

60th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Agenda Item 2: Interactive Dialogue on OHCHR
Report on Sri Lanka / Item 3 General Debate
Oral Statement (Pre-Recorded)

19th September 2025

Mr. President,

My name is Mr. Surach Nilanga. My son was killed during the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks at the Shangri-La hotel. I demand justice from the Sri Lankan government for my son's death.

Nearly a year after President Anura Dissanayake's appointment, the government's interest in justice is fading. To provide closure for survivors and their families, the truth must be uncovered and the legal process completed. The government has not ensured fair, speedy and adequate reparations for all survivors and victims' families.ⁱ

Ongoing investigations have shown serious deficiencies, and the "masterminds" behind the attacks remain unknown.ⁱⁱ

Key issues remain unexplained, such as the non-implementation of protective measures for churches and for guests at the Shangri-La hotel, which had been ordered in advance.

Franciscan International and the Centre for Society and Religion urge the Sri Lankan government to:

- Facilitate thorough, independent and speedy criminal investigations and prosecutions aimed at ensuring accountability for all responsible;
- Cooperate with international initiatives to ensure accountability;
- Provide adequate, just and speedy reparations to all survivors and victims' families after a comprehensive economic, social, and psychological assessment.

Thank you.

ⁱ Centre for Society and Religion report, February 2025, "The Economic and Social impact of the Easter Sunday attack on Victims' Families", available at: <https://easterattack.info/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/English-Report-on-the-economic-and-social-impact-of-the-Easter-attack-on-the-victims-Final.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Centre for Society and Religion report, February 2025 "6 years since Easter Sunday Attacks: Still awaiting justice", available at: <https://easterattack.info/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/6-Years-Since-Easter-Attacks-English-Final.pdf>