

## **60th Session of the UN Human Rights Council**

### **Agenda Item 2: Interactive Dialogue on OHCHR Report on Sri Lanka**

#### **Oral Statement**

Delivered by Mr Blair Matheson

8 September 2025

Mr. President,

Franciscans International and the Centre for Society and Religion (CSR) welcome the report of the High Commissioner. We commend the High Commissioner's recommendations on accountability.

This is the moment for the Sri Lankan Government to finally deliver results on investigations and prosecutions into the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks. Actual casualty numbers are yet to be confirmed, 6 years after the attacks.<sup>i</sup> The victims and their family members are still waiting for justice to be delivered. The ongoing investigations have not succeeded in prosecuting the alleged "masterminds", including the former director of the State Intelligence Service.

Despite the promises of accountability, critical reports regarding the attacks remain undisclosed to the public, raising serious concerns about transparency and justice.

Therefore, we urge the Government of Sri Lanka to:

- Make publicly available the full reports submitted by all Committees investigating the Easter Sunday Attacks;
- Implement the recommendations of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry report and the Parliamentary Select Committee report;
- Expedite all legal cases related to the Easter Sunday Attacks, so that alleged criminals are held accountable and responsible for their actions.

In conclusion, we call upon the Human Rights Council and Member States to continue their support of the OHCHR Sri Lanka Accountability Project.

Thank you.

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<sup>i</sup> CSR report 'Death toll in Sri Lanka Easter Sunday Attacks – contradictions in numbers' 2025  
<https://easterattack.info/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/English-Easter-Attack-Death-toll-Report.pdf>