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Joint Press release: Sri Lanka's COVID Military Overlords.

Johannesburg: Sri Lanka is using the COVID virus to whitewash military officers who face allegations of war crimes. It is not just that a General named by the UN¹ for alleged war crimes and designated by the US Government for gross violations of human rights is in charge of the country's *National Operation Centre for the Prevention of Covid*². As of last week, twenty-five officers – most with frontline combat experience in the final phase of the war in Sri Lanka in 2009 – were put in charge of civilian health throughout the country, undermining the civilian administration and democratic institutions and forcing the international community to normalise not just militarisation but impunity for international crimes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
YASMIN SOOKA

“The same Sri Lankan army officers are now supposed to safeguard the health of the people they once deliberately bombed and shelled, attacking hospitals, starving the population and denying life-saving medicine. Their appointment is a cynical attempt to use the COVID emergency to cleanse a tainted organisation,” said the ITJP's Executive Director Yasmin Sooka, *“and it poses a serious problem for the international community in how to respond. Diplomats and donors should not facilitate the dismantling and disempowerment of the civilian administration.”*

At least 16 of the 25 military officers appointed as district military coordinators to tackle the COVID were involved in fighting in the final phase of the civil war in 2008-9 when a UN investigation found reasonable grounds to say war crimes were committed by the Sri Lankan Army. While their previous military history would preclude them from serving in any UN peacekeeping force, ironically they are now in charge of supervising civilian health, including in areas where they subjugate those they

¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24908&LangID=E>

² https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/English-ITJP_COVID-19-press-release-Merged-copy.pdf

defeated in the war. In 2009, there reasonable grounds exist to suggest that the Army was involved in deliberately targeting civilian objects, summary executions, enforced disappearances, rape and torture and was also instrumental in the deliberate denial and prevention of adequate supplies of food and medicine, objects indispensable to their survival, from reaching Tamil civilians in the war zone.

"It is the ultimate insult that soldiers some of whom may have violated international laws protecting the health and lives of civilians in war are now in charge of the country's health. Military commanders are being put in control of the civilian administration - overriding the authority of existing Government Agents - throughout the country. No health emergency justifies this erosion of democracy," said Yasmin Sooka.

In 1989, Gotabaya Rajapaksa himself was a district military coordinator in Matale when a government inquiry reported hundreds of people were disappeared there.

"Appointing military officers as chief coordinators to each and every district reminds Sri Lankans of the repressive era of the second JVP uprising in the late 80s. During that time, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa himself functioned as the District Military Coordinator in Matale District when hundreds of youth went missing without any accountability. Militarising the administration, as they did in the Tamil regions long ago, is another step towards forming a de facto military regime and tightening the military's grip over the entire island," said Bashana Abeywardena of the Journalists for Democracy in Sri Lanka.

Also present in Matale in 1989 under Gotabaya Rajapaksa's command, was the current Army Commander, Shavendra Silva, who was recently promoted to General in another signal of continuing impunity. From the onset, Shavendra Silva was put in overall charge of "fighting" the virus and the country's military-run quarantine centres³. In addition, a military officer has also been appointed as secretary of health. While the State Intelligence Service, headed by a military intelligence officer allegedly complicit in torture, has been put in charge of Sri Lanka's *track and trace* programme with access to immigration data, which could endanger anyone who enters the country. Vaccine sourcing has been delegated to the President's principal advisor, who was appointed to office while still convicted for corruption and only later acquitted on appeal, which is a violation of due process.⁴ Health awareness is also being conducted by military officials in the former war zone⁵.

"There are serious questions about transparency and accountability for international aid designed to combat COVID in a government where so many key figures were appointed to office while still accused of corruption. The COVID virus has become a convenient cover for a highly militarised government to entrench its power and violate the rights of minorities, especially Muslims who have been illegally denied their right to burial,"

³ 54 centres in April 2020, says <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/covid-19-sri-lankan-military-is-helping-the-country-fight-the-pandemic/article31350778.ece>

45 in March says <http://www.ft.lk/columns/Maintaining-national-security--Role-of-the-Sri-Lankan-military-during-COVID-19/4-708567>

⁴ http://www.colombopage.com/archive_20B/Dec29_1609221281CH.php

⁵ <https://covid19.gov.lk/news/defence/231-infantry-brigade-educates-the-public-on-covid-19.html>

said Ms. Sooka. *“Under the guise of providing health care, which is hardly their expertise, the Sri Lankan military is silently usurping the role of the civilian administration, which will cause long term damage.”*

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MILITARY DISTRICT CHIEF COORDINATORS FOR COVID⁶

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<u>Name</u>	<u>Final War</u>
<u>NORTHERN PROVINCE</u>	
1. Major General W G H A Senarath Bandara - Jaffna	572 Brigade Commander in 2009.
2. Major General K N Sampath Kotuwegoda - Kilinochchi	Frontline combat in artillery regiment in 2008 at least - present at Madhu Church late 2008.
3. Major General R M P Jagath Rathnayaka - Mullaittivu	4GW until April 2008 - Roshan Jayamanne (see below) his deputy. Not known thereafter.
4. Major General W L Priyantha W Perera - Vavuniya	631 Bde. Commander in Jan 2009 (under Task Force 3); 631 in Mankulam in Feb. 2009.
5. Major General A A Indrajith ⁷ J Bandara - Mannar.	12 SLSR under 57 Division in 2008 then 641 under TF4 in 2009 which was in PTK in late Feb. 2009.
<u>NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE</u>	
6. Major General Jagath Chinthaka Gamage - Polonnaruwa	Defence Services Command and Staff College from 2007 to 2009.
7. Major General H L Vikum M Liyanage - Anuradhapura	Gajaba Regiment.
8. Major General Andige Priyanka Indunil Fernando Fernando - Puttalam	Found guilty of a public order offence by a UK court after making throat slitting gestures at Tamil Protestors; he is appealing. 59 Division in war.
9. Brigadier P M R H S K Herath - Kurunegala	9VIR Commander with 57 Division at Killinochchi and then 58 Division.
<u>WESTERN PROVINCE</u>	
10. Major General K Wasantha R de Abrew - Colombo	Was in first contingent sent to Haiti in 2004 ¹ when child SEA started. Then 551 Division Commander leading assault on Chundikulam (south of Elephant Pass).
11. Major General N R Lamahewage - Gampaha	8GR as adjutant to Shavendra Silva in 1995-6.
12. Brigadier K N D Karunapala - Kalutara	
<u>CENTRAL PROVINCE</u>	
13. Major General H P N Kumar Jayapathirane - Nuwara Eliya	
14. Major General Sarada ⁸ M S P B Samarakoon - Kandy	10 th Gajaba Regiment and 581 Bde. in 2008 ⁹ .
15. Major General Sandara Upul Mayura Nishantha Manage - Matale	Defence Services Command and Staff College from 2009-10. (not in combat)

⁶ <http://www.newswire.lk/2020/12/31/senior-army-officers-appointed-for-25-districts-to-coordinate-covid-19-control-work/>

⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/SriLankaArmyDefendersoftheNation/posts/brigadier-indrajith-bandara-of-the-sri-lanka-sinha-regiment-assumed-duties-as-th/911702502512643/> 54 Div CO

<https://alt.army.lk/sfhqwanni/54division>

⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/199551530538/permalink/10158415842800539/>

⁹ <https://www.nation.lk/2008/07/20/militarym.htm>

<http://archives.sundayobserver.lk/2008/07/20/sec01.asp>

<u>SABARAMMUWA PROVINCE</u>	
16. Brigadier J M Roshan N K Jayamanna - Ratnapura	2008 2iC 4GW
17. Brigadier L A Janaka L B Udowita - Kegalle	10 V GR - 58 Division. Attacks on PTK area & Pooneryn, Vishwamadu.
<u>EASTERN PROVINCE</u>	
18. Major General C D Weerasuriya - Trincomalee	15 Feb. 2007-12 Dec. 2008: 4SLLI ¹ (631 Bde.) 512 brigade Commander in 2011
19. Major General T D Weerakoon - Ampara	Artillery March 2007- 29 Jan 2009; 6 th field regiment of Sri Lanka artillery.
20. Major General C D Ranasinghe - Batticaloa	
<u>UVA PROVINCE</u>	
21. Brigadier E A P Ediriweera - Badulla	20 SLLI DEC. 2008-10 which was part of 66 Div. infantry in 2009.
22. Colonel D U N Serasinghe - Monaragala	Under command of Kamal Gunaratne in 1997 ¹⁰ .
<u>SOUTHERN PROVINCE</u>	
23. Major General D M Hemantha ¹¹ D Bandara - Hambantota	6SLSR: 2008.
24. Major General W A S Sanjaya Wanasinghe - Galle	Was Directorate of Overseas Operations (in charge of peacekeeping) ¹² . 2008: 8GW under Shavendra Silva ¹³
25. Colonel K A U Kodituwakku - Matara; SLAC.	Artillery in 2009 ¹⁴ .

¹⁰ Facebook site on file.

¹¹ <https://alt.army.lk/slsr/contact-colonel-commandant>

<https://www.army.lk/news/newly-appointed-colonel-regiment-slsr-takes-over-duties-0>

¹² <https://www.hirunews.lk/english/242988/two-senior-brigadiers-promoted-to-the-rank-of-major-general-photo>

¹³ <https://www.nation.lk/2008/05/11/militarym.htm>

¹⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/sri-lanka/rockets-and-rubble-sri-lanka-troops-press-campaign>

<http://220.247.247.85:8081/bitstream/handle/123456789/21908/2016-10-28%28-1%29E.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>

P 1148, number 124.

Northern Province

1. Major General W G H A Senarath Bandara – Jaffna

573 Brigade Commander April – Oct 2008¹⁶; Staff Number O/60568; 5GW; 572 Brigade Commander¹⁷ both when Madhu Church captured in 2008 (he claimed responsibility for the capture) and reported present in March 2009 in Sugandipuram jungle in final war zone¹⁸. See ITJP Jagath Dias dossier for more information on Madhu.¹⁹

2. Major General K N Sampath²⁰ Kotuwegoda – Kilinochchi;

SLAC. (artillery) in frontline combat in 2008²¹. 2007: 111th SLAC. Present in Madhu Church Nov. 2008 – see ITJP Jagath Dias dossier for more information on Madhu.²² His location in 2009 is unknown.

3. Major General R M P Jagath Rathnayaka – Mullaittivu

4GW 2007-8²³. Injured in April 2008 in Muhamalai where he was described as being responsible for the FDL. ²⁴. Staff Number O/60749.

4. Major General W L Priyantha W Perera – Vavuniya;

Staff Number O/60757²⁵. 7GW²⁶ in 2008 under 59 Division. 2009 Jan.: Commander of the 631 Brigade²⁷ (under Task Force 3 then led by Satyapriya Liyanage). According to 27 Feb. 2009 MOD Situation

¹⁵ <http://www.newswire.lk/2020/12/31/senior-army-officers-appointed-for-25-districts-to-coordinate-covid-19-control-work/>

¹⁶ <https://alt.army.lk/sfkilinochchi/573-brigade>

¹⁷ <http://archives.sundayobserver.lk/2008/04/27/sec03.asp>

Name - <https://www.army.lk/news/11-div-troops-go-abimansala-3-account-army-anniversary>

<https://www.nation.lk/2008/07/20/militarym.htm>

Lt Col Senerath Bandara returned to 57 Division after undergoing an overseas training programme, as Brigade Commander of 572 Brigade, in place of Lt. Col. Dhammika Jayasundara - <https://www.nation.lk/2009/02/08/militarym.htm> - 572 Brigade under Lt Col Senerath Bandara and 574 Brigade under Senka Wijesuriya were proceeding from the direction of Vishvamadu.

It was on September 06, 2007 that Lt. Colonel Senerath Bandara, who was the Colonel GS of the 57 Division, took over the command of the 572 Brigade which was heading towards the Thampanai village along the Madhu road.

The Brigade comprised 10 SLLI under Lt. Colonel Jagath Kodithuwakku, 7 SLLI under Lt. Colonel Ranjith Abeyratne and 7 SR under the command of Lt. Colonel. Palitha Fernando.

<http://archives.sundayobserver.lk/2009/10/25/sec03.asp>

¹⁸ <https://www.nation.lk/2009/03/08/militarym.htm>

¹⁹ <http://www.aparchive.com/metadata/youtube/7d68a74ce3315a4b382a6fdd1bcc3202>

Section 3.1 on Madhu in the report names Bandara: https://itjpsl.com/assets/ITJP_Jagath_Dias_dossier-final.pdf

²⁰ <https://www.army.lk/news/new-kilinochchi-commander-maj-gen-sampath-kotuwegoda-assumes-office>

²¹ http://cdnedge.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/from_our_own_correspondent/7740527.stm

Lt Col KNS Kotuwegoda said the fighting was like Vietnam, bunkers and booby traps in the jungles.

Gunner <http://www.gunner.lk/regiment.php?id=14>

²² <http://www.aparchive.com/metadata/youtube/7d68a74ce3315a4b382a6fdd1bcc3202>

Section 3.1 on Madhu in the report names Bandara: https://itjpsl.com/assets/ITJP_Jagath_Dias_dossier-final.pdf

²³ <https://alt.army.lk/highlanders/4gw> until 20 April 2008

Kilali 4GW <https://www.nation.lk/2008/02/03/militarym.htm>

²⁴ <https://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=25301>

²⁵ Promoted 2020 <https://www.army.lk/news/biggest-ever-share-army-promotions-effected-national-independence-day>

²⁶ <http://archives.sundayobserver.lk/2009/11/29/sec03.asp>

<http://archives.dailynews.lk/2008/07/11/fea02.asp>

<http://archives.sundayobserver.lk/2008/10/12/sec03.asp>

²⁷ <https://www.nation.lk/2009/04/18/militarym.htm>

<http://archives.sundayobserver.lk/2008/11/09/sec03.asp>

Report, 631 brigade was in Mankulam in the Vanni. TF3 attached Oddusudan- PTK road from the south with the 59 Division.

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5. Major General A A Indrajith²⁸ J Bandara – Mannar.

12 SLSR under 57 Division²⁹ in 2008 then 641 Brigade under Task Force 4 in 2009 which according to MOD Situation Report of 27 Feb. 2009 was in Puthukkudiyiruppu (PTK) 'engaging with the enemy' - ie. In the final offensive. On 1 Feb 2009 it was with 57 Division and on 29 Jan.2009 assisted 57, 58 and 59 Divisions with recapturing Mullaitivu. TFF was led by Nishantha Wanniarachchi.

North Central Province

6. Major General Jagath Chinthaka Gamage³⁰ – Polonnaruwa

Not in final war - Directing Staff at Defence Services Command and Staff College from 2007 to 2009³¹.

7. Major General Hettigoda Liyanage Vikum Mahendra Liyanage³² – Anuradhapura

Gajaba Regiment³³. 8GR 2006³⁴.

Staff number O/60836.

Mannar Brigade commander in 2009 after the war.³⁵

<http://archives.dailynews.lk/2008/11/07/fea02.asp>

<http://archives.dailynews.lk/2008/11/14/fea03.asp>

<http://archives.dailynews.lk/2008/11/18/sec01.asp>

<http://archives.dailynews.lk/2008/11/21/fea03.asp>

<http://archives.sundayobserver.lk/2008/11/23/sec01.asp>

<http://archives.sundayobserver.lk/2008/12/21/sec03.asp>

<http://archives.sundayobserver.lk/2008/12/07/sec03.asp>

<http://archives.dailynews.lk/2009/01/16/fea03.asp>

Photo <http://archives.dailynews.lk/2008/06/13/fea03.asp>

²⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/SriLankaArmyDefendersoftheNation/posts/brigadier-indrajith-bandara-of-the-sri-lanka-sinha-regiment-assumed-duties-as-th/911702502512643/> 54 Div CO

<https://alt.army.lk/sfhqwanni/54division>

²⁹ 571 - <http://archives.dailynews.lk/2008/11/07/fea02.asp>

The Daily News, 7 Nov 2008

"Columns of troops attached to the 9 Gajaba Regiment under the command of Lt. Colonel Chandana Somaweera and 12 Sinha Regiment under the command of Lt. Colonel Indrajith Bandara entered this village and confronted groups of Tiger cadres operating inside this village."

Troops focus on opening land route to Jaffna soon, <http://archives.dailynews.lk/2008/11/07/fea02.asp>

Captain - from hospital bed to lead fight, Shanika SRIYANANDA Reporting from Akkarayankulam,

http://www.thummansala.com/A-November-2008/News_Nov9_CaptainFrom.php

At the dawn of the January 2, troops of the 572 Brigade, 12 Sinha Regiment which was under the command of Lt. Colonel Indrajith Bandara and now led by its second in command, 9 Gajaba Regiment under the command of Lt. Colonel Chandana Somaweera, and 4 Sinha Regiment entered the centre of Kilinochchi after advancing one kilometre across the build up area in the West of Kilinochchi. <https://lrrp.wordpress.com/2009/01/04/>

This says 571 <https://blacklightarrow.wordpress.com/2009/01/14/an-incomplete-sl-army-order-of-battle-for-mullaitivu/>

Then 641 from Dec 2008 <http://archives.dailynews.lk/2008/12/05/fea03.asp>

under TF4 in Jan 2009 <https://www.nation.lk/2009/01/18/militarym.htm>

And March 2009 <https://www.nation.lk/2009/03/01/militarym.htm>

³⁰ Name - <https://alt.army.lk/sfhqeast/content/maj-gen-chinthaka-gamage-takes-over-command-security-force-east>

<https://www.dscsc.lk/index.php/9-organization/771-army-wing-3>

³¹ <https://www.dscsc.lk/index.php/9-organization/771-army-wing-3>

³² <https://www.army.lk/news/new-cts-commandant-takes-office>

<https://www.army.lk/news/new-cts-commandant-takes-office>

[https://s3-ap-southeast-1.amazonaws.com/mytutor.lk/gazette_file/%5b3796644395a4c414fb0cd8%5d-2017-12-29\(I-I\)E.pdf](https://s3-ap-southeast-1.amazonaws.com/mytutor.lk/gazette_file/%5b3796644395a4c414fb0cd8%5d-2017-12-29(I-I)E.pdf)

³³ <https://alt.army.lk/gajabaregiment/content/taking-over-duties-and-guard-honour-newly-appointed-colonel-gajaba-regiment-maj-gen-aks>

<https://www.army.lk/news/gr-creates-history-felicitating-six-new-gr-majors-general-six-parades-saliyapura>

³⁴ <https://alt.army.lk/gajabaregiment/8-gajaba-regiment>

³⁵ <http://archives.dailynews.lk/2009/10/06/spo22.asp>

215 bde in 2010 <http://archives.sundayobserver.lk/2010/09/19/new50.asp>

General Officer Commanding, 21 Division, (Commissioned Officer SL ARMY./ Since Oct 1986) – Present.
Commanding officer 224 Brigade in East of Sri Lanka.
39th Commandant of Combat Training School, Ampara (2019 Sept)
Promoted to the rank of Brigadier (August 2014) & to Major General (February 2020).

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8. Major General Andige Priyanka Indunil Fernando Fernando – Puttalam

Gemunu Watch, Staff Number: O/60847. Promoted after the war in 2009³⁶.
Priyanka Fernando was found guilty of a public order offence by a UK court after making throat slitting gestures at Tamil Protestors, a conviction he is appealing. He was also active in frontline combat in the war³⁷. Current Secretary of Defence, Kamal Gunaratne, said he commanded Brigadier Fernando in the 2009 war³⁸. In March 2019, well aware of the controversy over the throat slitting gesture, Kamal Gunaratne repeated the gesture himself on camera, indicating his support for Brigadier Fernando by saying the whole incident made his blood boil³⁹.

9. Brigadier P M R H S K Herath – Kurunegala

VIR. The regiment's own website says: *"The 9th Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment was established on 17th July 2007 at Irattaperiyakulam Vaunia. Lieutenant Colonel PMRSHK Herath RSP was the first Commanding Officer of the Battalion. Battalion was attached to 57, 58 and 59 Divisions in various situations of the humanitarian operations. 9th Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment played a vital role under 57 division while liberating Kilinochchi town by over running most stronghold earth bunds of the LTTE. After that Battalion was attached with the 58 Division and successfully contributed for humanitarian operations until the end of war."*⁴⁰

Western Province

10. Major General K Wasantha R de Abrew – Colombo

Staff Number O/60938⁴¹.
Was in the first contingent sent to Haiti in 2004 when child sexual exploitation and abuse by Sri Lankan peacekeepers started. 1 SLLI.

³⁶ <http://archives.dailynews.lk/2009/08/17/news28.asp>

³⁷ ITJP Dossier on API Fernando - https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/brigadier_api_fernando_final.pdf

³⁸ Translation: "This is an officer whom I know very well... he is an officer who used to work under me for a while. When I was serving as the commander of the air mobile brigade, one of its units was 5th Gemunu Watch. Priyanka Fernando was the second in command of that unit. At the time the air mobile brigade was stationed in Muhamalai. Muhamalai was the most dangerous place in Sri Lanka at the time. The air mobile brigade was there as an auxiliary force... Priyanka Fernando served as a major at the time."

<http://www.divaina.com/sunday/index.php/visheshanga1/2297-2018-02-09-13-22-12> - heading "This is blood boiling. It should not be mixed up with diplomacy. I would have done the same if I was there".

³⁹ Video 2'29"- 3'28" - throat slitting gesture - https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=9&v=wB3sXNm-PDU&feature=emb_logo

You would all remember that officer making a frightful (mimes) gesture and leaving the place. A day after the incident the 'Divaina' newspaper editor - a classmate of mine, Mr Anura Solomons - called me and asked, "Kamal mate, what have you got to say about this?" My pat answer was, friends, "this is what you call blood boils". So, at that point, Anura Solomons said that he is sending his deputy editor to my home to get an interview about it. After that, the next Sunday there was a whole page of my analysis about it. So, friends, this is what blood boils really is. The best example for that is, the emotion you and I would have when the national flag is being trampled. 31 March 2019

⁴⁰ <https://alt.army.lk/sfkillinochchi/9vir>

⁴¹ <https://www.army.lk/si/news/%E2%80%8D-ලංකා-පාබල-භටුදා-රෙජිමෙන්තුවේ-නව-රෙජිමේන්තු-අධිපති-ලෙස-මේජර්-ජෙනරල්-වසන්ත-ආබා-රාජකාරි>

551 BDE; 24 Apr 2006 –7 Jun 2008.

551 in 2009 January: *GoSL forces over ran Elephant Pass on 09 January 2009*. Translation: “Vanni Commander Major general Jagath Jayasuriya, Jaffna Commander Mendaka Samarasinghe, 55 Division Commander Brigadier Prasanna Silva, 53 Division commander Brigadier kamal Gunaratne and 58 Division Commander Shavendra Silva raised the lion flag, celebrating the victory of rejoining the north and south, in front of the Elephant Pass name board. 55 Div was assigned the special task of liberating the whole of the Jaffna peninsula from the grip of terrorists. The next operation to liberate the Jaffna peninsula upto Chundikulam was launched from Nagarkovil via Vadamarachchi south, with the liberation of Elephant Pass last 9th. The total responsibility of liberating 42 km from Nagar Kovil to Chundikulam was assigned to 551 Brigade under Colonel Wasantha Abrew.”⁴²

11. Major General N Ranjan Lamaheewage – Gampaha

O/60842⁴³

1990: reported to be involved in Jaffna fighting with 1GR of Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Sarath Fonseka. Sumedha Perera and Shantha Dissanayake among others.⁴⁴

8GR Under Shavendra Silva in 1995-6: *“Major LH [Shavendra] C Silva appointed as second in commander of battalion and Captain GHSBJ Werasooriya, captain MDP Sarathkumara, captain DS Ariyawansa and captain WAM Werasooriya appointed as officer commanding in order to A,B,C,D coy and Captain NR Lamaheewage appointed as fist adjutant of the battalion.”*

Alumni - Asia-Pacific Center for Strategic Studies; Promoted to the rank of Brigadier (August 2014).

One report suggests he was a security officer for Gotabaya Rajapaksa in the past⁴⁵.

Made Commander of 513 Brigade (2014)

Commander of GR Regimental Headquarters, Saliyapura (2016)⁴⁶.

Major General (February 2020)

General Officer Commanding (GOC) -14 Division (since November 2020)

12. Brigadier Karunapalalage Nishad Dammika Karunapala⁴⁷ – Kalutara

24 SLLI: 2010-11⁴⁸

Staff Number O/61780.

Commander, 25th Brigade - 2010 Sept. to 2011 Sept.

Colonel General Staff of 56 Division promoted to Colonel (January 2016)

⁴² <https://lrrp.wordpress.com/2009/01/18/%e0%b6%b4%e2%80%8d%e0%b7%8a%e2%80%8d%e0%b6%bb%e0%b6%b7%e0%b7%8f%e0%b6%9a%e0%b6%bb%e0%b6%b1%e0%b7%8a-%e0%b6%9a%e0%b7%9c%e0%b6%a7%e0%b7%94%e0%b7%80%e0%b7%99%e0%b6%ba%e0%b7%92/>

Also <http://archives.sundayobserver.lk/2009/01/18/sec03.asp> (14 Jan. 2009) “The 551 Brigade under the command of Lt. Colonel Wasantha Abrew led the battle towards the Chundikulam with 1 Gemunu Watch and 1 Sri Lanka Light Infantry Battalions reaching Chundikulam by Wednesday afternoon.”

⁴³ <http://220.247.247.85:8081/bitstream/handle/123456789/21908/2016-10-28%28-1%29E.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>

⁴⁴ http://pdfs.island.lk/defence/20130705_153.html

⁴⁵ <https://www.lankaenews.com/news/3040/en>

⁴⁶ <https://www.army.lk/news/gr-troops-welcome-their-new-colonel-regiment>

⁴⁷ https://s3-ap-southeast-1.amazonaws.com/mytutor.lk/gazette_file/15568667662019-04-19-i-i-e.pdf

⁴⁸ <https://alt.army.lk/lightinfantry/25slli>

Central Province

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13. Major General Hetti Pathirana Nanda Kumara Jayapathirane⁴⁹ – Nuwara Eliya

7 GW in 2002⁵⁰ Staff Number O/60506.

2014: Comdt , IPSOTSLS.

Contingent Commander of 13th UNPKO Bn. in Haiti

Studied at Bandarawela Central College

Commander 592 Brigade - From June 2010 to January 2011 -

Until 2013, Deputy Commander 12 Division

Commandant - International Peace Support Operations Training School (IPSOTSLS), Sri Lanka (since April 2014)

Promoted to Brigadier - 2013 March and appointed as the Commander of the regimental centre of GW (March 2013)

Promoted to Major General - 2017 January

Commander 21 Division (2019)

Commander, Security Forces-Central(SF-C) - 2020 Oct.

14. Major General Sarada⁵¹ M S P B Samarakoon – Kandy

10th Gajaba Regiment⁵² and 581 Brigade (58 Division of Shavendra Silva) in 2008 (under Anura Deshapriya Gunawardena)⁵³.

15. Major General Sandara Upul Mayura Nishantha Manage – Matale⁵⁴

Staff Number: O/61067⁵⁵; GOC 53 Div.⁵⁶ promoted Nov 2020⁵⁷.

Not in combat: 2009-10 DCSSC⁵⁸.

Sabarammuwa Province

16. Brigadier J M Roshan N K Jayamanna – Ratnapura

Staff Number: O/61560 – 9GW Commander after the war⁵⁹.

“Roshan Jayamanna, the second-in-command of the 4 GW” in April 2008⁶⁰.

17. Brigadier L A Janaka L B Udowita – Kegalle

10 V GR¹ – 58 Division. 5 Nov 2008 – 23 Sep 2009.

Attacks on PTK¹ area and Pooneryn¹, Vishwamadu¹¹.

⁴⁹ Full name: [http://documents.gov.lk/files/gz/2020/3/2020-03-20\(I-I\)E.pdf](http://documents.gov.lk/files/gz/2020/3/2020-03-20(I-I)E.pdf)

⁵⁰ <https://alt.army.lk/highlanders/7gw>

⁵¹ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/199551530538/permalink/10158415842800539/>

⁵² Regimental website says S M S P B Samarakoon was the first B Coy OC

⁵³ <https://www.nation.lk/2008/07/20/militarym.htm>

The 10th Gajaba, under Lt. Col. Sarada Samarakoon, and the 12th Gajaba under Maj. Saliya Amunugama of 581 Brigade under Lt. Col. Deshapriya Gunawardene was advancing from the 12th-milepost on Pooneryn (A32) highway. The 5th Armoured Corp under Lt. Col. Nihal Samarakoon joined them. July 2008 <https://lrrp2.wordpress.com/2008/07/20/forces-overrun-vidattaltivu/>

<http://archives.sundayobserver.lk/2008/07/20/sec01.asp>

Feb 2008 in Uyilankulam. Daily News, 24 Feb 2008, 9 March 2008.

The Nation Newspaper, 20 Jul 2008.

⁵⁴ Dambulla in Sep 2020 https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?id=473504946332403&story_fbid=1279897395693150

⁵⁵ <http://220.247.247.85:8081/bitstream/handle/123456789/21908/2016-10-28%28-1%29E.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>

⁵⁶ http://www.defence.lk/Article/view_article/2724

⁵⁷ <https://www.army.lk/news/vir's-new-majors-general-honoured-felicitated-rhq-premises>

⁵⁸ <https://www.dscsc.lk/index.php/27-past-directing-staff/83-army-wing>

⁵⁹ <https://alt.army.lk/highlanders/9gw>

⁶⁰ <http://banltte.blogspot.com>

Eastern Province**18. Major General Channa D Weerasuriya – Trincomalee**

Sri Lanka Light Infantry, Staff Number: O/60877, Date of Birth: 15 July 1968.

15 Feb. 2007-12 Dec. 2008: 4SLLI (631 Bde.)

2008 on according to his official biography: “As a Brigade Commander, he commanded 512, 523, 663 Infantry Brigades and Air Mobile Brigade”. 512, 513 & 515 Brigade Headquarters were under the 51 Division in the Security Forces Headquarters-Jaffna (SFHQ-J).

3 Nov 2011: a media report has Channa Weerasuriya handing out scholarships in Jaffna described as 512 brigade commander. 512 Camp in Jaffna is notorious for torture. W15 was tortured there in Feb 2010 and again shortly after signing in at 512 Camp in Feb. 2011. W45 was based there as an informer working for military intelligence identifying former cadres.

19. Major General T D Weerakoon – Ampara

March 2007- 29 Jan 2009: 6th field regiment of sri Lanka artillery which is equipped with Howitzers and field guns.⁶¹

20. Major General C D Ranasinghe – BatticaloaUva Province**21. Brigadier E A P Ediriweera – Badulla**

20 SLLI: Dec. 2008-10 which was part of 66 Div. infantry in 2009⁶².

22. Colonel Don Udaya Nayanapriya Serasinghe – Monaragala

6th Gajaba

Deployed in East (Sittandy, Batticaloa) under the command of Kamal Gunaratna -1997

Brigade Commander - 121 Brigade

Promoted to the rank of Colonel (September 2019)

Southern Province**23. Major General D M Hemantha⁶³ D Bandara – Hambantota**

6SLSR: Jan 2007-Nov. 2008⁶⁴.

24. Major General W A S Sanjaya Wanasinghe – Galle - SLAC

Was Directorate of Overseas Operations (in charge of peacekeeping)⁶⁵.

Son of retired Army Commander General Hamilton Wanasinghe.

2008: 8GW under Shavendra Silva⁶⁶.

⁶¹ <http://gunner.lk/regiment.php?id=5>

⁶² According to <https://alt.army.lk/sfkilinochchi/66division>

⁶³ <https://alt.army.lk/slsr/contact-colonel-commandant>

<https://www.army.lk/news/newly-appointed-colonel-slsr-takes-over-duties-0>

⁶⁴ https://alt.army.lk/slsr/6slsr_appointment

⁶⁵ <https://www.hirunews.lk/english/242988/two-senior-brigadiers-promoted-to-the-rank-of-major-general-photo>

<https://www.army.lk/news/major-general-sanjaya-wanasinghe-receives-insignia-commander>

⁶⁶ <https://www.nation.lk/2008/05/11/militarym.htm>

25. Colonel Kodituwakku Arachchilage Udaya Kodituwakku - Matara; Sri Lanka Artillery
Promoted to Lt. Colonel in January 2009
Commanding Officer, 8th Regiment, Sri Lanka Artillery - 2013
Promoted to the Rank of Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer School of Artillery - from December 2016 to June 2018
Commander 613 Brigade (Since 2020 October).

Ends.

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[REDACTED] AND JUSTICE
[REDACTED] PROJECT [REDACTED]
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