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**Peninsula Peninsula Peninsula

A military court in Rwa's capital Kigali sentenced Friday, a day after two separate assassins by ex Gisela Colonel Gaspardo Gilbert 10 ordinary and 14 ordinary prisoners to life in prison for the murder of a fellow inmate.

Gaspard Gilbert, a former Rwandan Defense Forces (RDF) colonel who was jailed for life in 2010 for the murder of Rwandan Minister of Defense Marie Louise Umutesi, was killed by two inmates who had been sentenced to life in prison for the murder of a fellow inmate, Rwanda's Prison Service said Friday. The two inmates, who had been sentenced to life in prison for the murder of a fellow inmate, Rwanda's Prison Service said Friday,

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has called on Ukraine's Western allies to provide Ukraine with Western military hardware that is needed for the Ukraine Armed Forces to be able to defeat the Russian Federation Armed Forces, and to be able to defeat the Russian Federation Armed Forces on the battlefield, and to be able to defeat the Russian Federation Armed Forces on the battlefield in the shortest possible timeframe.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has also called on Ukraine's Western allies to provide Ukraine with Western military hardware that is needed for the defeated Russian Federation Armed Forces to be able to defeat the Russian Federation Armed Forces on the battlefield, and to be able to defeat the Russian Federation Armed Forces on the battlefield in the shortest possible timeframe, so that Ukraine can be a member of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as soon as possible.

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The number of a disappeared person in the Batticaloa district based their efforts

After the end of the war my son surrendered himself to the military. I started searching for my son when I was in the [illegible] period (camp). I gave submissions to all the commissions and inquiries established by the government. I met President Mahinda Rajapaksa three times and I met President Sirisena once. Before the Office of Missing Persons was established [in 2017], we met many other commissions formed by previous governments. We have no hope in the Sri Lankan government to give us justice. We need international monitoring of the mechanisms for justice. We need an international court. We will never get justice from the Sri Lankan government.

The relatives of the disappeared repeatedly said they see the latest proposal for a truth commission as a delaying tactic to deflect pressure upon the government. "Every time, the government forms commissions to delay the process of justice," said one. "It is a drama to show the international." We already gave all the evidence and perpetrators to the police and to the various state commissions," said the wife of a disappeared person. "We already know all about the perpetrators but still the government is not willing to take any steps."

Referring to the disappearance of 158 people from the campus of Eastern University in Vanthavunami, Eastern Province, she continued, "In 1990 there was a big conflict here, people were displaced to camps. The government came with 32 buses and took 158 people away who were still missing. Eyewitnesses are still alive. They directly saw the incident. The government is still not ready even to acknowledge that."

In 2016 six soldiers were charged for their involvement in the Kumurupan massacre where 158 people were killed. The trial was transferred from a court in Tamil-majority Trincomalee to Sinhala-majority Anuradhapura. A villager said, "We have given submissions to all the commissions, especially the [2011] Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission and the [2017] Consultation Task Force. We have still not received any positive results from those commissions."

Witnesses to Mass Disappearances

Many of the families of the disappeared in Batticaloa district lost a relative on September 2, 1990, when the Sri Lankan army loaded 158 displaced people, who had sought refuge along with the thousands of others on the campus of Eastern University, onto buses and drove them away. They were not seen again and their fate has never been revealed, and those responsible never held to account.

Witnesses to the event, including university staff, repeatedly gave evidence to government commissions. In 2013 Dr. Thangamuthu Jayasingam, who was vice chancellor of Eastern University, wrote: "I witnessed the incident and I gave statements to the police in 1990 and in 2004. I gave them the names of all the perpetrators who came for the operation that day… I went again to the Presidential Commission in 2004, at the request of relatives of the people who went missing."

On the last day of the war, in Mullaitivu on May 18, 2009, witnesses saw many people taken into army custody who were never seen again. A group of LTTE cadres, including at least five children, led by a Catholic priest, Father Francis Joseph, surrendered to the army at Vaddavaal. Witnesses described the group being met by a senior officer with "a lot of security around him and a lot of badges on him." They were driven away in buses and forcibly disappeared.

A witness to some of the final events of the war said: "After the Sri Lankan military occupied the area, they took the wounded LTTE cadres under their control, but until now we don't know what happened to them. Many ex-cadres were released but they can't open their mouth and say anything. They were rehabilitated but they are still under CID monitoring."

V. "Land Grabbing" in the North and East

Actions by Sri Lankan government agencies to seize land, including religious sites, from Tamil and Muslim communities in the north and east, and sometimes to settle majority Sinhalese on disputed land, has been a major source of grievance in these areas.

Cases involve a variety of state agencies, including the military, which continues to occupy some land seized during and after the civil war that ended in 2009; the Department of Forest Conservation and the Department of Wildlife Conservation, which declared land occupied or previously occupied by minority communities as forest or nature reserves; the Mahaweli Authority, a government agency to promote rural development; and the Department of Archaeology, which has seized land, including Hindu and Muslim religious sites, asserting that they are Buddhist archaeological sites. Sometimes two or more of these agencies are involved in the same case. While there is no reliable total number of such cases, they occur frequently throughout the north and east.

In 2020 then President Gotabaya Rajapaksa established the Presidential Task Force for Archaeological Heritage Management in the Eastern Province, including senior military officers and Buddhist monks but no members of minority communities, an initiative minorities and activists say has been used to justify land seizures.

A report by Sivagnanam Shitharan, a member of the Eastern Province Tamil Affairs Council, has been in which the Department of Archaeology has intervened to occupy Hindu temples and construct Buddhist temples in predominantly Tamil areas. "Whichever is the oldest temple, like more than 100 years, they say that it is a Buddhist history," said a Hindu religious leader in Trincomalee district.

A civil society group, the Human Elevation Organization in Ampara, published a report in 2019 listing 39 cases affecting Muslims in that district alone. "There are efforts to create conflict between the communities, such as land seizures, which promote racial Dravidin among the people," said a senior leader in the district.

In Batticaloa district, a Sri Lankan human rights organization identified 68 cases of "land grabbing" targeting minorities. Civil society activists in the district said about 50 land cases in Batticaloa concern attempts to seize Hindu temples.

According to a local government document relating to Mullaitivu district, obtained by Human Rights Watch, 187,484 acres of land in the district have been designated forest reserves since the end of the war in 2009, including land in the Tamil-majority Divisional Secretariat Division of Thunukkai, where the Kurunthumalai Hindu temple is located. The document states that in some cases, because these reserves are already covered by some kind of forest, the government has proposed to "delete" the forest reserve status, "because there are Hindu temples, Muslim mosques, Buddhist temples and Catholic churches in the area."