



### Press Release: PEARL's latest report: State-sponsored Sinhalization of the North-East

**Washington D.C.; March 14, 2022** — PEARL released a full-length report entitled *State-sponsored Sinhalization of the North-East* where we outline the Government of Sri Lanka's (GoSL) efforts to Sinhalize the Tamil-speaking regions of the North-East. The report details how the GoSL's historic and ongoing Sinhalization project is executed through the use of Sinhala settlements, irrigation schemes, land appropriation, Buddhisization, and repression of Tamil memorialization. The report's findings display how this Sinhalization is designed to weaken the Tamil homeland in the North-East of Sri Lanka, and permanently diminish Tamil democratic representation from the region.

Sinhalization predates the armed conflict and has been occurring since the time of independence. Coupled with the systematic oppression of the Tamil people and minority groups, such as the Muslim community, and the complete lack of accountability for past and ongoing crimes, the report shows that the root causes of conflict remain unaddressed well after the end of the armed conflict in 2009. Over 12 years since the end of the war in Sri Lanka, human rights abuses in the country continue while the Tamils continue to demand justice, accountability, and self-determination.

PEARL's Executive Director, Archana Ravichandradeva: "This report shows that in Sri Lanka, land grabs, militarization, Buddhisization, and settlements are not distinct processes but rather tied to an intentional historical and contemporary project by the Sri Lankan state to weaken the legitimate claims to Tamil nationhood, to effect demographic and population changes, and repress Tamil and minority rights and freedoms. With land grabs, ongoing militarization, and protests on issues of land and ownership increasing in the North-East, we hope this report serves as an important resource for government officials, civil society actors, and public policy makers to uphold Tamil rights to land, remembrance, and justice."

Visit our [website](#) to read the full report.