

The Enforced Disappearances in Hindering Human Security and Truth and Reconciliation: A Case Study of Sri Lanka

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Abstract

Enforced disappearances represent a grave human rights violation where individuals are detained by state authorities or their proxies and subsequently go missing, rendering their fate and whereabouts unknown. This phenomenon creates a profound sense of insecurity and impunity, complicating post-conflict reconciliation and justice processes. The primary objective of this study is to evaluate how enforced disappearances hinder human security and the pursuit of truth and reconciliation in Sri Lanka. By examining this within the framework of human security, which emphasizes the protection of individuals from critical threats, the research aims to highlight the complex interplay between enforced disappearances and broader social, political, and economic dynamics. The study will utilize both qualitative and quantitative methods to gather comprehensive data on the subject. Qualitative methods will include in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with affected families, human rights activists, and policymakers. Quantitative methods will involve surveys to quantify the prevalence and impacts of enforced disappearances, providing a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon. The research fills a significant gap in existing literature by focusing on the post-conflict environment in Sri Lanka, where much previous research has concentrated on the period of active conflict. It seeks to provide a nuanced understanding of how enforced disappearances continue to affect the social fabric and impede efforts towards achieving lasting peace and justice. For human rights advocacy, it aims to increase the visibility of the victims and their families, supporting the fight for justice, accountability, and reparation. In terms of peacebuilding and conflict prevention, the study will provide insights into the structural violence that underpins enforced disappearances, advocating for state adherence to social justice and dialogue. Academically, this research will contribute to the body of human rights and transitional justice knowledge, offering new theoretical frameworks and methodologies for future studies. The findings aim to enhance human rights advocacy, support peacebuilding efforts, and contribute to academic scholarship by providing new insights and policy recommendations for

addressing enforced disappearances. In conclusion, this research aims to shed light on the persistent issue of enforced disappearances in Sri Lanka and their detrimental effects on human security and truth and reconciliation efforts. By providing empirical evidence and theoretical insights, the study seeks to inform policy debates, support human rights advocacy, and contribute to peacebuilding initiatives, ultimately promoting a more just and secure society in post-conflict Sri Lanka.