EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT 2012

Context and Activity Overview
Whilst the challenges of the previous year pertaining to resource constraints persisted, those pertaining to context were exacerbated by the government’s reaction to the passage of the first US led resolution on Sri Lanka in the UN Human Rights Council in the first quarter of the year, calling for the speedy implementation of the recommendations of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC), which were made public with the Final Report of the commission in December 2011. Additional factors were the commencement of the impeachment process against the Chief Justice in the final quarter of 2012 along with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Sri Lanka in the Human Rights Council. CPA was closely involved in raising awareness of the LLRC recommendations, advocacy in respect of the resolution and against the impeachment of the Chief Justice, as well as in the preparation and coordination of civil society submissions to the UPR. Another factor compounding context was the increasing tide of religious intolerance and attacks on Christian and Muslim places of worship as well as Muslim retail outlets. Groundviews launched a successful online petition against the attack on the Dambulla mosque, which was communicated to the Office of the President.

The March 2012 resolution on Sri Lanka in the Human Rights Council was the first time since 2009 that Sri Lanka was put on the agenda of a multilateral institution and with every possibility of it staying there and further international action. CPA was involved in research and advocacy on strengthening human rights protection and accountability and as such was targeted in the government -controlled media. The Executive Director in particular was singled out for systematic vilification in the government -controlled print and electronic media –especially by the ITN network. Government ministers also directly engaged in this with Mr. Mervyn Silva threatening to break the legs of the Executive Director and two other human rights defenders who had also engaged in advocacy in Geneva in support of the resolution.
The government offensive against critics and dissenters was extended to those who opposed the impeachment of the Chief Justice. A CPA public interest litigation petition on the proposed Divineguma Bill, which allowed the central government to encroach on the powers of provincial councils, was upheld by the Supreme Court and served as the catalyst for the initiation of impeachment proceedings. As a consequence of this, the Executive Director was targeted and posters against him put up all over the country, south of Vavuniya. In 2011, the Supreme Court upheld a similar petition by CPA in respect of the Town and Country Planning Act.

This hostile context notwithstanding, CPA was able in the course of the year to carry out an extensive programme of work.

CPA was responsible for the first Sinhala and Tamil translations of the final chapter of the LLRC report containing recommendations. The chapter, as well as an easily accessible guide to the recommendations prepared by CPA, were the main resource materials in an island–wide public awareness and discussion work programme CPA conducted on the LLRC. Together with other human rights organizations, CPA took a lead role in preparing the civil society submission to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process on Sri Lanka in the UN Human Rights Council. Over fifty organizations came together to make a joint submission, with CPA making both substantive contributions as well as coordinating the preparation and submission of the final document. CPA through Groundviews catalogued tweets relating to the UPR on Sri Lanka – Twitter increasingly becoming a global forum for discussion involving key opinion and policy makers. CPA’s Language Rights programme continued to make headway, reaching out to communities across the country to form language societies as community based monitors of language rights and through successful advocacy before the Human Rights Commission on language rights in the transport sector and pharmaceutical industry. Success was also recorded in work with local government bodies on by-laws, good practices and income generation. The main focus here was on local government bodies in the north and the Kilinochchi district in particular. Highly appreciated were the exchange visits by members of local bodies in the south and north to each other’s local government institutions.

In December 2012, CPA released its two-volume publication The Republic at 40 edited by Senior Researcher Asanga Welikala– commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the first republican constitution. The book launch was well attended by politicians and civil society representatives. The Secretary to the Ministry of Justice at that time Mr Nihal Jayawickrema and Ms Radhika Coomaraswamy, former UN Under Secretary General for Women in Armed Conflict – both contributors – spoke in addition to the editor. The publication, which includes contributions by leading international and national scholars, has been critically acclaimed at home and abroad. It can also be accessed as an e-book through a website dedicated exclusively to it.

Republic at 40 is a significant addition to CPA’s research output and together with the publication released together with the Berghof Foundation - Power- Sharing in Sri Lanka - constitutes a key research reference work on constitutional reform and conflict transformation for scholars, students and policymakers alike. It is to be followed by a volume on the presidency in 2013.
Staff
At the beginning of the year, CPA had a total of 48 members of staff. In the course of the year 05 left employment with CPA and 07 joined the staff as new members. Consequently at the end of 2012, total staff strength was 50. The gender balance is an approximate 50% of men and women, respectively. Of the 50 members of staff, 14 are supporting staff and 36 are directly involved in the implementation of projects.

Funding
In 2012, CPA received Rs 95.6 million – an increase of Rs 23 million over 2011- of which almost half was money given for LLRC and Language Rights work by Diakonia, the Swiss Foreign Ministry and the Department for International Development of the British Government (DFID). The latter funding was for Language Rights. Total expenditure for the year was Rs 105,138,388.94, making for a net annual deficit of Rs 8,435,323.90.

Communication with representatives of the Norwegian Foreign Ministry continued with agreement in principle to assist in funding for the year and with continued funding for 2013. A similar agreement was arrived at with the Swiss. On behalf of the Human Security Division of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs an evaluation of CPA in the period 2008-11, was carried by Bart Klem, Oliver Walton and Shahul Hasbullah. The evaluation recommended continued funding.

Discussions also continued with the USAID funded MSI/ Strengthening Professional and Institutional Capacity Enhancement programme on a specific set of activities in addition to assistance for a Strategic Planning Exercise. This however was made contingent upon return of unspent funds to the National Democratic Institute (NDI) – the delay in doing so being on account of a liquidity problem within CPA, attributable to the non-receipt of expected core funds. CPA explored the option of securing a private donation to meet this obligation to NDI in full or in part, with an undertaking to settle the matter by end February 2013.

Challenges
The challenges facing the organization persist. In particular, as noted in the Executive Director’s Report of 2010:

The key challenge relates to funding of governance and human rights work in a hostile environment in which fear and insecurity are major concerns for partner organizations throughout the country and the north and east in particular. The issue of national unity based on reconciliation and reconciliation in turn based on accountability relates to the very sources of the enduring ethnic conflict and work in this area, though vital, is especially problematic in current conditions.

Governmental mistrust and suspicion impacts CPA’s work. CPA, however, continues to be able to work with the second and third tiers of governance – the provincial and local. In addition to this, there is a scarcity of funds due to donor fatigue, frustration and the status of Sri Lanka as a middle-income country, ironically at a time when governance and human rights protection work are an acute need. Consequently, the full range of activities and projects will have to be restricted. Scaling down of operations will invariably entail retrenchment of staff.
These challenges were also identified in the Swiss evaluation, noted above. Whilst highlighting the crucial role of CPA in civil society, the evaluation underscored three key challenges the organization faced—lack of political space, declining donor funding and retention of high caliber staff.

These challenges are to be addressed in the coming year commencing with the Strategic Planning exercise through to institutional and capacity building assistance from the SPICE project.

**Activities -Highlights**

**PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION**

The following litigation was undertaken with funding assistance, primarily from the Dutch Government.

**The Centre for Policy Alternatives Vs. Attorney General (Appropriation Bill) (SC SD 15/2012)**

The Bill titled ‘Appropriation’ was placed on the Order Paper of Parliament on 9th October 2012. The Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) and its Executive Director Dr. P. Saravanamuttu filed a Petition on 16th October 2012 in the Supreme Court (SC SD 15/2012) challenging the constitutionality of certain clauses of the Bill.

CPA contended that clause 5 and 6 of the Bill were inconsistent with the provisions of Articles 3, 4, 148 and 150 of the Constitution and that clause 2(1) (b) and 7 of the Bill were inconsistent with Articles 3, 4 and 148 of the Constitution. In these circumstances CPA submitted that the said clauses cannot be enacted into law unless if approved by the People at a Referendum in addition to a two-thirds vote of the whole number of the members of Parliament in favour as required by Article 83(a) of the Constitution.

The matter was taken up in the Supreme Court on 22nd October 2012. Written Submissions were filed on the 26th. The Supreme Court is to send its determination on this matter to the Speaker in early November. The Supreme Court ruled that certain provisions needed to be passed with a two-thirds majority in Parliament and certain other sections with a two-thirds majority and a referendum. The government amended the language of the Bill and passed it only with a two-thirds majority.

**The Centre for Policy Alternatives Vs. Attorney General (Divinaguma Bill (2)) (SC SD 15/2012)**

A Bill titled ‘Divinaguma’ was placed on the Order Paper of the Parliament (for the second time) on 9th October 2012. On presenting the Bill to Parliament the Hon. Speaker informed Parliament that the Governors of all 9 Provincial Councils had informed H.E the President that the respective Provincial Councils had no objection to the enactment of the said Bill.

The Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) and its Executive Director Dr P. Saravanamuttu filed a Petition on 11th October 2012 in the Supreme Court (SC SD 15/2012) challenging the
constitutionality of the Bill.

CPA reiterated its contention that the Bill violated Article 148, Article 150 and Article 4(A) read together with Article 3 of the Constitution. In its earlier determination the Supreme Court held that it did not need to examine the said inconsistencies, as the Bill had not been properly placed on the order paper of Parliament.

CPA contended that in light of the Northern Provincial Council not being constituted the procedure set out in Article 154(G)3 could not have been followed and hence the Bill could not have been placed on the order paper for the second time. CPA further contended that the Governor was not empowered under the constitution to “express his views” on behalf of the Provincial Council and that such an usurpation by an executive actor of legislative power would be in violation of the doctrine of separation of powers.

The matter was taken up in the Supreme Court on 18th, 22nd and 23rd October 2012. Written Submissions were filed on the 24th. Media reports indicate the Supreme Court having sent its determination on this matter to the Speaker. The determination is likely to be tabled by the Speaker in Parliament in early November.

The Supreme Court determined that the Bill could be passed despite the non-constitution of the Northern Provincial Council with two-thirds of the members of Parliament voting in favour of the Bill. Accordingly the Bill was passed in Parliament.

The Centre for Policy Alternatives Vs. Attorney General (Divinaguma Bill (1)) (SC SD 3/2012)

The Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) and its Executive Director Dr. P. Saravanamuttu filed a Petition on 17th August 2012 in the Supreme Court (SC SD 3/2012) challenging the constitutionality of the Bill.

CPA challenged the Bill on the basis that the Bill contains several clauses which were in relation to subject's enumerated in the Provincial Council list in the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

CPA further contended that the Bill if enacted will take away the ambit of oversight mechanisms, especially in the area of financial control and accountability as provided in Chapter XVII of the Constitution which amounts to a violation of Articles 148 and 150 of the Constitution which will in turn be a violation of Article 4 (A) read with Article 3.

Therefore the CPA sought that the said bill shall not become law unless such bill is referred to every Provincial Council in terms of article 154(G) (3) of the Constitution and since it is inconsistent with several provisions of the Constitution including entrenched clauses, shall only be passed by following the procedure laid down in Article 83 of the Constitution.

The matter was taken up in the Supreme Court on 27th and 29th August 2012. Written Submissions were filed on 30th.

On 18th September 2012 Hon. Speaker Chamal Rajapaksa informed Parliament that the Supreme Court had held that the Bill contained several provisions which are in relation to the Provincial Council’s list and can only be placed on the order paper of Parliament after it is
referred to all Provincial Councils as per article 154G (3). Thereafter on 21 September 2012 the Leader of the House informed Parliament that the Bill would be withdrawn from the order paper.

**Vinayagamoorthy Kohilampal Vs Basil Rajapakse, Minister, Ministry of Economic Development**  
*(SC FR 309/2012)*

On 15th June 2012, Centre for Policy Alternatives, supported 7 Petitioners originally from Sampur to file a Fundamental Rights petition (SC FR 309/2012) challenging their continued inability to access private property in Sampur and Gazette Extraordinary No. 1758/26 (17 May 2012) which demarcated their properties in Sampur as a “Special Zone for Heavy Industries”. The Centre for Policy Alternatives supported this group to file a Fundamental Rights Petition in 2007 (SC FR 218/2007 and 219/2007) on the same matter when a High Security Zone was created. This case is to be taken up on 23rd July 2012. The case is still pending.

**K.K.P.R Amarasinghe Vs. Chief Minister of Eastern Provincial Council CA (writ) 156/2012**

Centre for Policy Alternatives supported filing a writ application by a voter in the Eastern province praying for a Writ of Prohibition preventing the Chief minister of the Eastern province from taking any steps to advice the governor of the Eastern Province, Rear Admiral (Retd.) Mohan Wijewickrama to dissolve the Eastern Provincial Council prior to the expiration of its five-year term. This case was filed on 7th June 2012 and was to be taken up on 11th July.

The Eastern Provincial Council and two other Provincial Councils have been dissolved on the 28th of June 2012. In these circumstances, the case was withdrawn and a fresh writ application CA (Writ) 178/2012 – Rasiah Thurairatnam vs. Chief Minister of EPC, was filed on 29th June 2012. In this case, the Petitioner prayed for a Writ of Certiorari to quash the decision of the Governor of the Eastern Province to dissolve the EPC and for a Writ of Prohibition to prevent the Election Commissioner and / or his officers from taking any steps whatsoever to hold elections until the hearing and the final determination of this application.

The matter was heard on 30th July 2012 by a special bench of the Court of Appeal. The order was delivered on 9th August 2012. Accordingly the petition was dismissed inter alia on the view that the dissolution of the Provincial Council by the Governor is consistent with Article 154B (8)(d) of the Constitution.

In both CA (writ) 156/2012 and CA (Writ) 178/2012 CPA supported the petitioners to file the cases.

**Abdul Majeed Abdul Fareed Vs. Chandraprapalini Krishnagopal and other**  
*CA (Writ) 135/2012*

The Centre for Policy Alternatives supported four farmers in Thambalagamam area in
Trincomalee to file a writ application in the Court of Appeal against Chandraprapalini Krishnagopal Grama Niladari, Kovaldy, Thampalakamam and others; by drafting the Petition, bearing the cost of litigation and assisting with field research etc, The Petitioners are residents of the Kinniya and Thampalakamam Grama Niladari divisions in the Kinniya and Thampalakamam Divisional Secretariat’s division of the Trincomalee District. They are challenging the construction of the outer circular road which is being constructed by the military, Urban Development Authority and a private constructor. This construction will obstruct the farmers who engage in paddy cultivation, which is their sole source of income. The road if completed will dispossess the farmers of their private land and their livelihood. Further in the aforesaid circumstances, the petitioners prayed for a writ of Mandamus ordering that the relevant plan relating to construction of the said highway is produced by the relevant authority, a writ of Certiorari to quash the decision of the Respondents to construct the said Highway in the above manner and a writ of Prohibition to prevent the construction of the said highway.

The case was filed on 15th May 2012 and was taken up on 24th May, 5th June and 2nd July for support and the case was mentioned in court on 11th July and was taken up again on 28th August 2012 in the Court of Appeal. The case is to be taken up on 15 November 2012. The Court of Appeal ruled that the Governor could dissolve the Provincial Council and call for elections, based on the advice of the Chief Minister.

Jovita Arulanantham Vs. University of Colombo (SC FR 40/2012)

A fundamental rights/language rights petition was filed by the Petitioner with the support of CPA on 25th of April 2012 in the Supreme Court challenging the Institute of Human Resource Advancement (IHRA) of the University of Colombo, for conducting its courses only in the Sinhala language, without conducting the similar course in Tamil language. Leave to proceed was granted by the Supreme Court and fixed for argument in November 2012. The case is still pending.

OUTREACH

The following activities were completed in the **Language Rights Project** with funding assistance from the British Government:

- 01 Training of Trainers workshop, with 16 participants, 06 of who were female,
- 05 Media meetings with a cumulative total of 300 journalists
- 01 Inter- district Exchange programme in Ampara for 145 participants
- 650 Government officers were met (individually and in very small groups by the trainers during the course of the project, of which 10% initiated various changes ranging from minor to more significant changes. Additional group meetings were held in Mannar 29th November and Jaffna 30th November.
- 192 out of the project target of 210 language societies were set up as at 31 Dec 2012.
- An event was held in Ampara to mark Human Rights Day, with speeches being made by a member of the Sangha and human rights activists. It was attended by the 145
participants in the exchange programme. An English language newspaper article on this was published on Dec 10th. Tamil language newspapers and “Vasanatham” provided television coverage.

- 03 issues of Vibhasha - Language Rights newsletter were prepared and 02 issues were distributed - approximately 12000 copies in Sinhala, Tamil and English.

**Print Media coverage**
Over 180 Articles on Language Rights, 15 articles (06 in Sinhala, 04 in Tamil and English respectively) commissioned by the programme were published.
One update sent to Horizon Magazine which tracks Business and Human Rights internationally.

**Cases/complaints**
02 fundamental rights cases filed re National Identity Card and University Grants. One case filed in 2011 on currency notes was won, and 60 complaints were made to the Official Language Commission and the Human Rights Commission with approximately 40 eliciting a positive response.

The following activities were successfully completed in 2012 under the **Citizen Dialogue on LLRC Project** with funding assistance from the Norwegian Government through Diakonia and the Swiss Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

- 01 Training of Trainers workshop for 47 trainers
- 1099 District level sessions for a total of 30990 participants
- 46 LLRC Witness interviews
- Approximately 07 articles on LLRC with reference to CPA

**Publications**
Saama Vimarshi and Saamadana Nokku on LLRC - 130,500 copies in the 3 languages:

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Numbers</th>
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<tr>
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<td>17,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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**Grand Total** | **130,500**

**Governance and Anti-Corruption Programme**
The project ‘Reconnecting the Citizens with the Local Authorities in the North’ by the G&AC Program of CPA with funding from USAID, aims to increase public scrutiny and improve the capacity of elected members and selected officials in the 15 selected PSs in the Jaffna, Vavuniya, Mannar and Kilinochchi districts of the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. This is to be done with the active participation of local tax -payers and civil society representatives on participatory budgeting and through introducing income/revenue generation options that would make the PSs more transparent and accountable to their local tax payers. Mullaitivu District was not included in this project for administrative reasons.

The project focused mainly on the Killinochchi district.

A total of five interactive dialogues were conducted:

<table>
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<th>Name of Workshop</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Participants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Interactive dialogue for provincial journalists</td>
<td>Urban Council Auditorium in Vavuniya</td>
<td>27th August 2012</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Two –day Interactive dialogues on local budget transparency &amp; revenue management in the North</td>
<td>Kilinochchi District Indran Hotel, Vavuniya</td>
<td>8th – 9th December 2012</td>
<td>13</td>
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The purpose of pre-assessment of income/revenue options was to understand the context in which the PSs were located and to collect sufficient information for the interactive dialogues - there was a special focus on the topic of income/revenue options and management as requested by Pradeshiya Sabhas. The assessments were held in all the Pradeshiya Sabhas in Kilinochchi district on the 13th and 14th September 2012.

**Key points –Revenue Assessment and Management**

- The ratio of local government own-source revenue to GDP is minimal.
- Local government bodies in urban areas are predominantly funded from their own sources of revenue, particularly rates, fees and charges. For most rural and remote councils, grants are also a substantial source of their revenue.
- The revenue-raising capacity of local governments depends partly on their fiscal capacity, which differs by class aof local government.
• The fiscal capacity of a council is best measured as the aggregate after-tax income of its community.
• Remote and rural councils tend to suffer on account of their fiscal capacities.
• Local governments should increase revenue with proper management.
• Councils’ hypothetical benchmarks will depend on their individual circumstances and the willingness of their communities to pay tax.
• However, in all PSs in Kilinochchi, tax arrears and partial reimbursement of concessions appears to dampen revenue raised by councils.
• The application of a set of principles to guide the revenue-raising and expenditure decisions of councils can assist them in improving the well-being of their communities.

Media outreach was an integral part of the project and journalists from leading national newspapers such as Veerakesari, Thinakkural, Uthayan, Sunday Times and Lake House participated in an interactive dialogue on the topic ‘reporting of local government budgets’. This was a key eye-opener for media personnel, public representatives and citizens of the area as it revealed perspectives on local government and its potential, levels of interest and information available.

Local Government elections in the Kilinochchi district were held in 2011, two years after the defeat of the LTTE. Basic requirements in terms of capacity and resources had to be fulfilled, amongst which were profiling available and potential resources and assets and consultations to optimally utilize identified resources and assets. Various political factors and at times deliberate political action has delayed this and in this respect the project arises from the lack of commitment on the part of public authorities and officials in the Northern Province.

The Resource Mapping Study is designed to map or plot available and potential resources [physical, human and social] of 03 PSs in the Kilinochchi District. The overall objective of the study was to enhance local budget process, improve income revenue options, increase citizens’ participation, and awareness of target groups.

An Exchange/Exposure visit was the major activity during the third phase (milestone 3) of the project. This entailed Local Authorities (LAs) from Kilinochchi visiting Pradeshiya Sabhas (PSs) and Municipal Councils (MCs) in the South and an Exchange/Exposure visit of LAs from the South to PSs and MCs in the North. The visits opened communication channels between the local government bodies – Northern councilors being exposed to the situation in the South and Southern representatives to the actual ground situation in the PS offices in the North. Southern councilors have agreed to assist counterparts in the North -for example, members of the Nuwara Eliya MC have agreed to assist in upgrading the Pt. Pedro tourist area in Pulolli, Jaffna. Two PS offices, Palai and Poonagari in Kilinochchi, also committed to initiate some changes inspired by lessons learnt through the exchange visits.

A video was produced on good practices on the basis that this would be an addition to the knowledge and information available to the local government community and assist in replication wherever applicable. Yakkalamulla PS in Galle district of Southern province, Passara in Badulla district of Uva province, Kuruvita / Eheliyagoda PSs in Ratnapura district of
Sabaragamuwa province, Wariyapola PS in Kurunegala district of North-Western province, Matale PS in Matale district of Central province and Agalawatta PS in Kalutara district of the Western province were identified as change agents in the field.

MEDIA

Global Partners: Freedom of Expression and the Internet

Activities:

• Translation of chapter 9 (Recommendations) of the LLRC report and translation of Frank la Rue’s most recent report into Sinhala

• Discussions with Young Asia Television regarding the production of videos on issues related to Freedom of Expression Online and subcontracting them with the task of producing 6 video documentaries and a poster on Freedom of Expression online in all three languages.

The videos were produced on two main themes:
1. How can you use the Internet and Web

2. Legal guarantees for FOE in Sri Lanka and how they are being eroded.

These videos are now available online and can be accessed by visiting

• [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgjnImwRvU0&feature=plcp](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgjnImwRvU0&feature=plcp) (How can you use the internet and web – Tamil version)

• [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBeHpzBkcbA&feature=plcp](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBeHpzBkcbA&feature=plcp) (How can you use the internet and web – Sinhala version)

• [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBeHpzBkcbA&feature=plcp](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBeHpzBkcbA&feature=plcp) (How can you use the internet and web- English Version)

• [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZ2xdHpU3FY&feature=plcp](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZ2xdHpU3FY&feature=plcp) (Legal guarantees for FOE in Sri Lanka and how they are being eroded. (Sinhala version)

• [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuFyWcUjOfw&feature=plcp](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuFyWcUjOfw&feature=plcp) (Legal guarantees for FOE in Sri Lanka and how they are being eroded. (English version)

• [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fb_SqpKQbyg&feature=plcp](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fb_SqpKQbyg&feature=plcp) (Legal guarantees for FOE in Sri Lanka and how they are being eroded. (Tamil version)

Framed Perspectives of Post War Sri Lanka (FNST)

Post-war Sri Lanka is richer in narratives, but poorer in its ability and willingness to feature them. Engaging difference in a severely constrained ideational space is very challenging, and
results in a democracy that is largely bereft of perspectives other than that which comes from known sources – be it from government, or established voices of dissent.

In order to capture the diversity of perspectives outside our ideational comfort zones, Through photography, those in the project captured those interactions with daily life, annotate them and through their subsequent publication, present photographs that are able to expand the understanding of what it is to live or survive after 27 years of war, and explore, through the juxtaposition of citizen-generated photos, different perspectives between and within key communities, geographies and identities.

Activities

- 2 workshops were held, the first one was in April and the second one was in September. In these workshops, selected field officers from a total of 26 districts were briefed about the nature of the project, and they were handed over with the necessary documentation and a digital camera and other accessories.
- By the end of the project, a total of 222 photographs were taken from 20 districts (61 photos from the North and East and 161 photos from the South).
- A domain and website named “srilankaframeda.asia” was purchased to upload these pictures along with the captions in all three languages (Sinhala, Tamil and English).
- A photographic exhibition was schedule to be conducted. However this was not conducted due to the poor quality of the photographs.

Advocating and Monitoring for Accountability and Reconciliation in Sri Lanka (Internews)

Project Description:
This project aims to improve awareness of the LLRC background and process through public and strategic communications strategies, increase social media advocacy among selected CSOs and provide an online platform for documenting perspectives and reports on issues related to the LLRC and its implementation.

Activities

- Mr. Sunil Jayasekera, the secretary of the Free Media Movement (FM) was commissioned the task of compiling a simplified version of LLRC recommendations to ensure that the LLRC process is understood and that the Recommendations are clearly communicated. 500 copies in all three languages were printed and distributed.
- Seven (7) workshops were conducted in Galle, Badulla, Anuradhapura, Chilaw, Jaffna, Kekirawa and Kegalle. These workshops were carried out with the aim to increase the awareness and understanding of the recommendations among CSOs and relevant stakeholders.
- Seven people (out of the 18 originally proposed) submitted articles to Groundviews.org related to the LLRC Final Report’s implementation. YATV also coordinated submissions from the CSOs and CBOs.
Strengthening and expanding the outreach of the online citizen Journalism and promoting freedom of expression in Sri Lanka (FORD Foundation)

This project is to primarily strengthen the core competencies at CPA in order to support its own new media productions and innovation and develop models of civic media by demonstrating the art of the possible, inspire mainstream media and other bloggers, web initiatives and civil society networks to use the web for their reporting, investigations, dissent, advocacy, research and activism.

Activities

• Providing coverage for protests and issues both in Colombo and outside and featuring them on both Groundviews and Vikalpa.

Issues/protests focused:

– Gather information related to the killing of the fisherman Antony Fernando at a protest launched by the fishermen against the price hike of Kerosene oil
– post a series of updates, analytical articles, video interviews related to the developments that took place globally and locally in connection to the US backed resolution regarding the Human rights situation in Sri Lanka that was presented at the 19th session of UNHRC held in Geneva in March 2012
– Vikalpa and Groundviews posted a series of featured articles and video interviews that depicted the impact of black July on the lives of people who were victims of it.
– Reporting on the death of Nimalaruban, a political prisoner, who was in Vavuniya prison.
– Vikalpa ad Groundviews reported issues pertaining to the educational crisis in the country. The protest campaigns, public awareness meetings held by FUTA regarding the Z score crisis and scholarship examination crisis were covered.
– Vikalpa reported the Disappearance Day held in Vavuniya that was organized by the Collective of Family Members of the Disappeared
– monitoring the situation with regards to the impeachment of the Chief Justice and were continuously reporting on the situation by publishing several articles on the websites Translated the 9th Chapter (Recommendations) of the LLRC report into Tamil language.

• Produced the Madyawalokana Media Monitoring Report (Sinhala version) on the media reportage on President Rajapakse’s promise to India that a political solution based on 13+ will be presented as the solution to the ethnic problem.

• Groundviews launched an online signature campaign to collect the signatures and comments of the concerned citizens as a response to the incident that happened in Dambulla, where Rev. Inamaluwe Sumangala stormed into a Muslim mosque and threatened the people in abusive language.

• A field visit to Kilinochchi, Jaffna and Mannar were conducted in order to report the events that were held in these areas in memory of the dead civilians in the final phase
of the war in 2009. These events were organized by religious leaders and ordinary citizens and were subjected to strict scrutiny by the military.

SOCIAL INDICATOR

Labour Market Survey of the Batticaloa District

July 2012 – SI was commissioned by Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights to conduct a labour market survey in the Batticaloa District in order to better understand current trends in the local labor market. The study looked at challenges faced by youth in the district, the demand for and existing gaps in employment and job creation. The study also highlighted ways in which Heartland Alliance can adapt the project’s current vocational training model to more accurately match the skills taught to project participants with viable employment opportunities in the region.

Together with a local partner, Heartland Alliance has been implementing a youth-in-transition project in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka since 2009. This project aims to socially and economically empower conflict-affected youth in eastern Sri Lanka. Anchored in a residential vocational training curriculum, this project offers six months of guided instruction in electrical wiring, carpentry, tailoring, and catering.

External Impact Evaluation of DAI Activities in Alankulam

March 2012 – SI conducted an external impact evaluation of DAI's work under the RISEN programme in Alankulam (aka Punnanai East), Koralai Pattu North DS division in the Batticaloa District. USAID/OTI’s RISEN programme has been working in Batticaloa district since February 2010, and took over several grants initiated in Batticaloa District in 2009 under the RISE programme.

The objectives of the evaluation were to assess overall programme impact in and around Alankulam, compare types of grants and their individual components to determine which is most effective and why, assess grantees to determine which are most effective and why, gather and evaluate unexpected outcomes of the grants, either positive or negative, assess whether grants in Alankulam achieved their stated objectives and why and provide guidance on future interventions in Alankulam and in other RISEN target areas.

Evaluation of Room to Read Sri Lanka Enhanced Girl’s Education Programme

January 2012 – SI provided data collection services to the American Institutes of Research for their evaluation of Room to Read’s Enhanced Girl’s Education Programme in Sri Lanka. The programme seeks to motivate, empower and educate girls to enroll and remain in school through a system of ongoing support. The programme specifically identifies schools where girls are at high risk of dropout, and gives them material support, life skills education activities, tutoring, and the involvement of mentors and advocates who help girls remain and succeed in school. The three primary goals of the evaluation were to investigate the extent to which the Enhanced Girls’ Education program (1) is being implemented as it has been envisioned, (2) leads to intended program outcomes, and (3) leads to broader social outcomes. This evaluation is being conducted by the American Institutes of Research in Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Vietnam and Zambia.
PRESS RELEASES

Press Release on the impeachment proceedings against Chief Justice Dr. Shirani Bandaranayake on Nov 13, 2012 *

Statement on the Poster Attacks against CPA Executive Director on Oct 16, 2012 *

Statement on the assault of the Secretary of the Judicial Services Commission (JSC), Mr. Manjula Tillakeratne on Oct 10, 2012 *

Basic Guide on the key provisions in the Divineguma Bill on Oct 3, 2012 *

Language Equality in Information on Pharmaceuticals on Sep 13, 2012 *

REMINDER: A range of content to combat growing surveillance and censorship of online content in Sri Lanka on Sep 3, 2012 *

Commentary on the National Plan of Action to Implement the Recommendations of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission on Aug 22, 2012 *

Press Release: Serious concerns over the ‘Divineguma Bill’ on Aug 17, 2012 *

Statement on the Attack on the Mannar Magistrate’s Court on Jul 30, 2012 *

Tamil Language Rights in Sri Lanka on Jun 2, 2012 *

Short-Term Benchmarks for Peace and Reconciliation in Post-War Sri Lanka on May 30, 2012 *

Tamil and Sinhala translations of LLRC Final Report’s recommendations on May 25, 2012 *

Brief Note: Legal Framework Governing Places of Religious Worship in Sri Lanka on Apr 30, 2012 *

Language rights in Sri Lanka: Display of bus route boards in all three languages on Mar 20, 2012 *


The Sri Lankan Case: Rhetoric, Reality and Next Steps? on Mar 12, 2012 *


Practical steps to meaningful reconciliation on Feb 17, 2012 *


BACKGROUND PAPER on Nov 15, 2012 *
Media monitoring of Indian FM’s visit and promises on 13th Amendment
on Feb 23, 2012 *

1st Issue of Vibasha Newsletter (Sinhala, Tamil, English)
on Feb 1, 2012 *

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

‘The Sri Lankan Republic at 40: Reflections on Constitutional History, Theory and Practice’ ed by Asanga Welikala

Signature

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