

ORIGINAL

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18 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
19 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

20 ROY MANOJKUMAR SAMATHANAM, Case No. CV 19-02626-JFW/PLA  
21 PLAINTIFF, Complaint for:  
22 V. NANDASENA GOTABAYA  
23 RAJAPAKSA, A.K.A. GOTABAYA  
24 RAJAPAKSA, DEFENDANT.  
25 1) Torture  
2) Civil Assault  
3) Civil Battery  
4) Intentional Infliction of Emotional  
Distress  
5) False Imprisonment  
JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

26 Plaintiff Roy Samathanam alleges as follows:



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27

28

## 1                   **I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

2         1. Roy Samathanam, a Canadian citizen, was brutally tortured in the island  
3 nation of Sri Lanka by security forces under the control of an American citizen. That  
4 American was Gotabaya Rajapaksa (“Gotabaya” or “Defendant”). After Gotabaya’s  
5 brother was elected President of Sri Lanka in 2005, Gotabaya left his job as an IT  
6 specialist at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles and became Sri Lanka’s Secretary of  
7 Defense. Gotabaya took charge of the Sri Lankan military and police forces and  
8 launched a violent crackdown on the political opposition, singling out the Tamil  
9 community—an ethnic minority whose civil rights, language, and ethnic identity were  
10 systematically marginalized by the Sri Lankan government.

11         2. Between 2005 and 2015, an untold number of Tamil civilians disappeared  
12 into the torture chambers of security forces under Gotabaya’s command. At the time,  
13 the government was locked in a bitter civil war with a separatist rebel group called the  
14 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (“LTTE”), also known as the Tamil Tigers. But the  
15 Rajapaksa government’s crackdown was not limited to Tamil Tiger fighters. Many  
16 innocent Tamils were arrested and abused under the thinnest pretext of supporting the  
17 separatists.

18         3. Roy Samathanam (“Roy” or “Plaintiff”), a Tamil Canadian, was one of  
19 these innocent victims. On September 14, 2007, Roy was arrested by Sri Lankan police  
20 acting under the authority of Gotabaya Rajapaksa. He was falsely accused of illegally  
21 importing a GPS device. When he refused to pay a bribe for his release, he was taken  
22 into custody and detained until August 2010. During this time, Roy was repeatedly  
23 beaten with metal pipes, clubs, and rifle butts and called a “Tamil slave.” His jailers  
24 threatened to rape and kill his wife and child. They denied him medication. They forced  
25 him to watch as they beat, burned, and electrocuted other prisoners. Terrified for his  
26 life and for his family, Roy eventually signed a forced confession. Roy’s experiences  
27 followed the same script as countless other Tamils who languished or lost their lives in  
28 Sri Lanka’s detention centers.

4. The violence Roy endured at the hands of Defendant Gotabaya's security forces has a name under American and international law: torture.

## **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, this Court has federal-question jurisdiction over Plaintiff's torture claim, as it arises under the Torture Victim Protection Act, Pub. L. No. 102-256, 106 Stat. 73 (1992) (codified at 28 U.S.C. § 1350, note) ("TVPA").

6. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(2), this Court has diversity jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' California-law tort claims for assault, battery, and intentional infliction of emotional distress because the matter in controversy exceeds \$75,000 and the parties are a citizen of a State and a citizen of a foreign State. Plaintiff is a citizen of Canada. Defendant is a dual-citizen of the United States and Sri Lanka.

7. Alternatively, under 28 U.S.C. § 1337, this Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' California-law tort claims. These claims are so related to Plaintiff's federal TVPA claims that they form part of the same case or controversy.

8. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(3) because Defendant is subject to the Court's personal jurisdiction in this judicial district.

### III. PARTIES

**A. Plaintiff**

9. Plaintiff Roy Manojkumar Samathanam is an ethnic Tamil and a citizen of Canada. In 2005, he traveled to Sri Lanka and married his wife. When she became pregnant, they decided to remain in Sri Lanka until the child was born. Roy's life was interrupted in 2007 when Sri Lankan security forces under the Defendant's control stormed his house, falsely accused him of terrorism, and forced him into a three-year ordeal of torture and harsh imprisonment. That ordeal left Roy with lasting physical and emotional trauma, which he continues to suffer at home in Toronto, Canada.

**B. Defendant**

10. Defendant Gotabaya Rajapaksa is a citizen of the United States and Sri Lanka and a resident of Colombo, Sri Lanka's capital.

1       11. Born in Sri Lanka, Gotabaya immigrated to the United States in or around  
2 1990, following a decades-long career in the Sri Lankan military. On information and  
3 belief, he worked as the Unix System Administrator of Loyola Law School in Los  
4 Angeles, California. Gotabaya's brother, Mahinda Rajapaksa, was elected as President  
5 of Sri Lanka in or around November 2005. Around that same time, Gotabaya was  
6 appointed by his brother to serve as Secretary of Defense of Sri Lanka. From 2005 to  
7 2015, Gotabaya oversaw the daily operations of the Ministry of Defense and was in  
8 charge of the Sri Lankan military and police forces. He left office after his brother's  
9 defeat in the 2015 presidential elections.

10      12. Defendant Gotabaya currently holds no public office.

#### 11                  IV. FACTS

12      A. **Under the Rajapaksa government, the torture of Tamils in detention was a  
13 feature,  
14 not a bug, of their national security strategy.**

15      13. Ethnic Tamils have faced persecution since Sri Lanka gained  
16 independence from the United Kingdom in 1948. The Sri Lankan government is  
17 dominated by officials of Sinhalese origin—the island's majority ethnic group, who  
18 speak a language called Sinhala and mostly practice Buddhism. Since 1948, the Sri  
19 Lankan government enacted numerous laws and policies that disenfranchised and  
20 marginalized the Tamil population. Through education quotas and a discriminatory  
21 language policy, the government marginalized Tamils, gradually rendering them  
22 second class citizens in their own country.

23      14. From the mid-1950s to the early 1980s, a violent Sinhalese-nationalist  
24 movement carried out a series of massacres against Tamils, with the complicity of  
25 government forces. After one such massacre in 1983, a violent civil war broke out  
26 between the Sri Lankan government and a separatist rebel army, the Tamil Tigers (or  
27 "LTTE"). Lasting from 1983 to 2009, the conflict included egregious human rights  
28 violations by both sides and left an estimated 100,000 or more dead or disappeared.

1       15. In the midst of an internationally brokered ceasefire, Defendant's brother  
 2 Mahinda Rajapaksa was elected President in 2005. A fierce promoter of Sinhalese-  
 3 Buddhist nationalism, Mahinda Rajapaksa built a strong-arm campaign to end the  
 4 conflict with the Tamil Tigers through a final military solution. As Secretary of  
 5 Defense, Gotabaya Rajapaksa was the chief architect of this campaign, targeting Tamil  
 6 opposition with little distinction between civilians and armed combatants.

7       16. The Rajapaksa government enacted a series of laws that gave the security  
 8 forces wide-ranging powers of arrest and prolonged detention without trial. These laws  
 9 created sweeping and vague definitions of "unlawful activities," allowed forced  
 10 confessions to be used as evidence in court, and gave absolute immunity to officials  
 11 who carried out torture.

12       17. While torture remained officially prohibited under Sri Lankan law, in  
 13 reality it was an essential part of the Rajapaksa Regime's strategy to intimidate the  
 14 Tamil population into submission. Throughout the war years—and even after—the  
 15 U.S. Department of State's annual country report on human rights has documented Sri  
 16 Lanka's torture problem.<sup>1</sup>

17 **B. Gotabaya's power over the military and police forces was extensive and  
 18 effective.**

19       18. The Defendant, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, became Secretary of the Sri Lankan  
 20 Ministry of Defense on or around November 25, 2005 and held that position at all times  
 21 relevant to this action.

22       19. As Secretary of Defense, Gotabaya commanded all agencies of the Sri  
 23 Lankan military and police forces, including the Terrorism Investigation Department  
 24 ("TID"). Gotabaya exercised operational control over these police forces through a  
 25 chain of command that included the Additional Secretary of Defense, the Inspector  
 26

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27       28 <sup>1</sup> See, e.g., U.S. Dep't of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, 2008  
 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Sri Lanka, Feb. 25, 2009,  
<https://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/sca/119140.htm>.

1 General of the Police, and Deputy Inspector General of Police. They reported to  
 2 Gotabaya. And Gotabaya reported to his brother, President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

3       20. An ex-military man, Gotabaya was a hands-on leader of the military and  
 4 police forces. He personally involved himself in assigning and overseeing police  
 5 investigations. According to his agents' public statements, Gotabaya held regular  
 6 meetings with his subordinates to coordinate strategies, plan operations, and receive  
 7 reports.<sup>2</sup> In an interview on May 6, 2009, a senior police official in Colombo explained  
 8 Defendant's Gotabaya's role in overseeing the security forces:

9           Actually, the main person responsible for ensuring good security in  
 10 Colombo is Secretary of Defence [sic] Gotabaya Rajapaksa. We have to  
 11 update him on our progress weekly, furthermore, the Inspector General of  
 12 Police also keep [sic] on the constant go by inquiring about investigation  
 13 on a daily basis. Senior DIG Nimal Mediwake gives us his utmost support  
 14 as well. The Secretary of Defence is our strength; he has succeeded in  
 15 bringing all of us together as one team, which has resulted in the success  
 16 of our investigations.<sup>3</sup>

17       21. On information and belief, Gotabaya was the chair of the National  
 18 Security Council. He provided the critical link between police and army operations and  
 19 the political leadership of his brother, the President. In his own words, Gotabaya  
 20 described his security forces as a tightly controlled organization:

21           Every small aspect was very important because it is like a chain. It is not  
 22 a single Force or service, but it was the effort of a complete team. The  
 23 President at the top coordinated and gave leadership.<sup>4</sup>

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25           26       <sup>2</sup> See Business Today, *Deputy Inspector General of Police – Sisira Mendis* [Interview],  
 April 28, 2009, <http://www.businesstoday.lk/printarticle.php?articleid=23>.

27           28       <sup>3</sup> Business Today, *Senior Superintendent Of Police - Anura Senanayake* [Interview], May 6,  
 2009, <http://www.businesstoday.lk/printarticle.php?articleid=201>.

<sup>4</sup> Business Today, *Defense Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa: The Unshakeable Will* [Interview], May 2, 2010, <http://www.businesstoday.lk/printarticle.php?articleid=2434>.

1       22. Gotabaya's "complete team" included the officers who detained and  
 2 tortured Plaintiff Roy Samathanam.

3       **B. Into the gulag: Roy Samathanam's initial arrest and torture.**

4       23. In 2005, Roy took advantage of a lull in the civil war to travel to Sri Lanka  
 5 from his home in Canada and marry the woman who is now his wife. He and his wife  
 6 rented a home in Colombo, the capital city. When she became pregnant they decided  
 7 to remain in Sri Lanka until the child was born.

8       24. From time to time, Roy assisted a friend with the importation of goods for  
 9 a computer electronics shop. In September 2007, his friend imported 600 mobile  
 10 phones to Sri Lanka that were delivered to Roy's house, waiting for his friend to pick  
 11 them up the next day.

12       25. In the early morning hours of September 14, 2007, plain-clothed men  
 13 carrying machine guns arrived at Roy's home. Roy and his wife were asleep and were  
 14 awakened by the gunmen knocking at their door. The men identified themselves as  
 15 officers of the Terrorism Investigation Department ("TID") and asked to search his  
 16 home. Roy agreed and they entered. The unopened boxes of cellular phones that Roy  
 17 helped import for his friend were in his hallway. When the officers opened the boxes  
 18 and saw the cellular phones, they demanded to see the clearing invoice. Roy showed  
 19 them the forms associated with the shipment; he explained that the goods belonged to  
 20 his friend's business. The officers told Roy that there was a GPS device in the boxes,  
 21 and that this was illegal. They did not, however, point out to Roy any such GPS device.

22       26. The officers told Roy that if he paid them approximately 25,000 Sri  
 23 Lankan rupees they would leave him alone; if not, they would take him to the TID  
 24 headquarters for interrogation. When Roy told the officers he did not have the money  
 25 to pay for his release, they arrested him.

26       27. Roy was placed in a silver Mercedes van, handcuffed, and blindfolded.  
 27 His pregnant wife and their child were placed under house arrest by TID officers. The  
 28 officers drove Roy around Colombo for some time, while they threatened to kill him

1 and dump his body. Later that morning, he was transported to the TID detention facility  
2 in downtown Colombo.

3       28. On arrival, the TID officers took Roy into the headquarters, handcuffed  
4 him to a chair in an office, and questioned him about the shipment of cellular phones.  
5 Roy was then taken to the office of Sergeant Abdeen, where he was handcuffed to a  
6 desk.

7       29. Roy was detained by the TID under a Detention Order signed by the  
8 Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Defense, Sunil S. Sirisena, a subordinate of  
9 Defendant Gotabaya. The Detention Order stated that he was detained to prevent him  
10 from “acting in a manner prejudicial to the national security or to the maintenance of  
11 public order” after importing telecommunications equipment from Singapore without  
12 permission.

13       30. At or around 10:00 am, Roy was taken to see the Officer in Charge of the  
14 detention facility, Prasanna de Alwis. Officer de Alwis informed Roy that it was illegal  
15 to possess a GPS device and interrogated him for approximately 15 minutes. Officer  
16 de Alwis accused Roy of operating the Tamil Tigers’ intelligence wing in Toronto,  
17 Canada.

18       31. Between September 2007 and November 2008, Roy was detained by the  
19 TID without access to a lawyer, without being brought before a magistrate for an  
20 arraignment, and without having his detention reviewed by an independent court.

21       32. Roy spent the first eight months—from September 2007 to April 2008—  
22 imprisoned at the TID Detention Center in Colombo. He was isolated from local Sri  
23 Lankan prisoners and held with a few other foreign nationals in Sergeant Abdeen’s  
24 office.

25       33. There, Roy was kept handcuffed to a desk at all times, and forced to sit or  
26 lie on the floor in a painful position. The detention center did not supply a pillow,  
27 mattress, or chair or other furniture. During Roy’s time in custody, guards would  
28 routinely threaten to kill him, calling him a “Canadian Tiger.” Roy was given limited

1 amounts of food and water and was frequently deprived of his diabetes medication—  
 2 causing him sometimes to urinate himself.

3       34. Approximately two or three times a week, guards would enter Sergeant  
 4 Abdeen's office to beat and interrogate Roy and other detainees. Roy was chained into  
 5 painful positions. The guards beat Roy with metal pipes or hard rubber clubs. They  
 6 yelled at him to confess that he was a member of the Tamil Tigers. These beatings and  
 7 prolonged stress-positions caused Roy to suffer severe physical pain—he is disabled to  
 8 this day.

9       35. The torture was also psychological. Throughout Roy's detention, the TID  
 10 officers subjected Roy to terrifying threats and ethnic insults. They threatened to arrest  
 11 and rape his wife and demanded that she pay a bribe to secure his release. They  
 12 threatened to shoot Roy in his head. They also forced Roy to watch as they stripped  
 13 other detainees naked and beat them.

14 **B. International observers—but still no freedom.**

15       36. Several international observers came to the TID Detention Center while  
 16 Roy was detained there. Within a few days of his arrest, Roy received a visit from a  
 17 Canadian official with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade,  
 18 whom Roy came to know as "Mr. Norman," and an employee with the Canadian High  
 19 Commission in Colombo. Mr. Norman told Roy that he would "see what I can do" to  
 20 address his arrest.

21       37. In October 2007, Manfred Nowak, the United Nations Special Rapporteur  
 22 on Torture made an official inspection of the TID detention center. Roy saw Mr. Nowak  
 23 but did not have the opportunity to speak with him. In his subsequent report to the  
 24 United Nations, Mr. Nowak described receiving numerous reports of torture at the TID  
 25 detention center in Colombo and named Sergeant Abdeen as one of the perpetrators.<sup>5</sup>  
 26

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27       28       <sup>5</sup> UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel,  
           inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Manfred Nowak: mission to Sri Lanka, 26 February  
           2008, A/HRC/7/3/Add.6, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/47d683cf2.html>.

1 The Sri Lankan government was given an opportunity to review and respond to Mr.  
2 Nowak's report, which it did.

3 38. On or around October 19, 2007, officials from the International  
4 Committee for the Red Cross ("Red Cross") visited the TID detention center and met  
5 with Roy. He was provided with a registration card, documenting his detention. Roy  
6 explained to them that he had no mattress to sleep on and, as a result of their  
7 intervention, he was given a thin mattress in early December 2017.

8 **C. "No one can help you here": the December 2007 torture session.**

9 39. On or around December 17, 2007, Roy overheard a phone call between  
10 Officer-in-Charge Prasanna de Alwis and Defendant Gotabaya Rajapaksa. They were  
11 discussing his case.

12 40. Later that evening, Roy received a particularly brutal torture session at the  
13 hands of TID officers. That night, the detention center's second-in-command, Inspector  
14 Peiris, entered the room where Roy was being held, accompanied by several off-duty  
15 guards. Inspector Peiris told Roy that he was not entitled to a Red Cross mattress. The  
16 guards pulled the mattress away from Roy, telling him to kneel down, which he did.  
17 Peries and the other officers began to kick Roy in the stomach, repeatedly yelling at  
18 him and saying that they should kill the "Canadian LTTE." The officers beat him with  
19 the butt-ends of their T-56 assault rifles. One prodded his rifle into the side of Roy's  
20 chest while Peries and the others punched and kicked him in the face, abdomen, arms,  
21 and legs. Roy suffered a swollen left wrist, injured knees, and pain in the stomach and  
22 groin area as a result of this beating.

23 41. The following morning, the Officer-in-Charge Prasanna de Alwis,  
24 sarcastically asked Roy what had happened to him the previous night. He then warned  
25 Roy not to tell the Red Cross about the beating that he had received. He told Roy that  
26 he would be released if he signed a confession, and that these types of beatings would  
27 not happen anymore once he signed a confession. He told Roy that Sgt. Abdeen could  
28 write up the paperwork but if Roy refused to sign the confession, the TID would arrest

1 his wife and child and imprison them in the detention center. Roy told Officer de Alwis  
 2 that he wanted to see a lawyer, to which de Alwis responded, "You can't have a lawyer.  
 3 No one can help you here."

4 **D. Transfer to the Boosa Detention Camp**

5 42. In or around May 2008, Roy was transferred to the TID's Boosa Detention  
 6 Center in southern Sri Lanka. His transfer order was signed on May 11, 2008 by  
 7 Additional Secretary of Defense S. Heittiarachchi—a subordinate of Defendant  
 8 Gotabaya in the Ministry of Defense. Roy remained there until late July 2008.

9 43. At Boosa, Roy was kept in solitary confinement in a small cell without a  
 10 toilet or water. He was forced to urinate in a bottle and defecate in a plastic bag.

11 44. Each day, Roy's captors took him to an interrogation room for  
 12 questioning. There he was forced to watch the brutal torture of other detainees. Guards  
 13 hung prisoners upside down. They poured gasoline and chili peppers into plastic bags  
 14 and tied them over prisoners' heads, and then beat them with iron pipes and wooden  
 15 poles. The guards beat, burned and sexually assaulted female detainees. Roy was forced  
 16 to watch these beatings and threatened with the same treatment.

17 **E. Forced confession**

18 45. In late July 2008, Roy was temporarily taken back to the TID detention  
 19 center in Colombo. He was pressured to confess to being a member of the LTTE's  
 20 international intelligence wing. His captors threatened to arrest his wife, rape her, and  
 21 kill his child if he refused to confess. In early August 2008, to protect his wife from  
 22 threats, Roy wrote a false confession that he had imported an illegal GPS device for  
 23 the LTTE. He was then sent back to Boosa Detention Camp.

24 46. Roy was finally charged on or about November 4, 2008 with illegally  
 25 importing a GPS device and aiding and abetting the LTTE—based on his forced  
 26 confession. After nearly three years in continuous custody during which time the Roy  
 27 was denied bail and a substantive trial had not started, Roy's lawyer negotiated a plea  
 28 agreement. On August 19, 2010, in order to stop the torture and threats against his

1 family, he pleaded guilty to possession of a GPS device and paid a fine of 500,000 Sri  
2 Lankan rupees (approximately \$2,860 USD). The other charges were dropped. Roy  
3 was released from detention on August 27, 2010.

4        47. Following Roy's release from detention in 2010, he recounted his story to  
5 the local newspaper and as a result the Sri Lankan government refused to give police  
6 clearance for his relatives to leave the country.

## V. GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

**A. Defendant is liable under the command responsibility doctrine.**

48. Under the doctrine of command responsibility, Defendant Gotabaya Rajapaksa is liable for the violent abuses inflicted on Plaintiff by his subordinates, agents, or co-conspirators in the Sri Lankan military and police forces. At all relevant times, the Secretary of Defense stood at the pinnacle of the Sri Lankan military and police forces, reporting directly to the President. The Secretary of Defense exercised effective control over a chain of command extending down to the officers at the TID Detention Center and Boosa Detention Camp who abused Plaintiff. This degree of control gave Defendant the practical ability to ensure that forces under his command complied with international law, including the prohibition of torture.

49. Defendant Gotabaya had actual and constructive knowledge of the acts alleged herein. Gotabaya knew that Plaintiff was detained at the TID Detention Center: Plaintiff overheard the Officer-in-Charge of that Center discussing Plaintiffs' detention with Gotabaya by telephone.

50. Further, at all relevant times, Defendant knew or should have known of the pattern of systematic torture committed by his subordinates against Tamil civilians. U.N. Special Rapporteur Manfred Nowak specifically visited the TID Detention Center in October 2007 and included visceral accounts of torture in his report to the United Nations. The Nowak report was published online and conveyed to the Government of Sri Lanka, which filed an official response. It could not have escaped Gotabaya's

1 attention that allegations of torture—at his Ministry’s detention centers—were being  
 2 formally and openly discussed at the United Nations.

3       51. As Secretary of Defense, Defendant had a duty to investigate, prevent, and  
 4 punish violations of international law—including torture—committed by members of  
 5 the military and police forces under his command. Defendant breached that duty by  
 6 failing or refusing to take action to prevent or punish his subordinates’ unlawful acts.

7       **B. Defendant is liable for engaging in a conspiracy or common plan with  
 8 members of the military and police forces to subject Tamil detainees to  
 9 torture.**

10       52. Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for his injuries, because the acts described  
 11 herein were committed in furtherance of a conspiracy or common plan among members  
 12 of the Sri Lankan military and police forces to persecute perceived supporters of Tamil  
 13 separatism. The Defendant and his co-conspirators, including officers in the TID  
 14 Detention Center and Boosa Detention Camp, conspired to violate international and  
 15 domestic law and carried out a series of overt acts in furtherance of this conspiracy,  
 16 including detaining and torturing Plaintiff and forcing him to witness the torture of  
 17 others. Defendant refused to prevent or punish such violations, a refusal that furthered  
 18 the conspiracy. In addition to being personally liable for his own actions, Defendant is  
 19 jointly and severally liable for the actions of his co-conspirators, which were all  
 20 undertaken in furtherance of the conspiracy.

21       **C. Defendant is liable as a principal for the unlawful acts of his agents in the  
 22 Police and Military Forces of Sri Lanka.**

23       53. At all relevant times, there was an actual or assumed agency relationship  
 24 between Defendant Gotabaya and his subordinates, agents, and co-conspirators in the  
 25 military and police forces of Sri Lanka.

26       54. The Officer-in-Charge of the TID Detention Center, Prasanna de Alwis,  
 27 and other TID officers violently abused Plaintiff while acting within the scope of this  
 28 agency relationship. Plaintiff’s abusers acted under the actual or apparent authority of

1 the Defendant and for the benefit of Defendant's common plan or scheme to persecute  
 2 Tamil civilians.

3       55. Further, all acts or omissions alleged during Plaintiff's detention at the  
 4 TID Detention Center and Boosa Detention Camp were ratified by Defendant  
 5 Gotabaya. He had actual or constructive knowledge of the abuses committed at these  
 6 prisons; among other sources, UN Special Rapporteur Nowak's report put him on  
 7 notice that torture was occurring under his watch. Yet Defendant did nothing to  
 8 investigate, prevent, or punish these abuses, enabling them to continue.

9       56. Despite the Defendant's knowledge of his subordinate's misconduct, no  
 10 disciplinary action was taken and Plaintiff was kept in the custody of his abusers.

11 **D. Extraordinary circumstances in Sri Lanka toll any statute of limitations and  
 12 make exhaustion of local remedies futile.**

13       57. Any applicable statute of limitations is tolled by the exceptional  
 14 circumstances of (1) Plaintiff being detained and incapacitated until August 27, 2010,  
 15 (2) Defendant retaining control of the military and police forces until January 2015,  
 16 and (3) Defendant's infrequent return trips to the United States after leaving office. All  
 17 three circumstances rendered it impracticable—and unsafe—for Plaintiff to bring this  
 18 action at an earlier date. *See Hilao v. Estate of Marcos*, 103 F.3d 767, 773 (9th Cir.  
 19 1996) (tolling limitations for human rights claims until former president was out of  
 20 office).

21       58. Seeking to exhaust judicial remedies in Sri Lanka would also expose  
 22 Plaintiff to a grave risk of reprisal: Gotabaya Rajapaksa continues to exert a powerful  
 23 influence over extremist nationalist groups and elements of the military and police  
 24 forces. At the same time, corruption, bias, and a lack of judicial independence still  
 25 mark the Sri Lankan legal system. Political and military leaders enjoy effective  
 26 impunity against any legal accountability for human rights abuses. Given the lack of  
 27 judicial independence and the risk of reprisal, Plaintiff has no adequate and available  
 28

1 remedy in the courts of Sri Lanka. *See Sarei v. Rio Tinto, PLC*, 550 F.3d 822, 830 (9th  
 2 Cir. 2008) (discussing futility exception to exhaustion of local remedies).

3 **VI. CAUSES OF ACTION**

4 **COUNT I**

5 **TORTURE IN VIOLATION OF THE TORTURE VICTIM PROTECTION**

6 **ACT**

7  
 8 59. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as if set  
 9 forth herein.

10 60. The acts described herein constitute torture as defined in the Torture  
 11 Victim Protection Act, § 3(b)(1), note following 28 U.S.C. § 1350, which provides a  
 12 cause of action for acts of torture committed under color of foreign law, regardless of  
 13 where they were committed or the citizenship of the victims or perpetrators.

14 61. The acts described herein caused Plaintiff severe pain and suffering, both  
 15 physical and mental. Month after month in detention at the TID Detention Center and  
 16 the Boosa Detention Camp, the Plaintiff was routinely beaten with metal pipes, rifle  
 17 butts, and other objects. He was chained into excruciating positions for appalling  
 18 lengths of time—causing severe pain and bodily injury. The Plaintiff's captors also  
 19 forced him to watch the electrocution, suffocation, burning, and rape of other detainees  
 20 during interrogation sessions—causing severe emotional distress. The Plaintiff was  
 21 placed in imminent fear of death by repeated threats to summarily execute him. And  
 22 finally, Plaintiff endured his captors' threats to detain, rape, and kill his wife and child  
 23 until he reached his breaking point and agreed to make a false confession.

24 62. Plaintiff's torture did not arise from and was not inherent in or incidental  
 25 to lawful sanctions.

26 63. At the time these acts occurred, Plaintiff was in the custody and physical  
 27 control of members of the Sri Lankan military and police forces under the Defendant's  
 28 direct control.

64. The acts described herein were inflicted deliberately and intentionally for purposes that include obtaining a confession, punishing Plaintiff for his perceived opposition to the Rajapaksa government, and on the discriminatory basis of Plaintiff's Tamil ethnicity.

65. The acts described herein were inflicted under actual or apparent authority or color of law by members of the Sri Lankan military and police forces, including the Defendant.

66. The actions of the Defendant and his subordinates, agents, or co-conspirators in the Sri Lankan military and police forces were outside the scope of their lawful authority and in violation of the laws of Sri Lanka. Article 11 of the Sri Lankan constitution enshrines freedom from torture as a fundamental right. Torture is also a criminal offense under Sri Lanka's Torture Act No. 22 of 1994. That Act implements Sri Lanka's international obligation to prohibit torture under the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment.

67. As a direct and proximate result of this torture, Plaintiff has suffered damages in an amount greater than \$75,000, the precise amount to be determined at trial.

68. In addition, Defendant's acts and omissions were deliberate, willful, intentional, wanton, malicious, and oppressive, and should be punished by an award of punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial.

# COUNT II

## CIVIL ASSAULT

69. Defendant's subordinates, agents, and co-conspirators threatened to torture and kill Plaintiff. Plaintiff—who was forced to watch other prisoners endure horrific and potentially lethal torture—reasonably believed that his abusers were about to carry out that threat.

70. The threats to Plaintiff's welfare directly and proximately caused him to suffer fear, psychological trauma, and emotional distress.

1       71. Plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages in an amount greater than  
2 \$75,000, the precise amount to be determined at trial.

3       72. In addition, Defendant's acts and omissions were deliberate, willful,  
4 intentional, wanton, malicious, and oppressive, and should be punished by an award of  
5 punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial.

## COUNT III

## CIVIL BATTERY

8       73. By severely beating Plaintiff with metal pipes, rubber clubs, rifle butts,  
9 and other objects, Defendant's subordinates, agents, and co-conspirators caused  
10 Plaintiff to be touched in an intentionally harmful way.

11       74. The beatings were malicious and non-consensual, and they directly and  
12 proximately caused physical injury to Plaintiff's limbs, abdomen, and groin.

13       75. Plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages in an amount greater than  
14 \$75,000, the precise amount to be determined at trial.

15       76. In addition, Defendant's acts and omissions were deliberate, willful,  
16 intentional, wanton, malicious, and oppressive, and should be punished by an award of  
17 punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial.

**COUNT IV**

## **INTENTIONAL INFILCTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS**

20       77. The acts of Defendant's subordinates, agents, and co-conspirators,  
21 including the arbitrary detention and physical and psychological abuse of Plaintiff were  
22 outrageous and conscience-shocking. Plaintiffs' abusers, acting under the direct control  
23 of the Defendant and in furtherance of Defendant's common plan, intended these  
24 abuses to cause Plaintiff to suffer severe emotional distress.

25       78. The acts described herein directly and proximately cause Plaintiff to suffer  
26 mental pain and suffering.

27       79. Plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages in an amount greater than  
28 \$75,000, the precise amount to be determined at trial.

1       80. In addition, Defendant's acts and omissions were deliberate, willful,  
2 intentional, wanton, malicious, and oppressive, and should be punished by an award of  
3 punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial.

**COUNT V**

## **FALSE IMPRISONMENT**

6 81. The acts described herein constitute actionable false imprisonment.

7       82. Defendants' subordinates, agents, or co-conspirators arbitrarily and  
8 unlawfully detained Plaintiff without warrant, probable cause, articulable or notice of  
9 charges, and failed to accord him due process. Plaintiff was denied access to a lawyer  
10 and denied being brought before a magistrate in a timely manner. He was continuously  
11 detained for three years without formal charge. While in detention, he was coerced—  
12 under torture and threats of violence to his family—to confess, and that coerced  
13 confession was used against him.

14       83. The delays and denials of due process described above were unreasonable  
15 and at no time did Plaintiff consent to such delays and denials.

16        84. These abuses were carried out under the direct control and actual or  
17 apparent authority of the Defendant and in furtherance of Defendant's common plan to  
18 persecute Tamils.

19       85. Plaintiff's prolonged arbitrary detention in deplorable prison conditions  
20 directly and proximately cause physical and mental pain and suffering. The  
21 Defendant's acts or omissions were a substantial factor in the harm inflicted upon  
22 Plaintiff, including Defendant's failure to prevent or punish the acts described above,  
23 his ratification of such acts, and his participation in a common plan to persecute Tamils,  
24 which included such acts.

25       86. Plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages in an amount greater than  
26 \$75,000, the precise amount to be determined at trial.

87. In addition, Defendant's acts and omissions were deliberate, willful, intentional, wanton, malicious, and oppressive, and should be punished by an award of punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial.

## **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

To the extent permitted by law, Plaintiff seeks judgment against the Defendant and the following relief, according to proof:

- (a) Compensatory damages;
  - (b) Punitive damages; and
  - (c) Reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses; and
  - (d) Such other relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

DATED: April 5, 2019

/s/ Bonny E. Sweeney

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