

**Question for written answer E-000422/2020  
to the Commission  
Rule 138  
Virginie Joron (ID)**

**Subject:** Islamist radicalisation in Sri Lanka and violence against women

In Sri Lanka the Jihadi attacks of 21 April 2019, in the middle of Easter mass, killed 257 people. Unlike France, Sri Lanka reacted decisively by expelling more than 600 foreign nationals, including 200 Muslim clerics <sup>1</sup>.

This should not, however, blind us to the plight of the Tamil, Christian or Hindu minorities, particularly that of female-headed households <sup>2</sup>. The Collectif La Paix au Sri Lanka (CPSLK) believes that the country has not put its civil war from 1983 to 2009 behind it with a true reconciliation process – such as that begun in Rwanda – with an inventory of crimes and an international criminal court. The conflict is believed to have left 100,000 people dead and 70,000 missing. Today, between 150 000 and 350 000 people of Tamil origin are thought to be living in France <sup>3</sup>.

On 9 October 2019, the Commission pledged to fund a EUR 40 million programme (Stride) <sup>4</sup> on top of the EUR 80 million recently disbursed <sup>5</sup>, while Sri Lanka's military budget is believed to be EUR 1.1 billion <sup>6</sup>.

1. How will the Commission ensure that the families of missing Tamils are given fair access to this fund when the EU has outsourced its management to other organisations <sup>7</sup>?
2. Will it make any payment of all funds contingent on the right of return for Tamil refugees?
3. Does it intend to call for the establishment of an international criminal tribunal as was set up for Rwanda?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2019/05/05/attentats-de-paques-le-sri-lanka-expulse-200-precheurs-musulmans\\_5458472\\_3210.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2019/05/05/attentats-de-paques-le-sri-lanka-expulse-200-precheurs-musulmans_5458472_3210.html)

<sup>2</sup> French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA), Information, Documentation and Research Division, Sri Lanka: Violences et discriminations envers les femmes, OFPRA, 28.8.2018 <https://www.ofpra.gouv.fr/fr/l-ofpra/nos-publications/asie#Sri Lanka>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://journals.openedition.org/hommesmigrations/671>

<sup>4</sup> [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/sri-lanka/68588/eu-supports-strengthening-transformation-reconciliation-and-inclusive-democratic-engagement\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/sri-lanka/68588/eu-supports-strengthening-transformation-reconciliation-and-inclusive-democratic-engagement_en)

<sup>5</sup> <https://idsn.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Sri-Lanka-Chapter-EU-HR-Report.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> 1.89% of GDP or USD 1.65 billion; <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ce.html>.

<sup>7</sup> The World Bank, UNDP, British Council together with the Asia Foundation in partnership with Sri Lanka's Ministry of Internal and Home Affairs and Provincial Council and Local Government as well as the Ministry of Justice and Prison Reforms.