



**TURNING A BLIND EYE  
TO INJUSTICE IS ONLY  
A COUNTDOWN TO  
THE DAY WE BECOME  
VICTIMS OURSELVES.**

# LEST WE JUST EXIST AND DIE

Sri Lanka is the oldest democratic country in South Asia. But, yet, have the events taken place within our borders truly compatible with 'democracy'? Reflect for a moment. How many people around you live in a constant state of injustice?

Do you know that Sri Lanka has the second highest number of enforced disappearances in the world? While the largest portion of national income should ideally be allocated to education or health, the highest allocation is for national security. One region in Sri Lanka is one of the most militarised areas globally. To date, 21 mass graves have been unearthed in this country, yet no fact-finding mechanism has been established for any of them.

The state has seized lands from ordinary people. Do you accept that Sri Lanka still subjects its biggest foreign exchange earners to slavery-like conditions? Impunity has been the only response to periodic violence against oppressed and minority groups. For decades, people's movements, journalists, and social activists have been hunted down not only by criminal activities but also by constitutional laws.

However, we have collectively chosen not to discuss and give heed to these serious challenges to democracy, as they endanger our socio-political lives and force us out of our comfort zones. As a result, victims, their families, and victimised communities are isolated in their constant struggle for justice. Yet, many recent examples show that this history of great violence and injustice will one day collapse upon us.

Turning a blind eye to injustice is only a countdown to the day we become victims ourselves.

Arousing public sympathy by highlighting the experiences of victims of various injustices in Sri Lanka will not suffice to ensure justice. Through these photos and stories, you will confront the reality that we live in a country soaked in blood and tears. As you face this reality, victims hope you will stand in solidarity with them on their journey towards justice. We strongly believe that instead of just existing and dying, we should utilise every moment to work towards justice.

The lack of desire for justice has put us in a miserable state. Hence, 'Uncover' is dedicated to truth, justice, and life.