

List of Complaints and Information Regarding Missing and Disappeared Persons

The List of Complaints and Information Regarding Missing and Disappeared Persons received by the Office on Missing Persons is made available at the OMP Head Office in Colombo and its Regional Offices in Batticaloa, Jaffna, Mannar and Matara.

How did the OMP acquire the information included in the List?

The details included in the List were obtained from the following sources:

- i) complaints received directly by the OMP;
- ii) complaints obtained by the former Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation from District Secretariats and forwarded to the OMP; and
- iii) lists of Missing in Action personnel provided by the armed forces at the request of the OMP.

List of police personnel missing in action has not yet been made available to the OMP.

Who is included in the list?

The List has been made available in volumes one for each district categorized according to the district of the complaint. A separate volume has also been prepared for the Missing in Action.

Persons who went missing or disappeared in connection with the conflict, political unrest or civil disturbances or as an enforced disappearance are included in the OMP's mandate, as per section 27 of the Office on Missing Persons (Establishment, Administration and Discharge of Functions) Act, No. 14 of 2016.

The OMP's mandate is not limited to a specific period, community or region.

The List includes cases that are within the OMP's mandate and cases that require further clarification in order to determine whether they fall within the OMP's mandate. It excludes cases that clearly fall outside of the OMP's mandate such as those who went missing as a result of the Tsunami.

The OMP has been informing families if their cases do not fall within the OMP's mandate. In cases where the information provided was unclear or insufficient, the OMP has been requesting further information.

What information is included in the List?

The List contains the following information:

- i) the reference number assigned to the missing or disappeared person;
- ii) the name of the missing or disappeared person in English and in Sinhala or Tamil;
- iii) the date that the person went missing or were disappeared; and
- iv) the district in which the missing or disappeared person last resided.

Please note that where information was provided to the OMP in Sinhala and Tamil, spelling of the missing or disappeared person's name is spelt as it was reported to the OMP.

In such cases, the English spelling of the missing or disappeared person is spelt using standardised spelling to ensure consistency and enable a search of the List.

Where information or complaint was provided to the OMP in English, the name is spelt as it was reported to the OMP.

What is the process for preparing the List?

Under section 10(1)(e) of the Act, the OMP is required to collate and centralise data relating to missing and disappeared persons.

The publication of the List is part of an ongoing process of collating data relating to missing and disappeared persons so that the OMP can develop a comprehensive list of all the missing and disappeared as per its mandate.

In February 2020, the OMP commenced a process of verification by inviting families of the missing and disappeared to contact the OMP to review the information concerning their missing or disappeared loved ones. Simultaneously, the OMP has been engaging in an internal process of verification to avoid duplicate records.

What steps can families take upon review of the List?

Families are encouraged to review the information recorded in the List and report any concerns to the OMP.

What to do if the details of a missing or disappeared person is not included in the List?

Please report your concern to an OMP staff member, and request that they review the List.

If you are a family member who lived in one of the relevant districts, and the details of your missing loved one has not been included, please make a complaint to the OMP.

What steps can members of the public take upon review of the List?

Members of the public who may have information on the fate of a missing or disappeared person included in the List are encouraged to provide such information in writing to the OMP.

How will OMP use the List?

Despite the appointment of a number of Commissions of Inquiry related to missing and disappeared persons, to date, Sri Lanka does not have a consolidated official record of missing and disappeared persons. The List is an important step towards establishing an official and comprehensive record of missing and disappeared persons in Sri Lanka.

Developing a consolidated list of missing and disappeared persons falling within its mandate enables the OMP to conduct inquiries and investigations, develop internal processes, and make recommendations regarding the rights and interests of the missing and disappeared and their relatives.