence, and severely injured. Many others were seriously wounded, and homes were burned down. These acts of violence began at 4:00 PM and continued until after midnight.

These killings and acts of violence were carried out by members of the Sri Lankan Army, including soldiers stationed at the Kiliveddy Thuraiyadi SL military camp. These soldiers were well known to our community. During court proceedings held in Muttur and Anuradhapura, we clearly identified the perpetrators and provided testimony.

However, we firmly believe that the judicial investigations into this massacre were conducted with the primary intention of shielding state security forces from accountability. The case was heard in Anuradhapura, a location that was both unsafe and practically inaccessible for the affected Tamil victims during the armed conflict. Traveling repeatedly to and from Anuradhapura to provide testimony against the Sinhala-dominated Sri Lankan military posed severe and life-threatening risks. Throughout the entire judicial process, no effective measures were taken to ensure the safety, protection, or psychological well-being of the victims and witnesses, thereby further undermining their security, dignity, and access to justice.

Although we repeatedly requested that the case be transferred to the Trincomalee High Court for our safety, this request was denied, demonstrating the lack of concern by the state for the safety of victims and witnesses.

A total of 108 witnesses from our village were summoned to court. However, as economically marginalized people unfamiliar with the Sinhala language, and living in an insecure and militarized environment, we faced immense hardship and risk in repeatedly traveling to Anuradhapura over many years to attend court proceedings. Throughout the duration of the trial, our village remained under constant surveillance by state intelligence agencies, and any individual who interacted or communicated with us was closely monitored, creating an atmosphere of fear, intimidation, and repression.

After 19 years of persistent and exhausting efforts to seek justice, we placed renewed hope in the change of government in 2015 and its commitment to principles of "good governance," accountability, and the rule of law. In this context, between June and July 2016, over a period of 11 consecutive days, 26 victims and witnesses from our community provided detailed testimony before the Anuradhapura High Court, with several individuals giving extended and continuous

Evidence lasting up to four hours. Despite the depth, consistency, and credibility of these testimonies, the jury ultimately acquitted the accused members of the Sri Lankan Army, resulting in a profound denial of justice for the victims and their families, and further deepening their sense of marginalization and loss of faith in domestic judicial processes.

Since then, we have repeatedly appealed to all successive governments, as well as to the current President and administration of the National People's Power (NPP) government, urging them to initiate appeal proceedings and take concrete steps to ensure justice. However, to date, not a single government — including the present one — has taken any meaningful or substantive legal action, nor even a single concrete step, to genuinely address this grave injustice or to deliver accountability for the victims.

Esteemed Members of the International Diplomatic Community,

For the past three decades, we have engaged in peaceful democratic protest, remembrance initiatives, and sustained advocacy to seek justice from the Sri Lankan state. Despite these continuous and principled efforts, no meaningful justice has been delivered through Sri Lanka's domestic judicial mechanisms.

In light of the systemic failures, prolonged delays, and persistent denial of accountability, we have lost confidence in domestic processes and are therefore compelled to seek justice through international judicial mechanisms for the grave crimes committed against our community in Kumarapuram.

Accordingly, we respectfully and urgently appeal to the international community to extend its support, solidarity, and engagement to ensure that justice, truth and accountability are secured for the victims and their families through credible international legal processes.

On this 30th anniversary of the Kumarapuram Massacre, we solemnly reaffirm the following demands:

1. Justice for the Kumarapuram massacre through an independent, impartial, and International Independent Investigation Mechanism.
2. The establishment of an international criminal accountability mechanism to investigate and prosecute genocide and other serious international crimes committed against Tamils in Sri Lanka.
3. The referral of Sri Lanka to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.
4. The provision of firm guarantees non-recurrence, including structural reforms to prevent future violations and to human rights.

People of Kumarapuram Village,
Kumarapuram, Kiliveddy, Muttur,
Trincomalee District,
Sri Lanka.

11 February 2026