

INTERNATIONAL
TRUTH
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PROJECT



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JOINT PRESS RELEASE: From the Battlefield to the Boardroom – the militarisation of Sri Lanka.

Johannesburg: Dozens of retired military officers are taking over the civil service in Sri Lanka, said journalists and lawyers outside the country. A CHART published by the *International Truth and Justice Project* and *Journalists for Democracy Sri Lanka* names 39 mainly army officers recently given key positions of state by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, himself an ex army officer.

“This is a creeping take over,” said the ITJP’s Executive Director, Yasmin Sooka, *“add to this the centralisation of power in the hands of the President, the nepotism, the cronyism and the appointment to government positions of a shocking number of individuals who still had court cases against them at the time. This amounts to a coup by stealth. Democracy is being steadily eroded.”*

The chart shows loyal military officers exert control over the COVID response, the police, the intelligence services, the prisons, foreign policy, airports, sea ports, customs, utilities, agriculture, fisheries, land development, wildlife protection, and last but not least, the Bribery Commission.

“This is unprecedented militarisation of the state apparatus. Retired and serving military officers have taken over administrative posts, party positions and hefty ministerial portfolios – this will decisively mark the end of the civilian character of the state,” warned Bashana Abeywardane of *Journalists for Democracy in Sri Lanka*. *“The military stands accused of committing unspeakable crimes against the country’s civilian population for over three decades; allowing them to consolidate their power in political and administrative spheres will be irreversible”.*

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
YASMIN SOOKA

	Job	Name	Unit
	COVID ^A		GR=Gajaba Regiment
1	National Operations Centre for Prevention of COVID (NOCPKO); also National Sports Council ¹	General Shavendra Silva, Army Commander	Army - GR
2	COVID19 Healthcare & Social Security Fund	Major General (retired) K.B. Egodawela Chief of Staff to President	Army
3	Secretary, Ministry of Healthcare and Indigenous Medical Services	Major General Sanjeewa Herman Munasinghe ²	Army
4	Additional Secretary of the Disaster Management Division of State Ministry of Internal Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management & Director of the National Disaster Relief Services Centre ³ . DG, Disaster Management Centre ⁴ .	Major General (retired) Sudantha Ranasinghe	Army
SECURITY^B			
5	Defence Secretary	Major General (retired) Kamal Gunaratne	Army - GR
6	Minister of Public Security; State Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government Affairs.	Rear Admiral (retired) Sarath Weerasekera	Navy
7	Secretary to Ministry of Public Security.	Major General (retired) Jagath Alwis ⁵ ; 2020 was Chief of National Intelligence.	Army - GR
8	Rehabilitation Commissioner General	Major General Darshana Hettiarachchi	Army
9	Contractor for Prisons ⁶ .	Major (retired commando) Yapa Hetti Pathirannehelage Nissanka Yapa Senadhipathi	Army
10	Secretary, State Ministry for Prison Management & Prisoners Rehabilitation	Major General (retired) V.R Silva	Army
INTELLIGENCE			
11	Chief of National Intelligence	Major General Ruwan Kulatunga ⁷	Army
12	State Intelligence Service	Major General Suresh Sallay	Army
FOREIGN POLICY			
13	Foreign Secretary	Admiral (retired) Jayanath Colombage ⁸	Navy
14	Coordinating Secretary, Bureau of the Secretary to the Foreign Ministry	Commander Chameera Ranaweera 9.	Navy
15	High Commissioner, Pakistan	Vice Admiral (retired) Mohan Wijewickrema	Navy
16	Ambassador to Afghanistan	Admiral (retired) Piyal de Silva	Navy
INFRASTRUCTURE			
17	Chairman, Sri Lanka Ports Authority	General (retired) Daya Ratnayake 10	Army
18	Director representing Customs on the Ports Authority Board. 11	Major General (retired) G. V. Ravipriya	Army
19	Director (Operations) Port ¹² [also on the Presidential Task Force to ensure health security at tri-forces camps].	Admiral (retired) Samarasinghe Arachchige Maximas Jayantha Perera	Navy

^A Not including the 25 military officers put in charge of civilian health across the nation listed here: <https://itjpsl.com/assets/press/Final-ITJP-JDS-press-release-6-January-2021.pdf>

^B Not including the Presidential Task Force members or most MOD & MOD related institutes or RALL officials. Or defence related appointments, such as to the Ministry of Environment of a retired military officer to handle explosives.

20	Chairman Airport and Aviation (services) ¹³ Also, Bank of Ceylon, Non-executive Director.	Major General (retired) G.A. Chandrasiri	Army
21	Promoted from deputy ¹⁴ to Head of Intelligence & Security Operations, All Airports - Airport & Aviation Services - also acting Head of Security Services.	Lt. Col. (retired) KHC Kumarasinghe ¹⁵	Army - GR
22	Lotus Tower ¹⁶ , promoted from Chief Project coordinator to Head of Management	Major General (retired) Prasad Samarasinghe	Army
23	Ceylon Electricity Board's Vice Chairman	(retired) Captain, Nalinda Illangakoon ¹⁷	Army
24	Consumer Affairs Authority	Chairman is Major General (retired) Shantha Dissanayake	Army - GR
25	Director General of the Department of Multi-Purpose Development Task Force.	Major General (retired) Nanda Mallawarachchi	Army
26	DG , Civil Security Department; Presidential Task Force in charge of Economic Revival and Poverty Eradication. ¹⁸ Chairman of Lanka Sathosa	Rear Admiral (retired) Ananda Peiris ¹⁹	Navy
27	Secretary to the Ministry of Mahaweli, Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Development ²⁰ . Also member of Presidential Task Forces. ²¹	Major General (retired) A.K. Sumedha Perera.	Army - GR
28	Chairman, Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation	Major General (retired) MRW de Zoysa ²²	Army
29	Deputy General Manager (HRD), Sri Lanka Land Reclamation & Development Corporation (Oct. 2020 ²³)	Major General (retired) EK Jagath K Wijayasiri ²⁴	Army
30	Project Manager, Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation	Major General Kumar Herath	Army
31	Director, Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation	Rear Admiral (retired) HR Amaraweera ²⁵	Navy
32	Director Operations, Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation	Major General (retired) Mohan M Sumanasena	Army
33	Manager (Admin), Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation	Major (retired) Jagath Mohan de Silva	Army
34	Manager Operations, Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation	Major (retired) Rohitha Wijepala,	Army
35	Ceylon Fisheries Corporation Chairman	Major General (retired) S.W.Lalith Daulagala ²⁶	Army - GR
36	Vice-president of the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka ²⁷ and President of the Sri Lanka Athletics Association ²⁸ . From Aug 2020 Secretary to the State Ministry of Wildlife Conservation Protection Programmes including Electric Fence and Ditch Construction and Re-forestation and Wildlife Resources Development. ²⁹	Major W. P. Palitha Fernando (retired); former Military Liaison Officer in MOD.	Army
POLITICAL			
37	Governor, Western Province	Marshal of the Air Force (retired) Roshan Goonetilleke	Air Force
38	CIABOC (Bribery Commission)	C.N. Wakishta	Police
39	Presidential COI on Political Victimisation	Inspector General of Police (retired) Chandra Fernando	Police

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- ¹ <https://www.dailynews.lk/2020/08/21/sports/226566/national-sports-council-play-key-role-taking-lankan-sports-next-level>
- ² <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2020/05/11/president-appoints-seven-ministry-secretaries/>
- ³ https://twitter.com/dmc_lk/status/1326913977188806661?s=11
- ⁴ http://www.colombopage.com/archive_20A/Jan03_1578069591CH.php
- ⁵ <https://ceylontoday.lk/news/rtr-major-general-jagath-alwis-assumed-duties-today>
- ⁶ <http://www.dailynews.lk/2020/02/08/local/210827/avant-garde-rs1-bn-project-train-vocational-skills-employ-5000-prison?page=6>
- ⁷ <https://divaina.com/sunday/index.php/puwath-2/15992-2020-12-11-13-10-79>
- <https://www.pressreader.com/sri-lanka/sunday-times-sri-lanka/20201213/281608128020697>
- ⁸ <http://www.idslanka.org/index.php/news-features/politics-a-current-affairs/882-sri-lanka-president-accepts-proposal-to-legalise-impunity-video>
- ⁹ <https://mfa.gov.lk/secretarys-bureau/> <https://lk.linkedin.com/in/chaminda-ranaweera-182bb1a2> has photo <https://www.facebook.com/chameera.h.ranaweera>
- ¹⁰ <https://www.slpa.lk/port-colombo/board-of-directors>
- <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2020/10/27/east-container-terminal-ect-back-in-operation-for-the-01st-time-in-05-years/>
- ¹¹ <https://www.slpa.lk/port-colombo/board-of-directors>
- ¹² <https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/ports-and-shipping-minister-pays-special-port-inspection-visit-to-port-of-colombo/>
- Note: Ravi Wijegunaratne [See ITJP Navy report] served under him as Chief of Staff .http://www.defence.lk/Article/view_article/2149
- ¹³ <http://www.ft.lk/business/Chandrasiri-appointed-Civil-Aviation-Authority-Chairman/34-691866>
- ¹⁴ Deputy in 2010 according to <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/6549717/contd-the-parliament-of-sri-lanka>
- ¹⁵ https://www.airport.lk/aasl/company_overview/our_leadership
- ¹⁶ <https://archive.ceylontoday.lk/news-more/11855>
- <https://economynext.com/sri-lanka-telecom-regulator-asked-find-businesses-to-use-lotus-tower-71097/>
- ¹⁷ <https://island.lk/army-veteran-appointed-vice-chairman-of-ceb-to-handle-optimizing-use-of-renewable-energy/>
- <http://archives.sundayobserver.lk/2001/pix/PrintPage.asp?REF=/2013/06/02/fea06.asp>
- ¹⁸ <http://www.pmdnews.lk/presidential-task-force-on-economic-revival-and-poverty-eradication-established/>
- ¹⁹ <https://english.theleader.lk/news/1004-nushad-perera-removed-cwe-and-lanka-sathosa-to-get-two-new-heads>
- ²⁰ <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2020/05/11/president-appoints-seven-ministry-secretaries/>
- ²¹ <http://bizenglish.adaderana.lk/12-member-high-powered-task-force-for-poverty-eradication-and-livelihood-development/>
- ²² <https://www.lrdcservices.lk/about.html>
- Newly appointed suggested by: <http://www.ft.lk/news/Constructions-of-multiple-canals-stalled-for-three-years-expedited-in-Colombo/56-692846>
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20200321081047/http://landdevelopment.lk:80/web> compared to 2019 website.
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20190423170200/https://landdevelopment.lk/web/>
- ²³ <https://www.facebook.com/sllrdc/posts/1811628718976254/>
- ²⁴ <https://landdevelopment.lk/web/senior-management-team/>
- ²⁵ <https://www.lrdcservices.lk/about.html>
- ²⁶ https://www.cfc.gov.lk/web/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=60&catid=2&Itemid=101&lang=en#
- ²⁷ <https://olympic.lk/nocmpage/9> and <https://www.hirunews.lk/goldfmnews/251716/athletics-chief-accuses-dilrukshi-dias-video>
- ²⁸ <https://www.hirunews.lk/english/251716/athletics-chief-accuses-dilrukshi-dias-video>
- <http://www.dailymirror.lk/sports/Yupun-Abeykoon-fastest-in-South-Asia/244-195606>
- ²⁹ [Government website: <http://www.pmdnews.lk/පහළම-තැන-සිට-වැඩ-අරඹා-තිබේ/>]