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- Because of its location in the path of major sea routes, Sri Lanka is a strategic naval link between West Asia and South East Asia.
 - It has been a center of Buddhist religion and culture from ancient times.
 - The Sinhalese community forms the majority of the population; Tamils, who are concentrated in the north and east of the island, form the largest ethnic minority.

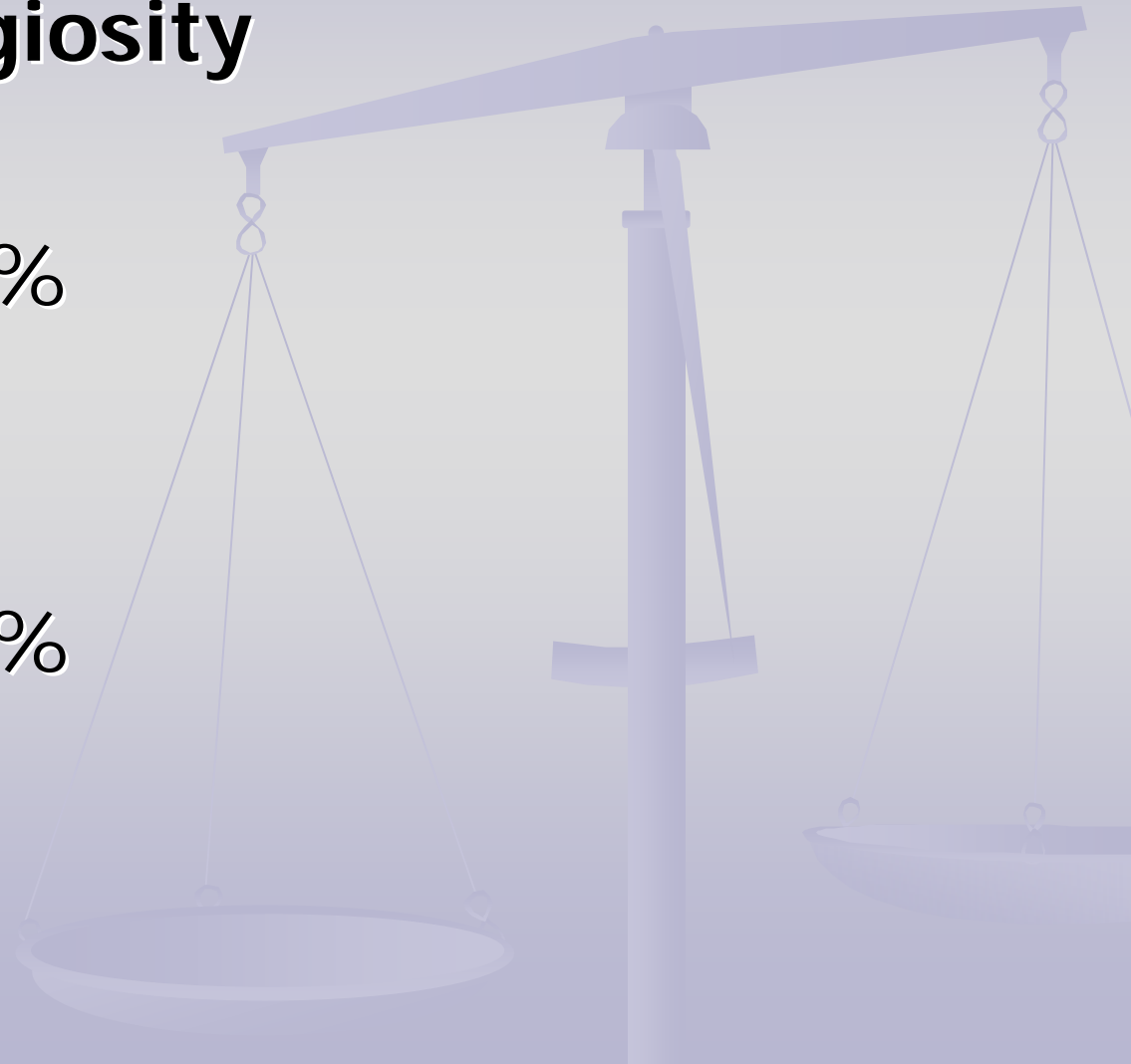
Ethnic composition

- 73.8% Sinhalese, [3]
- ≈13.9% Tamil, [3]
- ≈7.2% Moors, [3]
- ≈4.6% Indian Tamil, [3]
- ≈0.5% Others.



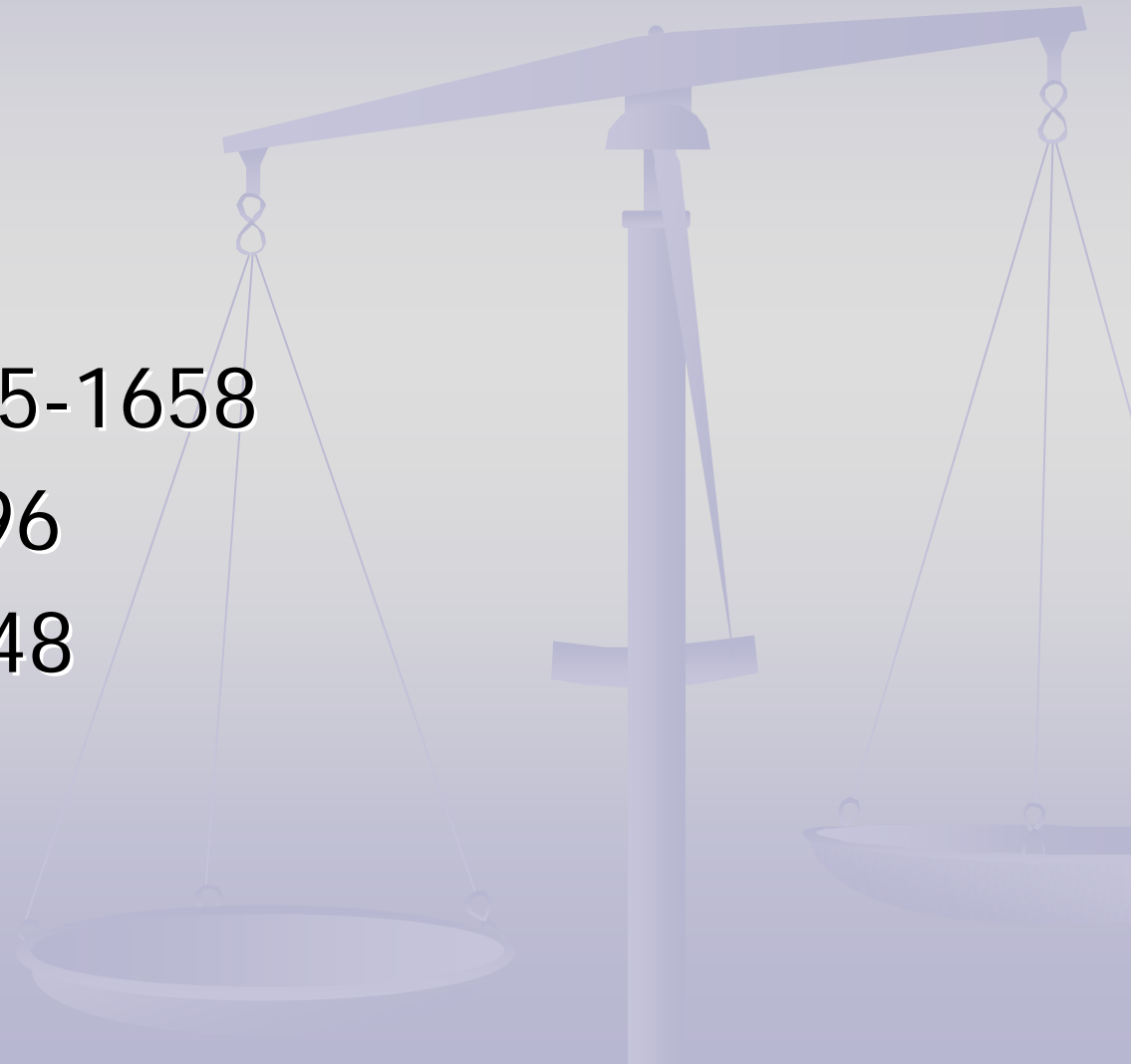
■ Sri Lanka religiosity

- Religion
- Buddhism 69.1%
- Islam 7.6%
- Hinduism 7.1%
- Christianity 6.2%
- Other 10%



- After over two thousand years of rule by local kingdoms, parts of Sri Lanka were colonized by Portugal and the (Dutch) Netherlands beginning in the 16th century, before control of the entire country was ceded to the British Empire in 1815.

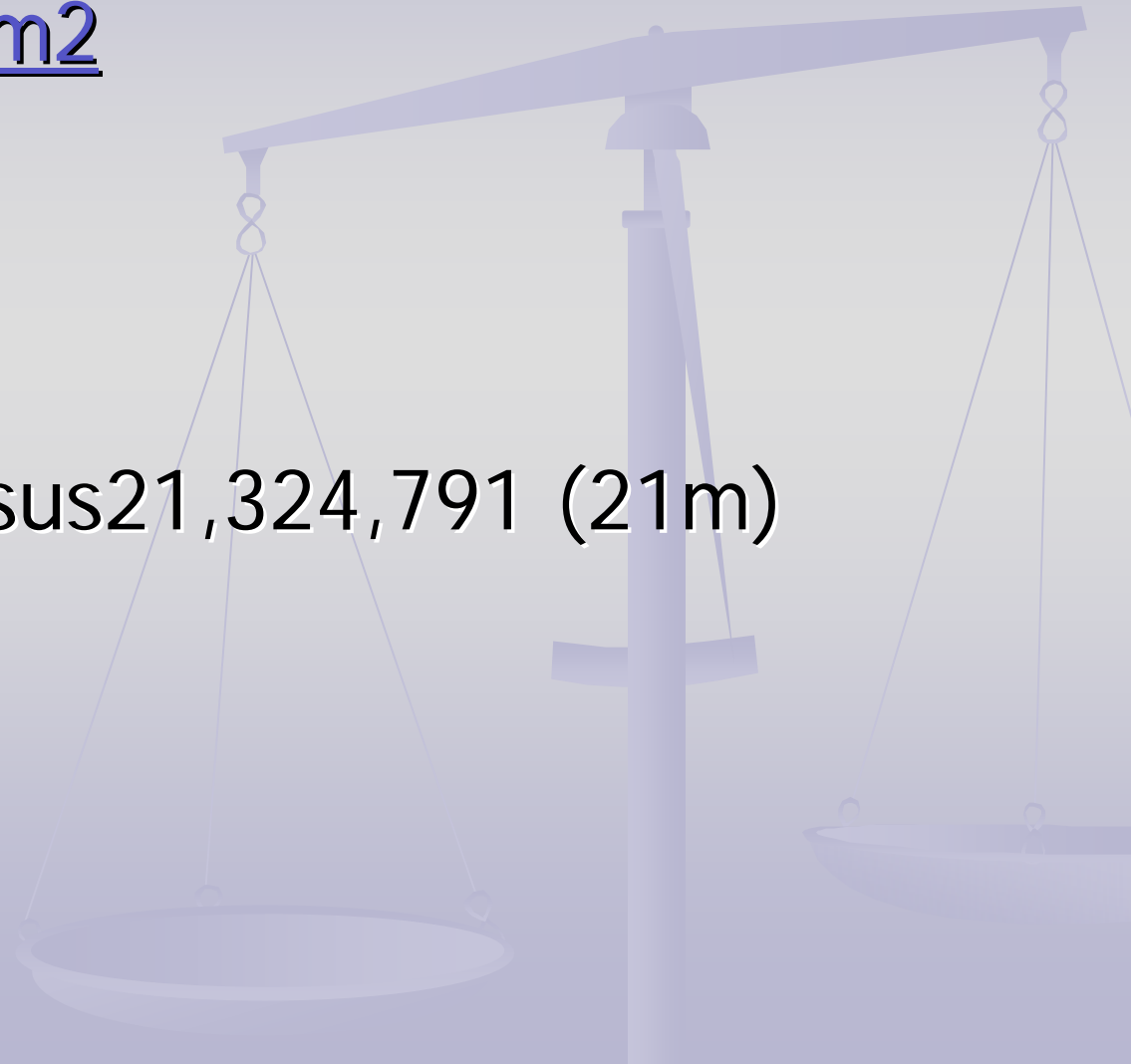
- Colonial era
- Portuguese 1505-1658
- Dutch-1658-1796
- British-1796-1948

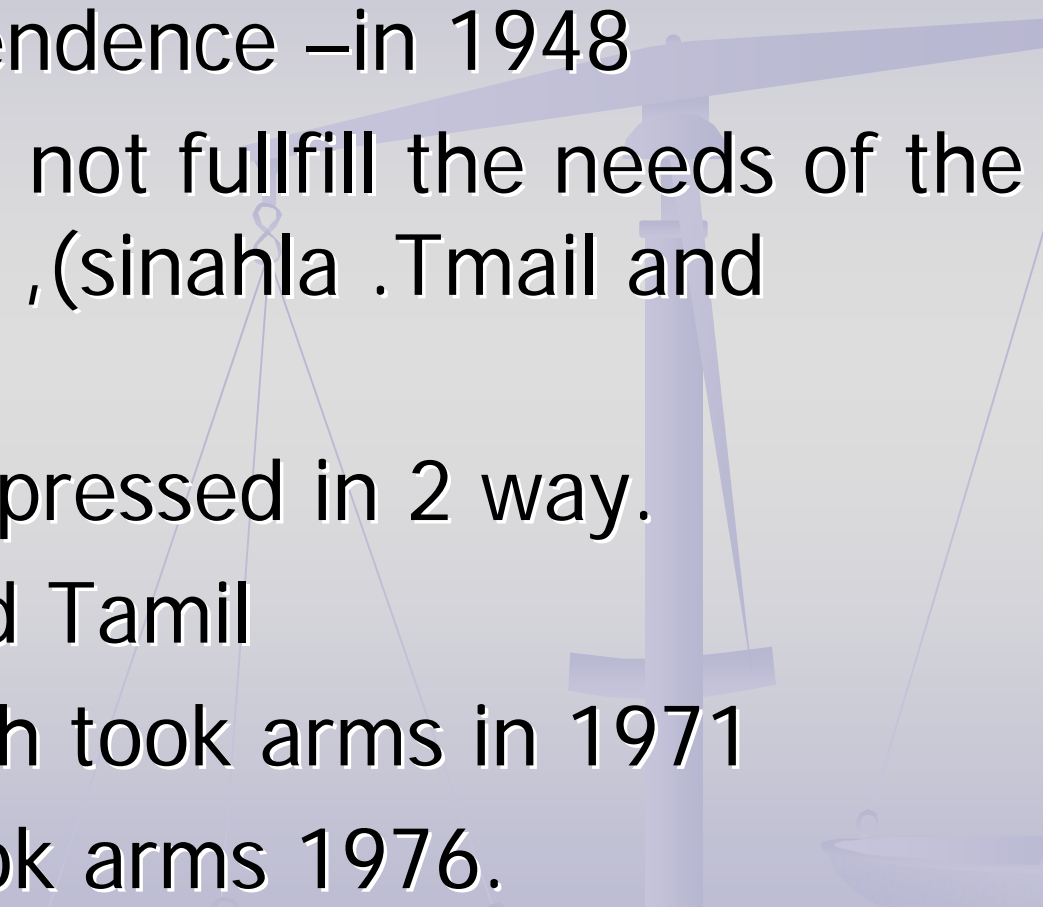


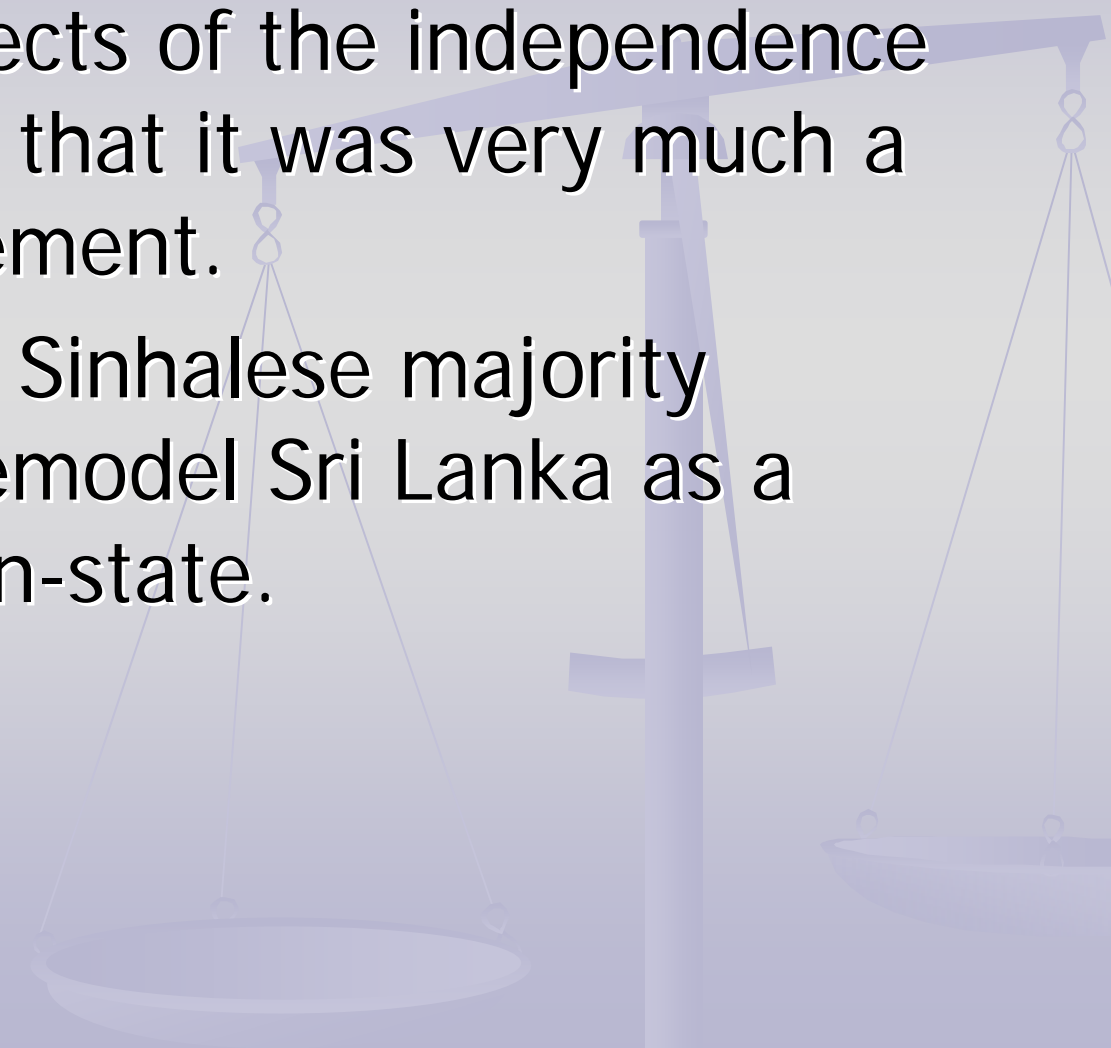
- - Total 65,610 km²
25,332 sq mi -

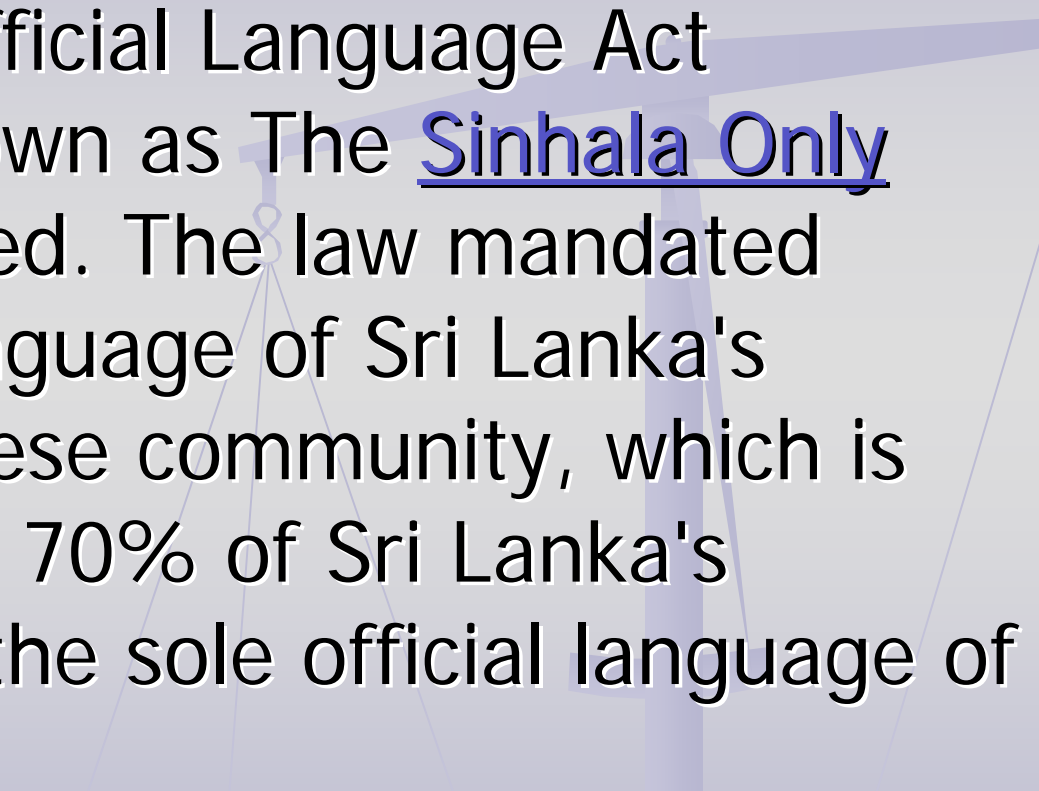
- Population -

- - July 2008 census 21,324,791 (21m)

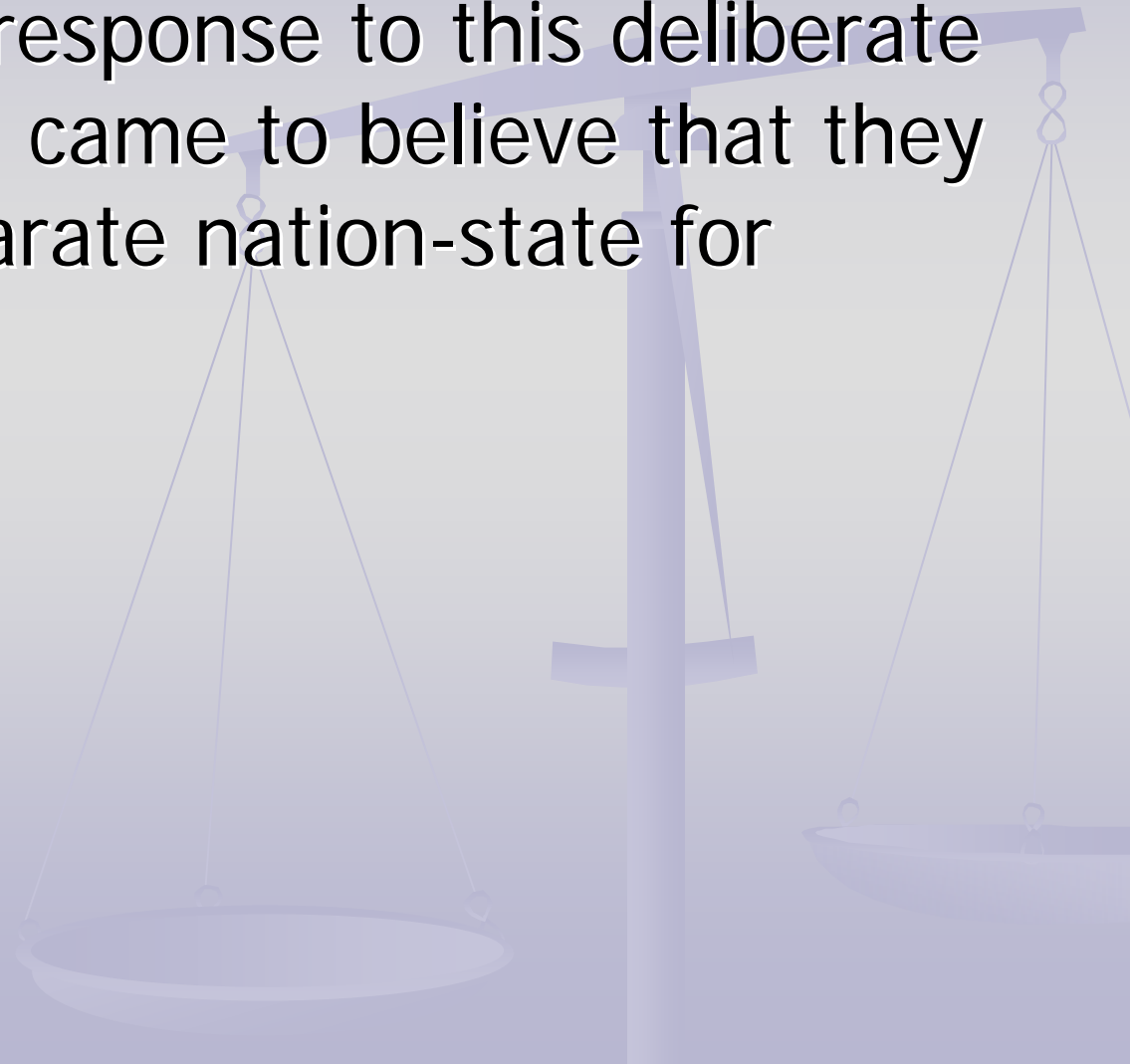


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- Nominal independence –in 1948
 - The state could not fulfill the needs of the ordinary masses, (Sinhala, Tamil and others)
 - Tamils were oppressed in 2 ways.
 - Being poor, and Tamil
 - Desperate youth took arms in 1971
 - Tamil youth took arms 1976.

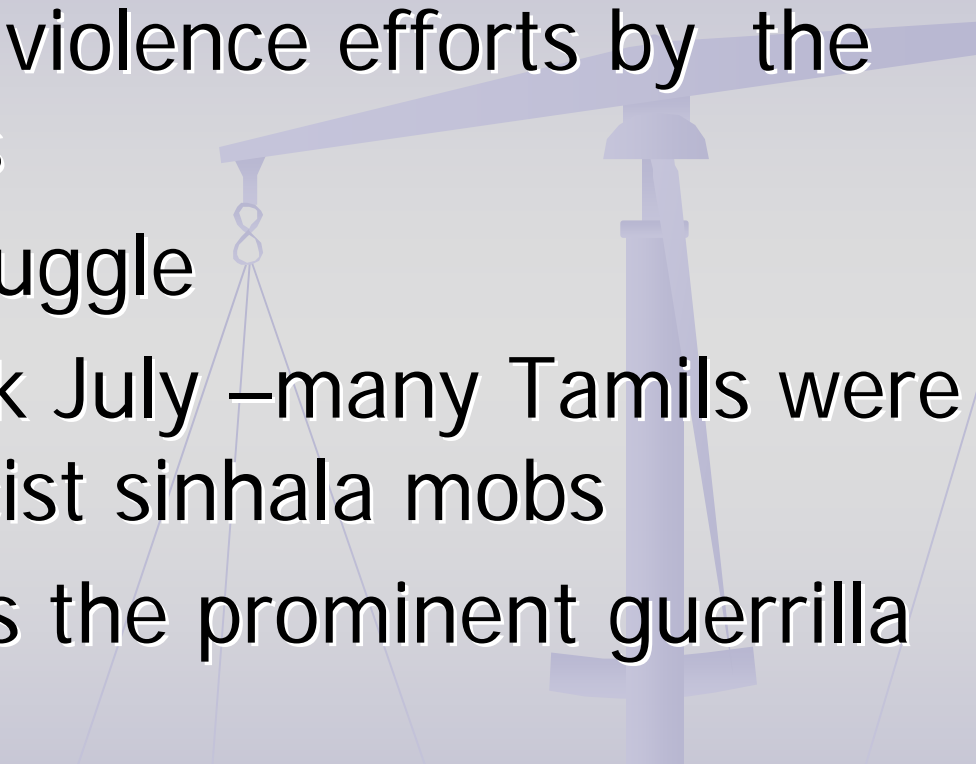
- 
- One of the aspects of the independence movement was that it was very much a Sinhalese movement.
 - As a result, the Sinhalese majority attempted to remodel Sri Lanka as a Sinhalese nation-state.

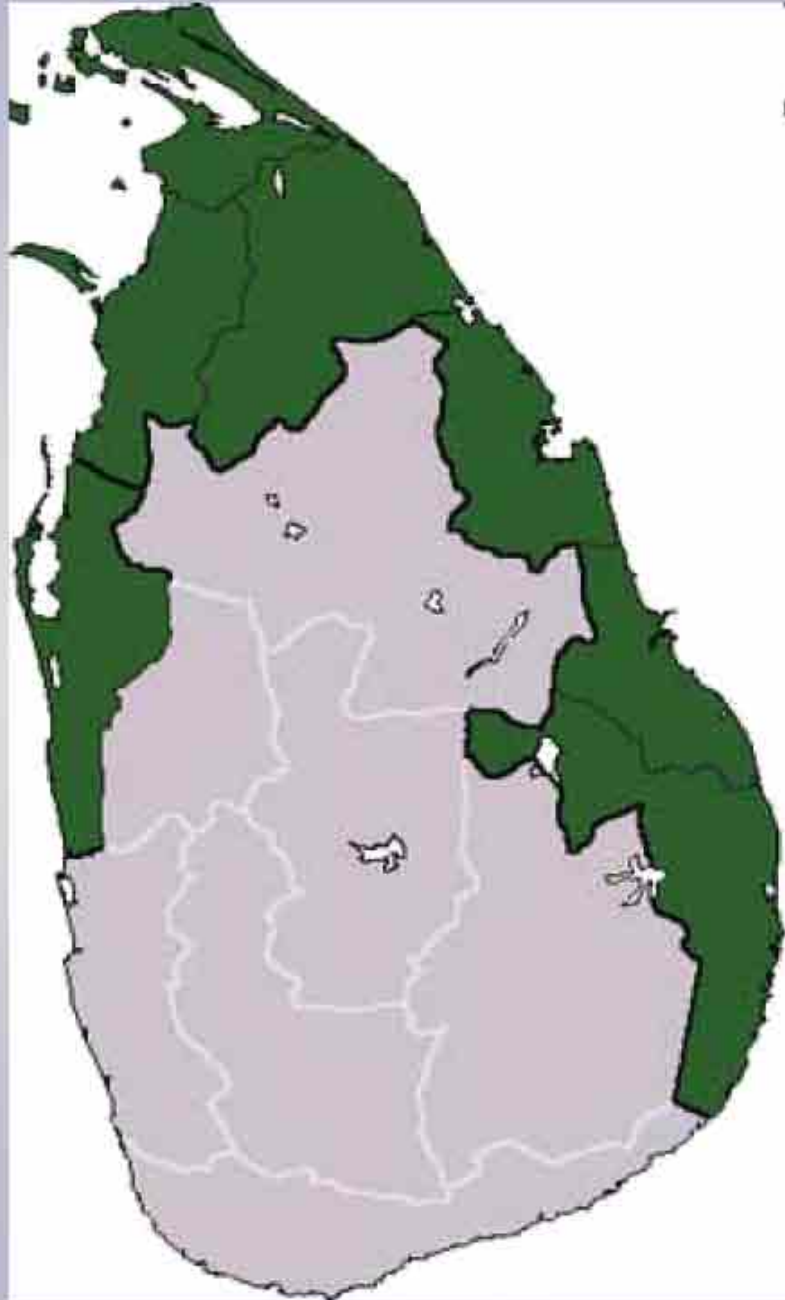
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- In 1956, the Official Language Act (commonly known as The Sinhala Only Act) was enacted. The law mandated Sinhala, the language of Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese community, which is spoken by over 70% of Sri Lanka's population, as the sole official language of Sri Lanka.

- Many Tamil, in response to this deliberate marginalization, came to believe that they deserved a separate nation-state for themselves.



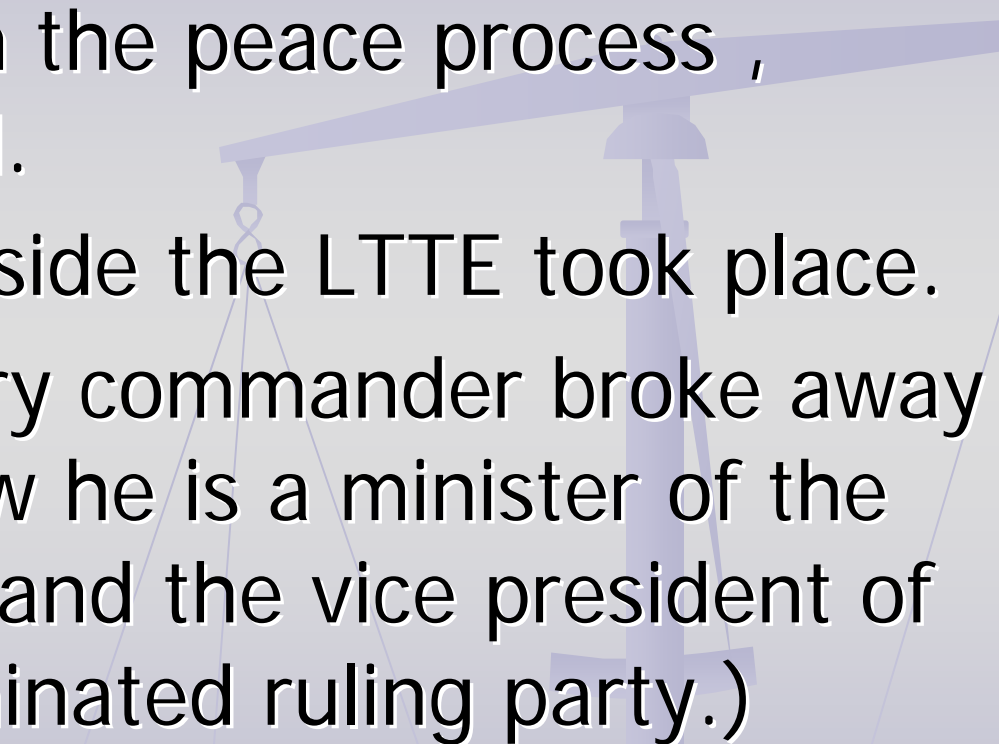
Tamil Liberation

- 1948-1976-non violence efforts by the Tamil politicians
 - 1976-Armed struggle
 - 1983 riots –Black July –many Tamils were killed by the racist sinhala mobs
 - LTTE became as the prominent guerrilla group.
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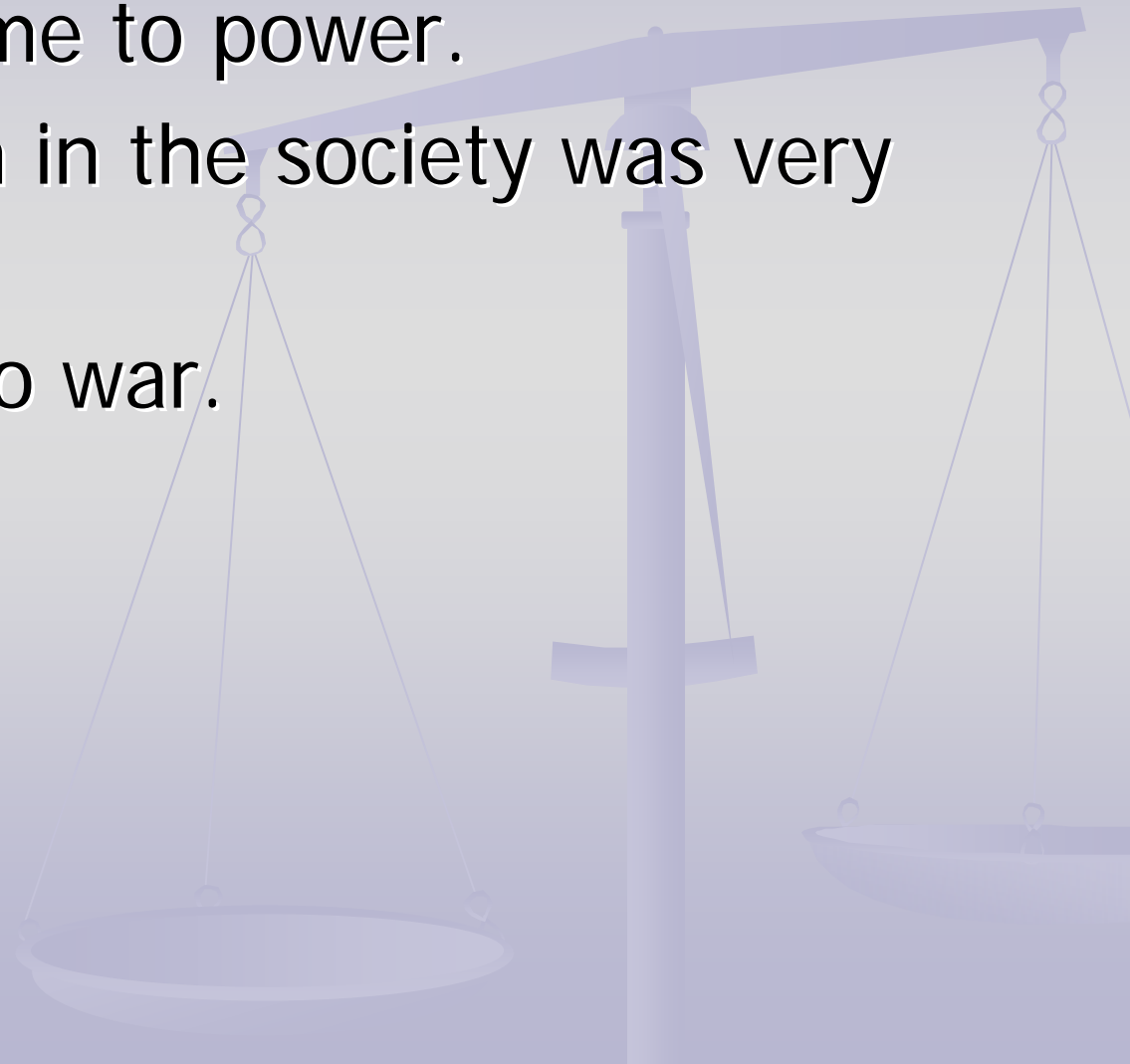


Peace process.

- 1989-India brokered peace accord.
 - 1994-second peace accord
 - 2005-third peace accord
 - some developments took place
 - road blocks were removed through out the country.
 - LTTE's political wing started working in public.
- but it took long with out any detail solution

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- LTTE quiet from the peace process , fighting erupted.
 - The first split inside the LTTE took place.
 - The Main military commander broke away from LTTE. (now he is a minister of the present regime and the vice president of the sinhala dominated ruling party.)

- New regime came to power.
- The polarization in the society was very visible.
- Anti war and pro war.

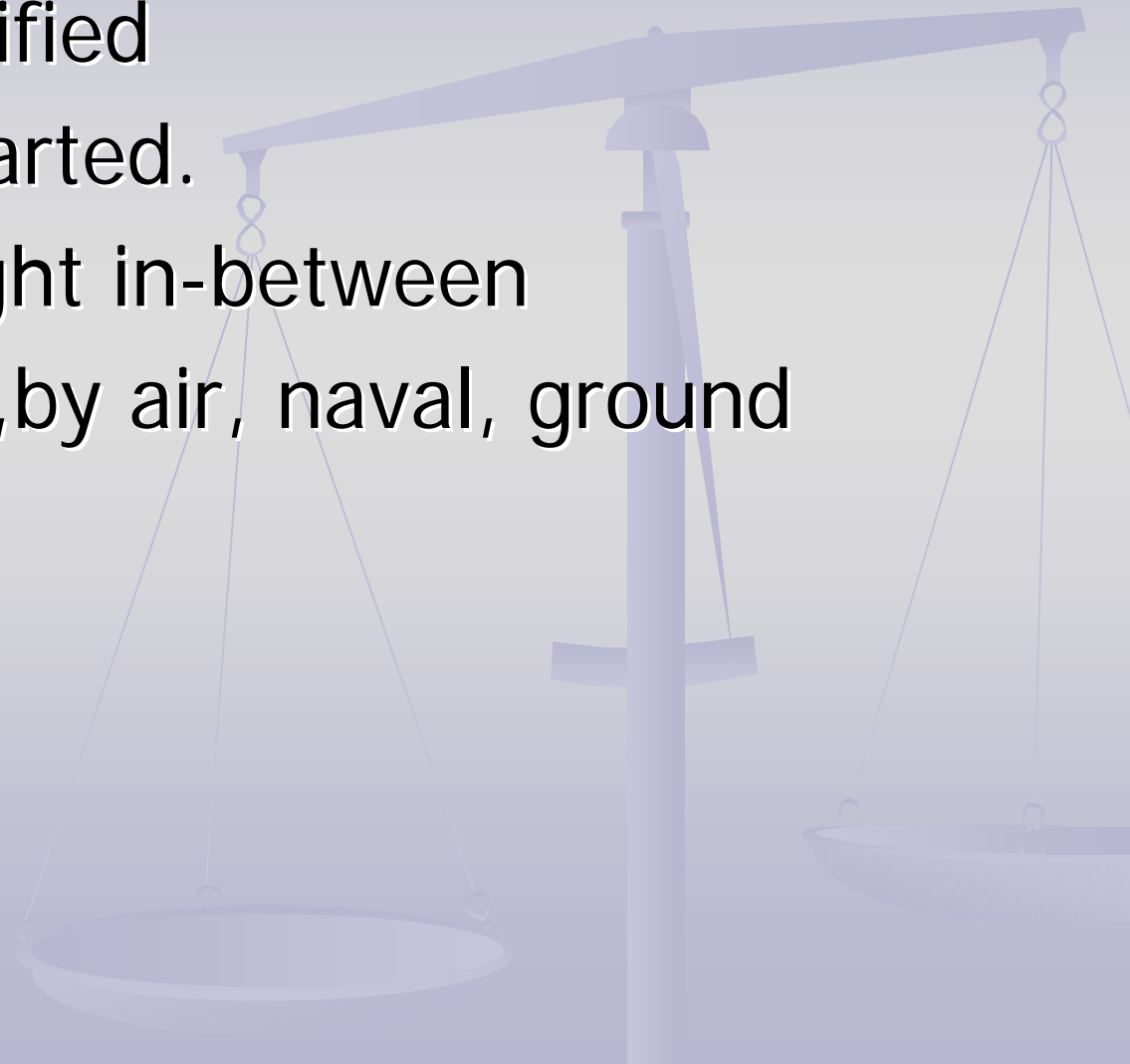


Killings, abductions, increased mainly Tamils.

- 4 Tamil politicians, parliamentarians were killed
 - 11 journalist were killed , more than 50 left the country.
 - More than 70 development workers were killed.
 - 3 Tamil priest were killed
 - Abductions became as a normal incident in the country -4 to 5 incident per day
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2009

- The war, intensified
- Mass exodus started.
- People get caught in-between
- GOSL attacked ,by air, naval, ground



Mass exodus











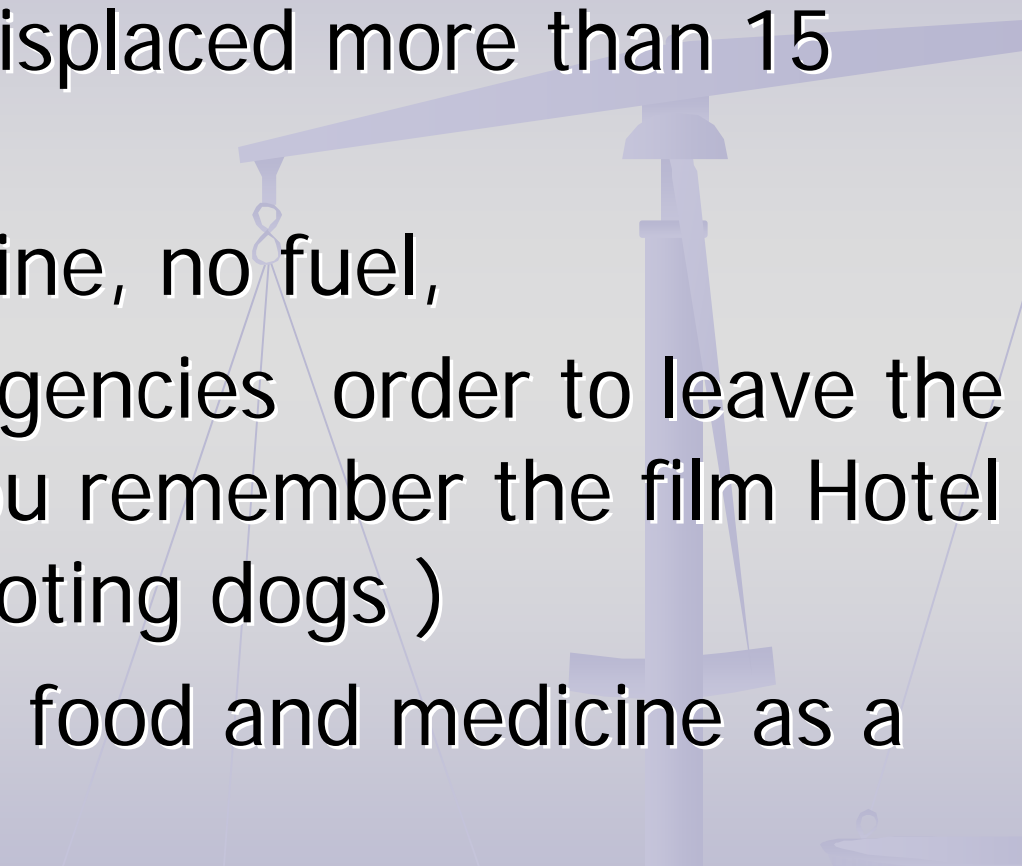










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- These people displaced more than 15 times.
 - No food, medicine, no fuel,
 - UN and other agencies order to leave the people.(can you remember the film Hotel Rwanda or Shooting dogs)
 - The GOSL used food and medicine as a weapon.

No medicine ,many amputations

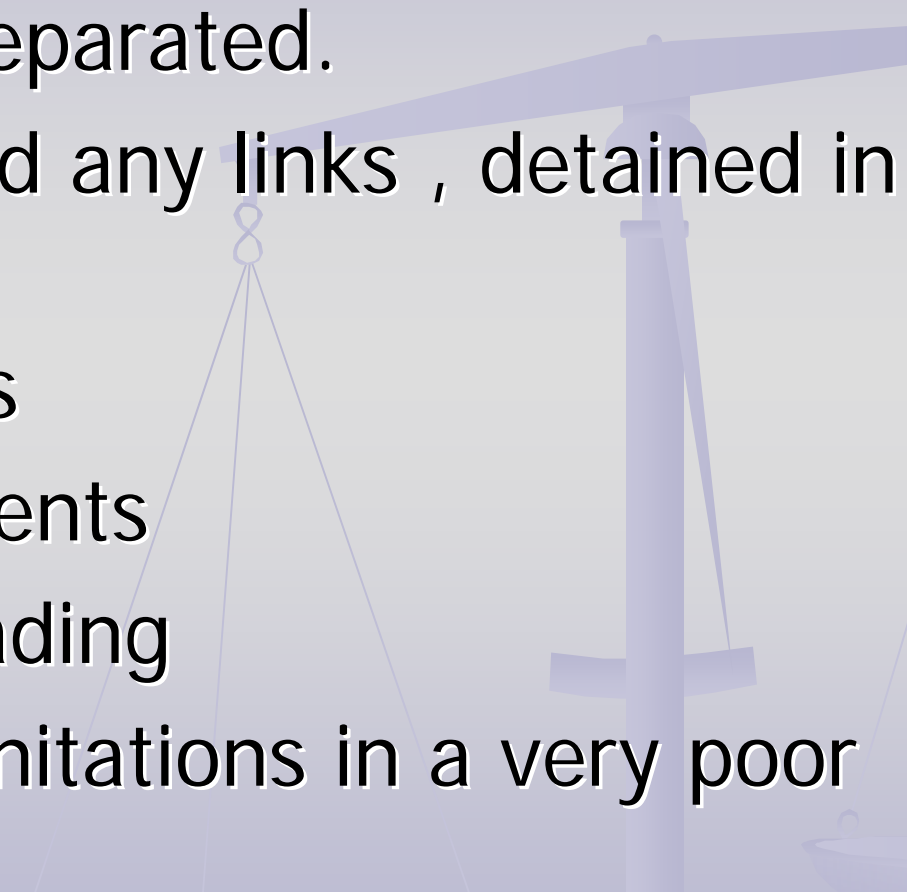


More than 2,80.000 in IDP camps.





Hardship in the camps

- Families were separated.
 - Youth whom had any links , detained in special camps
 - Daily abductions
 - Sexual harassments
 - Epidemics spreading
 - Food, water, sanitations in a very poor condition.
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No one can enter.





Elderly people having a hard time
.even they don't allowed to stay
with their relatives.



Rainy season started



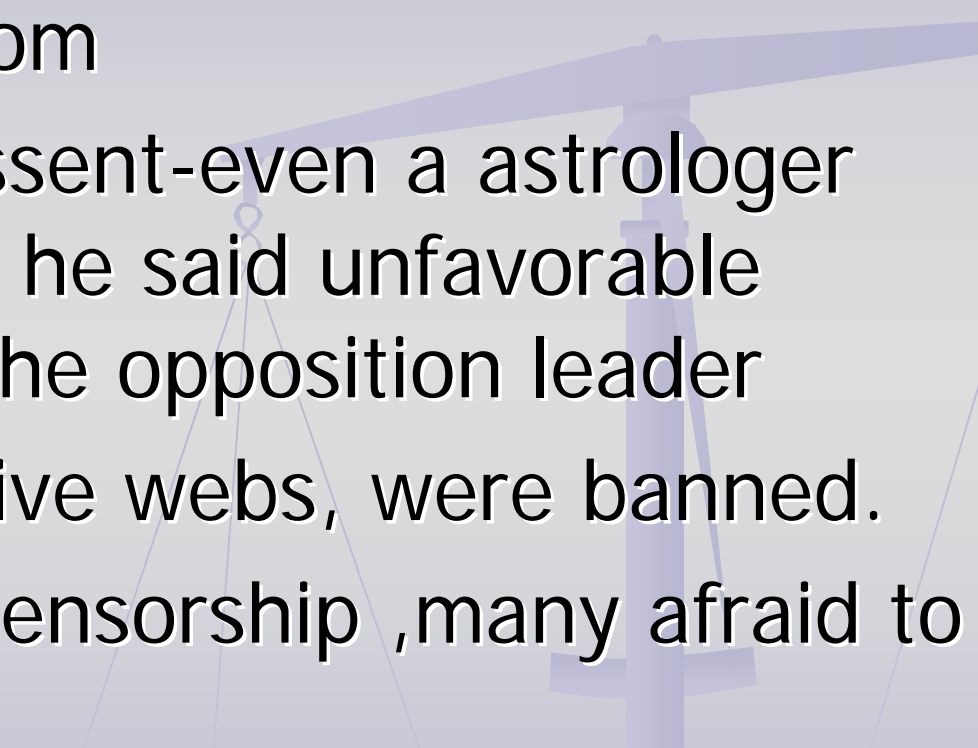








No democracy in South

- No media freedom
 - No space for dissent-even a astrologer detained , since he said unfavorable predictions for the opposition leader
 - All the progressive webs, were banned.
 - Self enforced Censorship ,many afraid to write .
- 



Tamil journalist Tissnaigam ,18 months in Jailed -



Platform for freedom The peoples movement for democratization in Sri Lanka









How we can give them a hope.?

