

Fra: Justice Peace [<mailto:08justice@gmail.com>]

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Til: Folketingets Oplysning <Folketinget@ft.dk>

Emne: Sri Lanka: war is not yet over

Dear members of the Foreign Affairs Committee

Sri Lanka: war is not yet over

1."A 2009 report and supporting documentation indicated that the Sri Lankan military planned to expand greatly over the next five years. Conduct of Aggressive Intelligence Operations and pursuing Psychological Operations to rehabilitate the **mindset** of the public to tilt their affinity will also be facilitated by such a deployment. It entailed increasing the size of the armed forces by a total of 210,000 soldiers over the five years up to 2015, to a final strength of 410,000 ." - Sri Lanka Army Troop Strength, <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/sri-lanka/army-troops.htm>

"Directorate of Psychological Operations Gain the confidence and co-operation of the civil population so as to assist in military operations by isolating the enemy from civil support and ensuring a steady follow of information..... Conduct of Psychological Operations on enemy." - Annual Performance Report 2012, Sri Lanka

Army, <http://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/paperspresented/performance-report-srilanka-army-2012.pd>

"..... What we have realised is that it is extremely **difficult to change the *mindsets* of some of the adults**, who still have different views and ideas. Therefore, **we switched our target group from adults to young students**. We think it is an investment and most of our *activities under the five Rs target the youth, students and children. We want to invest in the next generation in Jaffna." - Crucial reconciliation steps in North, 9 May 2018, <http://www.ft.lk/opinion/Crucial-reconciliation-steps-in-North/14-654694>

If this happens in North Korea, the whole world will be up in arms.

The Army began to run pre-schools from the end of war and now they have about 300 pre-schools under them. The teachers are employees of Civil Security Department, the business arm of the Army. The teachers' jackets at schools and T-shirts of children have the emblem of CSD printed on

them: <https://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=38250>

Pre-school teachers working for CSD are paid a much higher salary than those running private pre-schools all around the country – though Education in Sri Lanka is free in the primary and secondary schools and technical colleges and the University, pre-schools are private in Sri Lanka and is a boon to the army for its PsyOps. The Army visit primary and secondary schoolsto give presents(mostly through charities from the South of the country) to children as well as to those in pre-schools. The military have grabbed most of the economic activities of the parents and are giving children "presents" – PsyOps cannot be more effective.

Observations on Sri Lanka, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child: "Ensure that all schools currently run by the military are transferred back under the Ministry of Education and Ensure that training of the Cadet Corps does not include military activities", Feb 2018, <https://www.mfa.gov.lk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CRC-2.pdf>

Yet the Army continues to build more pre-schools:
Wanni SF Hqrs Builds 6 Pre-Schools for Kids in Remote Areas, 2 August 2018,
<https://www.army.lk/news/wanni-sf-hqrs-builds-6-pre-schools-kids-remote-areas>

2. War "memorials": - attachments

Sincerely
Puni Selvaratnam
14, Tamarind Yard
London E1W 2JT
UK