



**Franciscans International**  
A voice at the United Nations

**57th Session of the UN Human Rights Council  
Item 2: Interactive Dialogue on OHCHR report on Sri Lanka  
9 September 2024**

*Delivered by Fr. Everest Dias Anthonyaiah*

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Mr. President,

We welcome the report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Sri Lanka. We commend the recommendation on the need for fundamental changes to advance accountability, reconciliation and to prevent future violations.

The Sri Lankan Government has failed to make significant progress to uphold its human rights obligations. We are particularly concerned about the failure of domestic accountability mechanisms to deliver for victims of enforced disappearances and other gross human rights violations in the past and present, and the accountability gap that this has created.<sup>1</sup>

We are also concerned about the lack of progress with regard to criminal investigations into the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks and the absence of a single conviction. This sense of impunity is compounded by the continued presence of alleged perpetrators of human rights violations in high-level positions in Government, the security sector, diplomatic postings or State institutions.

In conclusion, we urge the Council to renew the mandate of OHCHR and its Sri Lanka Accountability Project, as established by resolution 46/1 and extended by resolution 51/1, for a period of at least two years, to ensure that it has the resources, capacity and stability to fulfill its crucial mandate.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Accountability for Enforced Disappearances in Sri Lanka, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, May 17 2024, available at: [report-accountability-enforced-disappearances-sri-lanka-may2024-en.pdf \(ohchr.org\)](https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/05/17-05-2024-report-accountability-enforced-disappearances-sri-lanka)