



School of Arts and Social Sciences
Department of International Politics
Centre of International Policy Studies (CIPS)

CIPS Panel Discussion: “Security Sector Reform in Sri Lanka”

Date: Wed 4th October 2017

Time: 6pm – 8pm

Venue: AG07b, College Building, City, University of London

Sri Lanka's armed conflict ended over eight years ago in May 2009 but its oversized and ethnically Sinhalese military remains heavily deployed in the former conflicts zones that are predominantly Tamil speaking. Alongside on-going and close surveillance of the civilian population, the military has also developed a controlling role in directing employment and development activities in the war affected areas. Security sector reform has therefore become a vital issue in the island's ongoing ethnic conflict and the military's post-war expansion into civilian life has become a critical obstacle to normalisation, accountability and eventual reconciliation. The panel will discuss the impact of militarisation, ongoing attempts to advance accountability for the Sri Lankan military's abuses and the UK's involvement in Sri Lanka's security sector. The panel will consider fresh material from two new reports released by the Adayaalam Centre for Policy Research in Jaffna looking at the Civil Security Department's role in the Vanni, and militarization in Mullaitivu (co-written with PEARL) (where the last days of the war were fought).

The panellists will be:

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| Dharsha Jegatheeswaran | Research Director of the Adayaalam Centre for Policy Research (ACPR), a Jaffna-based not-for-profit think-tank, and the Human Rights Director of Washington-based People for Equality and Relief in Lanka (P.E.A.R.L.). |
| Frances Harrison | Founder and director of International Truth and Justice Project, ex BBC correspondent based in based in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Iran |
| Investigative Journalist | TBC |
| Madura Rasaratnam | Chair. City, University of London |