

THE MEN NOW PATROLLING SRI LANKA

Dossier
MAY 2019

INTERNATIONAL
TRUTH
AND JUSTICE
PROJECT

A JOINT REPORT WITH JOURNALISTS FOR DEMOCRACY IN SRI LANKA

INTERNATIONAL
TRUTH
AND JUSTICE
PROJECT



THE MEN NOW PATROLLING SRI LANKA

On Easter Sunday 2019, a series of coordinated bomb blasts struck hotels and churches in Sri Lanka killing more than 250 people, including many tourists. The targets were churches in Colombo, Negombo and Batticaloa and five star hotels in the capital. The attacks are thought to have been suicide bombings carried out by a local Islamist group Lanka but Amaq News Agency, a propaganda outlet for the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), later claimed responsibility. Following the attacks there was considerable fear and panic about whether all the perpetrators had been apprehended and the possibility of further bombings. As a result security was stepped up considerably.

The army is quoted by media sources as saying 10,000 troops were deployed in the wake of the tragic Easter Sunday bombings¹. As in the war period, these troops enjoy extraordinary powers to detain any suspect. The re-imposition of the Emergency Regulations confer on the army and police sweeping powers of search and seizure, detention or arrest of any person without a warrant or court approval². The Emergency Regulations are in addition to existing counter-terrorism legislation, overdue to be reformed to bring it in line with international standards³. Worryingly, there has already been a proposal for an immunity provision from prosecution for the Sri Lankan military and especially intelligence services⁴. Shockingly, this call comes from

¹ "Nearly 10,000 soldiers were being deployed across the Indian Ocean state to carry out searches and provide security for religious centres, the military said."

<https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/sri-lanka-warns-of-imminent-terror-attacks-as-death-toll-is-revised-down-by-100-20190426-p51hdb.html>

Same number cited by Reuters: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-sri-lanka-blasts-prayers/guarded-by-soldiers-defiant-sri-lankan-muslims-pray-for-peace-idUSKCN1S20X4>

² Sri Lanka Army troops given powers under Emergency Regulations begin mobile patrols, static duties, vehicle checks & searches, Colombo Page, 25 April 2019, http://www.colombopage.com/archive_19A/Apr25_1556168223CH.php

SEE for more detail: https://www.cpalanka.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/QA_SoE.pdf

³ Sri Lanka had promised the international community it would bring its main piece of counter terrorism legislation, the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), in line with international standards. There was a moratorium on using the PTA for some time but in the last 6 months since the constitutional coup of October 2018, we understand from Sri Lankan lawyers that scores of people have been detained using the PTA.

⁴ [Sri Lanka president accepts proposal to legalise impunity \(VIDEO\)](#), 5 May 2019,

a number of senior military figures who were involved in the 2009 war and who have yet to be held accountable for the alleged war crimes they committed then.

This is a short dossier examining the background of the army commanders currently in control of the deployment of thousands troops in Sri Lanka engaged in the search and seizure of homes and buildings, enforcing curfew and patrolling civilian areas. While the situation in Sri Lanka after the Easter bombings is extremely tense and more security is needed to prevent any further attacks, there is also a need to ensure that the Rule of Law is maintained and that the human rights of all are secured. This question is relevant because the current legal framework in Sri Lanka and the heightened security environment creates a situation where abuses of human rights may occur if there is not careful oversight and control of those who are responsible for the protection of civilians.

Several of the army generals now in charge of deployments played a pivotal role as commanders in the final phase of the civil war in the north of the island when there were grave violations of international humanitarian law and human rights. Two are even named in the 2015 investigation report of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights⁵. One was in charge of the “rehabilitation programme” for Tamil suspected ex combatants, which the UN subsequently said constituted arbitrary detention. Two others were present as commanders in Haiti during the years when there was systematic child sexual exploitation by Sri Lankan peacekeepers there.

DEPLOYMENTS

After the Easter Sunday bombings, an Overall Operations Command (OOC) of the army, navy and air force and the police was established on 29 April 2019, with Major General Sathyapriya Liyanage, the Security Force headquarters – West (SFHQ-W) commander, as its chief⁶. This new body reportedly has jurisdiction over the Western Province and Puttalam⁷. It reports to the Chief of Defence Staff, Admiral Ravindra Wijegunaratne⁸, who was arrested in 2018 and released on bail, on charges of assisting an absconding naval officer who was a suspect in a court case regarding the abduction and enforced disappearance of 11 people in 2008-9. The Admiral was also alleged to have threatened a witness in the case⁹ and in statements contained in the court documents he is alleged to have given money to the absconding suspect who was at the time hiding from the

<http://www.jdslanka.org/index.php/news-features/politics-a-current-affairs/882-sri-lanka-president-accepts-proposal-to-legalise-impunity-video>

⁵ “According to maps compiled by the Defence Ministry, Task Forces 2, 3, 4 and 8 were particularly involved in the final weeks of the conflict. According to the Ministry of Defence website, the following were Commanders of Task Forces: Brigadier Rohana Bandara (Task Force 2); Brigadier Sathyapriya Liyanage (Task Force 3); Colonel Nishantha Wanniarachchi (Task Force 4); Colonel G.V. Ravipriya (Task Force 8).” OISL para 119.

⁶ Joint Operations Command set up in Colombo under Maj.Gen Sathyapriya Liyanage, 29 April 2019, NewsIn Asia, <https://newsin.asia/joint-operations-command-set-up-in-colombo-under-maj-gen-sathyapriya-liyanage/>

⁷ Media reports say Rear Admiral W.A.S.S Perera of the Navy, Air Vice Marshal W.L.R.P Rodrigo of the Air Force and Superintendent of Police L.K.D Anil Priyantha will function as Coordinating Officers of respective services and the Police in the OOC.

Overall Operational Command, Colombo Established with Immediate Effect, 29 April 2019, http://www.colombopage.com/archive_19A/Apr29_1556557522CH.php

Some reports say it answers to the Chief of Defence Staff - <http://www.hirunews.lk/215435/tri-forces-and-police-establish-a-joint-operation-command> and <http://www.dailynews.lk/2019/04/30/local/184238/overall-operational-command-colombo-established>

But others say to the army Commander <https://newsin.asia/joint-operations-command-set-up-in-colombo-under-maj-gen-sathyapriya-liyanage/>

⁸ “Rear Admiral W.A.S.S. Perera of the Navy, Air Vice Marshal W.L.R.P. Rodrigo of the Air Force and SP L.K.D. Anil Priyantha function as OOC Coordinating Officers of the Navy, Air Force and Police respectively and the OOC functions under the Chief of Defence Staff.” Says Army assists Batticaloa church to hold feast, Daily News, 2 May 2019, <http://dailynews.lk/2019/05/02/local/184402/army-assists-batticaloa-church-hold-feast> Also <http://www.hirunews.lk/215435/tri-forces-and-police-establish-a-joint-operation-command>

⁹ <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2018/12/05/cds-ravindra-wijegunaratne-released-on-bail/> and <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/29/sri-lankas-most-senior-military-official-in-court-over-civil-war-abductions>

police in naval headquarters¹⁰. Astonishingly he is still serving as Sri Lanka's most senior security officer in 2019 and on 23 April was briefing diplomats in Colombo on the security situation after the bombings¹¹.

Before this appointment, media reports say Major General Liyanage had already deployed 37 officers and 1,783 soldiers to provide security to churches and religious places in the Western Province¹² and to do foot, vehicle and static patrols in all major cities and suburbs. Similar numbers of troops have been reportedly deployed by Major General Aruna Jayasekara, Commander of the Security Force Headquarters – East, by Major General Kumudu Perera in charge of the SFHQ-Wanni and by Major General Vijitha Ravipriya in charge of the the SFHQ in Kilinochchi and Major General Darshana Hettiarachchi in Jaffna and Major General Dushyantha Rajaguru in Mullaitivu SFHQ and elsewhere the SFHQ-Central and the 53 Division and the 58 Division¹³.

COMMANDERS

The profiles below focus only on the 8 military officers commanding troops on the streets, rather than the higher command structure where there are also alleged war criminals still serving¹⁴.

Haiti

Two of the eight regional headquarters commanders were deployed in Haiti as deputy commanders of Sri Lankan peacekeeper units in the three years when a United Nations investigation later found there had been systematic rape and sexual exploitation of children by multiple Sri Lankan units in multiple locations between 2004 and 2007. A third officer was part of the Sri Lankan team sent to investigate the same allegations in 2007 when they became public. More than a decade later there has been no transparency or criminal accountability for the 125 soldiers repatriated from Haiti to Sri Lanka in 2007 in connection with these very serious allegations. To date not one soldier was held accountable or spent time behind bars despite the gravity of the allegations. We do not know how many of the officers in command positions from 2004-7 were investigated, disciplined or even retrained after serious crimes involving children occurred.

Final Phase of War

At least three of the officers currently deploying soldiers were instrumental in the final phase of the war in Sri Lanka in 2008-9. These men commanded units that were responsible for alleged violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law (including attacks on civilian objects such as hospitals, churches and food distribution points, summary executions, torture, sexual violence and enforced disappearance) as documented by the United Nations, and as such they should have been vetted for further positions in accordance with Sri Lanka's 2015 commitment to the UN Human Rights Council to screen and vet all public and security officials.

¹⁰ Statement by Lt Cmdr Galagamage Laksiri to court, presented on 31 May 2018.

¹¹ "Commander of Defence Services, Admiral Ravindra Wijegunaratne has briefed the envoys about the methodology of explosions, the identification of culprits and the arrests taken place. He also mentioned the strong possibility of links with international terrorists." <https://www.adaderana.lk/news/54584/president-admits-to-lapses-on-part-of-sri-lankan-defence-authorities>

¹² Specific places named are: in Negombo, Colombo, Ratmalana, Dehiwala, Kolonnawa, Rajagiriya, Maharagama, Talangama, Chilaw, Marawila, Kalpitiya, Talawila, Eluwankulama, Dummalasooriya, Kurunegala, Kurana, Kuliyaipitiya, Nikaweratiya, Potuhera, Polgahawela, Wariyapola, Galle, Hiniduma, Gintota, Hirimbura, Dewata, Weligama, Matara, Aturaliya, Akuressa, Kotapola, Horagoda, Balapitiya, Panapitiya, Godapitiya, Kapuwatta, Beruwala, Alutgama, Polkotuwa, Kalutara, Ingiriya, Gurugoda, Rambukkanagama, Kegalle, Rambukkana, Bulathkohupitiya, Warakapola, Yatiyantota, Dummaladeniya, Mawanella, Kotiyakumbura, Ruwanwella, Aheliyagoda, Balangoda, Kahawatta, Tunkama, Udawalawa, etc

Army launches island-wide patrols and search missions to ensure security, Aderana, 25 April 2019. <http://www.adaderana.lk/news/54627/army-launches-island-wide-patrols-and-search-missions-to-ensure-security>

¹³ "In the meantime, troops of 58 Division conducted cordon and search operations in the general areas of Darga Town, Aluthgama, Weligama and Red Cross housing scheme in Moratuwa last morning (2) and arrested eight suspects with a stock of sim cards, forged National Identity Cards, swords, along with eight suspects. Suspects were handed over to the Police." According to <http://www.adaderana.lk/news/54858/security-forces-round-up-more-suspects-as-island-wide-search-ops-continue>

¹⁴ See for example, ITJP's dossier on Shavendra Silva, the current Chief of Army Staff: <http://www.itjpsl.com/reports/shavendra-silva>

“Rehabilitation”

One of the eight officials was in charge of the “rehabilitation” of thousands of Tamils suspected to have been members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in a 2018 report described this “rehabilitation” programme as amounting to illegal detention and recommended the Government of Sri Lanka apologise to those held and offer them reparations. To date, this has not happened.

CONCLUSION

Under UN Resolution 30/1, Sri Lanka promised to vet and also hold accountable security officials involved in the 2009 war. This never happened. Now the officers profiled in this dossier are entrusted with enormous power over civilians once again even though they were previously in command of operations that failed to protect civilians in the war zone, failed to protect vulnerable children for whom they had a duty of care and in one case oversaw the arbitrary detention of suspects held illegally. This poses an enormous potential risk to rule of law.

SUMMARY CHART OF ARMY OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF DEPLOYMENT

1	SFHQ-West ¹⁵	Major General Sathyapriya Liyanage	37 Officers and 1783 soldiers	Task Force 3 in final phase of war; named in UN report
2	SFHQ-East	Major General Aruna Jayasekara	45 officers and 1136 soldiers	2005 deputy commander UN peacekeepers in Haiti when there were child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) allegations
3	SFHQ-Wanni ¹⁶	Major General Kumudu Perera	52 officers and 970 soldiers	Investigating officer for child SEA allegations in Haiti 2004-7
4	SFHQ-KLN	Major General Vijitha Ravipriya	10 Officers and 491 soldiers	Task Force 8; named in UN report
5	SFHQ-J	Major General Darshana Hettiarachchi	28 Officers and 454 soldiers	Commissioner General of Rehabilitation, which UN says was illegal detention
6	SFHQ-MLT	Major General Dushyantha Rajaguru	Unknown number	May have been involved in final phase of war – military intelligence
7	SFHQ-Cen ¹⁷	Major General Laksiri Waduge	Unknown number	Present in frontline combat in final war (PTK) in 2009.
8	24 Division Commander	Major-General L. Mahinda Mudalige	Personally assumed operational command in Amapara region.	2 nd in command of the 6 th contingent of peacekeepers sent to Haiti, when troops were repatriated for alleged child SEA
			5006 total¹⁸	

¹⁵ 143 BDE under 14 Division; 12 Division in Hambantota; 8 Gemunu Watch in Moneragala.

According to: <http://www.adaderana.lk/news/54858/security-forces-round-up-more-suspects-as-island-wide-search-ops-continue> and <http://www.dailynews.lk/2019/05/03/local/184573/ntj-t-shirts-bank-slips-mysterious-blood-collecting-syringes-among>

¹⁶ Involving 20 Gajaba Regiment of 662 BDE. <http://www.adaderana.lk/news/54858/security-forces-round-up-more-suspects-as-island-wide-search-ops-continue>

¹⁷ 9SLSR, 23GR, 18GW and 3 SL National Guard troops of 121 and 122 BDES of 12 Division involved, and “11 Division troops in Kandy under the SFHQ-Cen in the past couple of days have been conducting cordon and search operations in the general areas of Kandy, Nawalapitiya, Gampola, Peradeniya, Akurana, Katugastota, Madawala and other areas on the directions of the General Officer Commanding, 11 Division of the SFHQ-Cen”, according to <http://www.adaderana.lk/news/54858/security-forces-round-up-more-suspects-as-island-wide-search-ops-continue>

¹⁸ <http://www.adaderana.lk/news/54627/army-launches-island-wide-patrols-and-search-missions-to-ensure-security>

1. SATHYAPRIYA D. T. LIYANAGE



CAREER

1984	JOINED ARMY AS A CADET
1985	JOINED 1 ST RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT OF SLAC ¹⁹
UNKNOWN	5 SLAC 2 ND IN COMMAND
	4 SLAC COMMANDING OFFICER
	TRINCOMALEE TOWN COMMANDANT
	DEPUTY GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING OF THE 55 INFANTRY DIVISION
	TRAINED IN PAKISTAN, INDIA, BANGLADESH, USA
2008-9	TASK FORCE 3
	As the UN report describing a Task Force: "This was an ad-hoc grouping put together for a specific task requiring a separate formation command. It was hierarchically equivalent to a division, but had the size of a strong brigade. It comprised a mixture of existing units 'borrowed' from other formations and new units that were raised by new recruitment during the rapid expansion of the army." ²⁰
31 JULY 2009	GENERAL COMMANDING OFFICER 52 DIVISION ²¹
2011-12	CHIEF INSTRUCTOR DEFENCE SERVICES COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE ²² AND AT SOME POINT COMMANDANT OF THE ARMoured CORPS TRAINING CENTRE
2014	64 INFANTRY DIVISION COMMANDER ²³
AUG 2016	MILITARY LIAISON OFFICER OF THE MOD ²⁴
5 DEC 2016	SRI LANKA ARMoured CORP, REGIMENTAL COMMANDER ²⁵
8 JAN 2017	MASTER GENERAL ORDINANCE (MGO) ²⁶
2018	SFHQ – WEST, COMMANDER ²⁷
26 APRIL 2019	COMMANDANT OF THE SRI LANKA ARMY VOLUNTEER FORCE (SLAVF) ²⁸
19 May 2019	INVOLVED IN PLANNING ARMY VICTORY CELEBRATIONS WITH ALLEGED WAR CRIMINAL SHAVENDRA SILVA ²⁹ .

¹⁹ <http://www.dailynews.lk/2018/04/02/features/147205/appreciations-02-04-2018>

²⁰ OISL para 119

²¹ Lt Gen Jayasuriya makes his first visit to Jaffna after assumption of office, MOD, 31 July 2009.

²² http://dscsc.lk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=18&Itemid=19

²³ <https://defence.pk/pdf/threads/sri-lanka-assures-support-to-raise-bangladesh-womens-corps-unit.340168/>

²⁴ <http://www.sundaytimes.lk/article/1007670/indian-ndc-delegation-visits-colombo>

²⁵ <https://alt.army.lk/slac/regimental-commander-colonel-commandants?>

²⁶ <https://www.pressreader.com>

²⁷ <http://www.airforce.lk/news.php?news=3597> and <http://www.airforce.lk/afsc/news.php?id=3597>

²⁸ <https://www.army.lk/news/major-general-sathyapriya-liyanage-new-slavf-commandant>

²⁹ http://www.dailymirror.lk/print/front_page/'Decade-of-Peace'---commemoration-from-May-19-to-22/238-167342

FINAL WAR

Given the battle locations of the unit under the command of Major General Liyanage during the final phase of the war, there is a reasonable probability that both him and men under his command were involved in the commission of alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity. These allegations have not been investigated credibly inside Sri Lanka over the last decade, but have been investigated by a number of UN bodies who found reasonable grounds to say the violations occurred.

At the very least, pending a criminal investigation, Major General Liyanage should have been vetted and screened before being appointed to any position. Vetting all public and security officials was one of Sri Lanka's commitments in 2015 to the UN Human Rights Council in Resolution 30/1.

Troops in 2019 being deployed by Major General Liyanage come from, among others, one unit involved in the 2009 war³⁰. This was the 8 SLSR under 58 Division – this unit was also under 58 Division in 2008-9 and instrumental in the final war in the north³¹.

TASK FORCE 3 2008-9 WAR LOCATIONS

In operations which began in November 2008 and continued into December 2008, Task Forces 3 and 4 reportedly captured the Mankulam – Oddusudan A34 road and then moved to Thanniutti on the A9 highway³². Media sources confirm Task Force 3 at this point was led by Brig. Sathyapriya Liyanage who launched operations from west of the A9 highway³³. In late December 2008/January 2009, reports say 632

³⁰ "In the same manner, 222 Brigade troops prioritizing national security concerns also carried out simultaneous cordon search operations in the general areas of Wan Ela and Serunuwara. Following items were recovered during those operations: 2 Air rifles, 5 swords, 3 suspicious motor bikes, 1 locally-made rifle, a map of the ancient Seruwawila Buddhist temple. Troops arrested two suspects in this connection. 5 Sri Lanka Artillery (SLA) and 22 VIR troops of the 222 Brigade participated in this operation which lasted for more than six hours.

Meanwhile, troops of 8 SLSR in the 58 Division and the Security Force Headquarters – West (SFHQ-West) in combined cordon and search operations in the general area of Kotiyakumbura. Kegalle found 11 petrol bombs, 2 Walkie-talkies, 16 Passports, 9 knives, 12 mobile phones, 4 WiFi routers, 2 Hand Grenades, 8 Hand Axes, 3 Swords, 1 Nanchakku, 1 Binocular, 1 GPS and the trouser of an Army-like desert combat kit. Several suspects were arrested by the Army and handed over to the Police for further investigations."

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=Mahinda%20Mudalige>

³¹ "On 5th June 2008 the Battalion was detached from the 58 Division and was attached to the 57 Division to operate in Palampiddi and actively participated in capturing Kalmadu, Nochchikulam, Marathamadu, Navi and Palamodai. After consolidating control of the area the Battalion advanced along the A9 road up to Puliyanakulam and led the battle in capturing Mathiyamadu and Nedunkerni. Later, the Battalion actively took part in the operations that resulted in liberating Muthiyankadu and in the process succeeded in capturing terrorist training camps, factories, farms, machinery and weapons. A submarine construction site and a submarine test facility was also capture during the operations conducted in Udayarkattukulam..... At the final stages of the 'Wanni Humanitarian Operation' the Battalion operated along the A35 road in Mullaitivu, Chundikulam, Championpattu and Chalai. In the operations conducted to liberate the North and East from cruel clutches of terrorists 2 officers and 84 other ranks of the Battalion made the supreme sacrifice making the total number of members of the Battalion to have laid their lives since the inception of the battalion, 7 officers and 188 other ranks. "Regimental webpage At the end of the Humanitarian Operation the Battalion was relieved from its duties at Chalai in Mullaitivu and in 1st December 2009 moved to Thunukkai to be placed under command to the 653 Brigade of the 65 Division and took over duties from the 6 SLSR.

³² Ahmed S Hashim book, When CounterInsurgency Wind, Page 158.

ALSO: "The first confrontation of the Task Force 3 reported 2.30 PM when the infantrymen confronted with a group of terrorists in the Vannivilankulam area, in the West of Mankulam junction. According to the battlefield reports troops have found 2 bodies of slain LTTE cadres along with two T-56 rifles."

MOD Situation Reports on 03rd Nov 2008

"Apart from the main battlefronts, Army Task Force 3 is gaining domination over A-9 road from Panikkankulam to Mankulam and towards the East of the road."

MOD Situation Reports on 12th Nov 2008

"TF-3 troops close-in on Mankulama: LTTE faces major setback- Mullaitivu. Task Force -3 troops inducted west of the A-9 trunk road off Mankulama in the western Mullaitivu battlefield have commenced marching towards the strategically important Mankulama junction, since dawn today (Nov 16)."

MOD Situation Reports on 16th Nov 2008

"Troops overrun Mankulama: LTTE flee amidst heavy casualties- Mullaitivu. Troops of the task Force-3 flanked west of the A-9 main road at Vannivilankulama..."

MOD Situation Report on 17 November 2008

"Troops of Task Force 3 operating east of Mankulam have gained total control over the Olumadu Village reaching to a significant stage in the Wanni liberation operation this evening (Nov 25)."

MOD Situation Report on 25 November 2008

"Terrorists take heavy beating: scores killed, many injured - Kilinochchi.....At the Mullaitivu battlefield, TF -2 troops continued consolidating liberated territory east of the A-9 trunk road. Separately, troops of the TF-3 have reportedly met with intermittent LTTE resistance while advancing in general area east of Olumadu, security sources added."

MOD Situation Reports on 12th December, 2009

³³ "TF III was commanded by Brig. Sathyapriya Liyanage launched operations from Vannivilankulam, west of A-9. It was the second fighting formation to manoeuvre along with west-east axis across A-9. The first was Task Force II (TF II) commanded by Brig. Rohana Bandara. Although TF II launched operations in June 2008, it was TF III which first overran an LTTE base on A-9. TF I was yet to reach A-9. Having completed operations on the western flank with the liberation of Pooneryn, TF I was positioned about ten kilometres west of Paranthan, while the 57 Division continued to consolidate its position at Kokavil, 12 km south of Kilinochchi on A-9 road. The LTTE overran Kokavil detachment in July 1990

Brigade, under Task Force 3 commanded by Liyanage, captured an LTTE air strip in Mullaitivu³⁴. During January 2009, Task Force 3 then advanced in a south to north direction³⁵.

Two analyses of the military strategy suggested that Task Force 3 was a pivotal part of the offensive by 55, 57 and 58 Divisions in January 2009³⁶. Indeed another writer commented on this article that “Task Force 3 was the battlefield reserve until the 57th and 58th slowed down in the Tharmapuram-Visvamadu area. TF3 was then committed and the reserve role switched to the new Task Force 5...”.

during Ranasinghe Premadasa’s presidency. The base fell due to the army’s failure to move reinforcements to save two platoons commanded by Lt. Saliya Upul Aladeniya. TF III captured an armour plated truck during the battle for Mankulam. Swarnam and his elite bodyguards fled leaving the vehicle behind when TF III troops fired at it.”

<http://slwaronterror.blogspot.com/2012/11/tigers-retreat-on-all-fronts.html>

“Having commenced operations from the Vannivilankulam in November 2008, Brigadier Liyanage commanded his troops to capture key junction town Mankulam on the A-9 road, Olumadu and Ampakamam in the East of A-9 road.”

<http://archives.dailynews.lk/2009/06/03/supstory.asp?id=s01>

“Task Force III the fifth offensive Division added to the Wanni operation was led by the keen Army officer Brigadier Satyapriya Liyanage. They marched southwards from Murukkandi to Mankulam on the A-9 Road upto Ampakamam and Puthukudiyiruppu West after capturing Olumadu on the Mankulam Mullaitivu Road

The Valient men who led ground troops, Sunday Observer, 15 May 2011, <http://archives.sundayobserver.lk/2011/05/15/victory.asp?id=s06>

“In support of the overall ground forces effort, Lt. Gen. Fonseka launched Task Force III under Brigadier Satyapriya Liyanage to move across the A9 road from the west to the east.”

REVISITED: November 201 <http://slwaronterror.blogspot.com/2016/11/14/17-Muhamalai-debacles-and-Elephant-Pass-triumph-1-Nov-2016>.

³⁴ “Subsequent to continuous offensive operations conducted by the troops of the 632 brigade commanded by Lieutenant Colonel SUBHASHANA WELIKALA operating under the Task Force-III commanded by Brigadier SATHYAPRIYA LIYANAGE, captured the LTTE runway in the jungle area about 2 km east of oldKANDYroad south of IRANAMADU.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzNwfKLUF30>

“The main LTTE runway situated east of Iranamadu Tank was captured by the 63-2 Brigade of the Task Force 111 commanded by Brigadier Sathyapriya Liyanage.” <https://www.nation.lk/2009/01/18/military.htm>

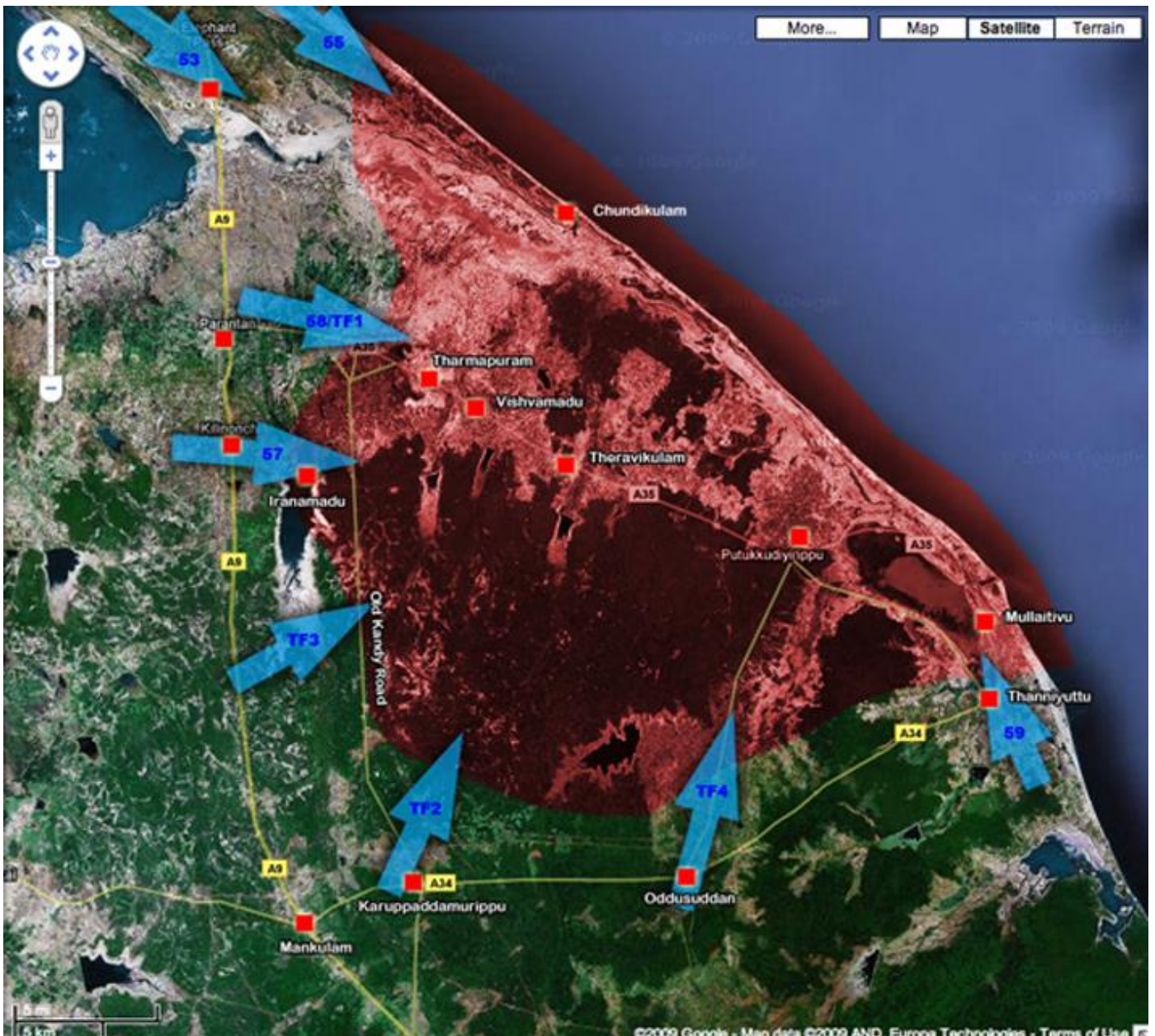
³⁵ “The Task Force II under the command of Brigadier Rohana Bandara, Task Force III under the command of Brigadier Satyapriya Liyanage and Task Force IV under the command of Colonel Nishantha Wanniarachchi are heading in a South to North direction capturing all these assets of the LTTE.” Desperate Tigers intensify terror, 1 February 2009, Sunday Observer.

³⁶ “With LTTE defences concentrated against the 57th, 58th, and 55th divisions, the smaller TF3, TF2, and TF4 advanced rapidly from the south, with TF4 striking in the direction of Puthukkudiyiruppu. The LTTE had to choose. If it withdrew down the A35 — thus losing Vishvamadu and Theravikulam rapidly to the 57th and 58th divisions — it would also lose much of the coast between Mullaitivu and Chundikulam, along with its Sea Tiger bases. If it withdrew from the southern part of the triangle, its defences on the A35 would be soon outflanked. In the event, it looks like the LTTE chose the latter option. TF3, TF2, and TF4 advanced rapidly towards Puthukkudiyiruppu and the A35. The Tigers had chosen to hold the coast instead of the jungle.”

<https://blacklightarrow.wordpress.com/2009/01/26/the-advance-to-mullaitivu-phase-2/>

“The Sri Lanka Army (SLA) will soon deploy Task Force 3 (TF3) to the Wanni theater of battle which is getting heated up by the day. TF3, which is raised with both offensive and defensive capabilities in mind, will mostly likely be deployed in areas recaptured by the army’s 57 and 58 divisions. Deployment of TF3 will no doubt increase SLA’s ability to defend a possible LTTE counterattack similar to the unceasing waves.”

Army to deploy Task Force 3 to Wanni battlefield, 27 Oct 2008, <http://defencenet.blogspot.com/2008/10/army-to-deploy-task-force-3-to-wanni.htm>



The Ministry of Defence's own situation reports say Task Force 3 was heading from Mullaitivu towards Vishwamadu around 19 January 2009³⁷. On 20 January, just as the No Fire Zone was announced, Task Force 3 was south of Vishwamadu and by 23rd January advancing with the 59 and 57 Divisions based at Mullaitivu³⁸. In February 2009, the MOD says Task Force 3 was south of the A35 road fighting from PTK town

³⁷ "LTTE underground fuel storage found – Dharmapuram. Troops of 58 Division while conducting further consolidating operations in Dharmapuram area, Mullaitivu, have found 300 fuel barrels which had been buried by the LTTE terrorists this morning, 19 January. TF-3 troops confront with terrorists; 4 LTTE bodies found – Mullaitivu. Troops of Task Force 3 (TF3) heading towards Viswamadu have confronted with a group of LTTE terrorists in general area northeast of Ampakamam in Mullaitivu during the day hours today, 19 January."

MOD Situation Reports on 19th January, 2009

³⁸ "Army Task Force 2 & 3 give heavy beating to LTTE – Mullaitivu. Sri Lanka Army Task Force 2 soldiers operating east of the Udayarkattukulam tank and the Task Force 3 soldiers operating south of the Vishwamadukulam tank, in the Teravil-Oddusuddan forest reserve have been engaged in heavy confrontations with the terrorists since this morning (Jan 20). According to the latest battlefield reports, troops of 6 Vijayaba Infantry Regiment (6 VIR) belonging to the Task Force 2 have sprung an ambush targeting the terrorists detected in the East of Udayarkattukulam around 8 AM. During subsequent search, troops have found 4 bodies of slain LTTE cadres, 1 T-56 rifle and a motor vehicle. Elsewhere, troops of 8 Sinha Regiment (8 SR) of the Task Force 2 have captured a terrorists base around 8.10 AM. Battlefield reports revealed that 5 well fortified overhead bunkers and a hut were found in the captured base. The Task Force 3 troops have confronted a group of terrorists detected south of Vishwamadukulam area around 8.40 AM. Three bodies of slain LTTE cadres along with three T-56 rifles have been found during subsequent search."

MOD Situation Reports on 20th January, 2009

"Air Force jets, helicopter gunships continue raids at LTTE positions- Mullaitivu. SLAF jets and MI-24 helicopter gunships continued air sorties at identified LTTE resistance positions in support of the advancing 59 Div, 57 Div and TF-3 troops at Mullaitivu, today (Jan 23)."

MOD Situation Reports on 23rd January, 2009

to Vishwamadu³⁹. All of this means the Task Force 3 was an integral part of the offensive which involved attacking the first “No Fire Zone” which was located on the other side of the A35 road.

Media reported that TF3 was the unit that discovered 4 LTTE submarines in late January⁴⁰. Indeed the accompanying map in the contemporaneous report of the local newspaper, the Sri Lankan Sunday Times, clearly shows the marking of the No Fire Zone which we know from the 2015 UN investigation report was repeatedly attacked by Sri Lankan artillery units.

The United Nations OHCHR Investigation into Sri Lanka (OISL 2015, paragraph 88) report stated:

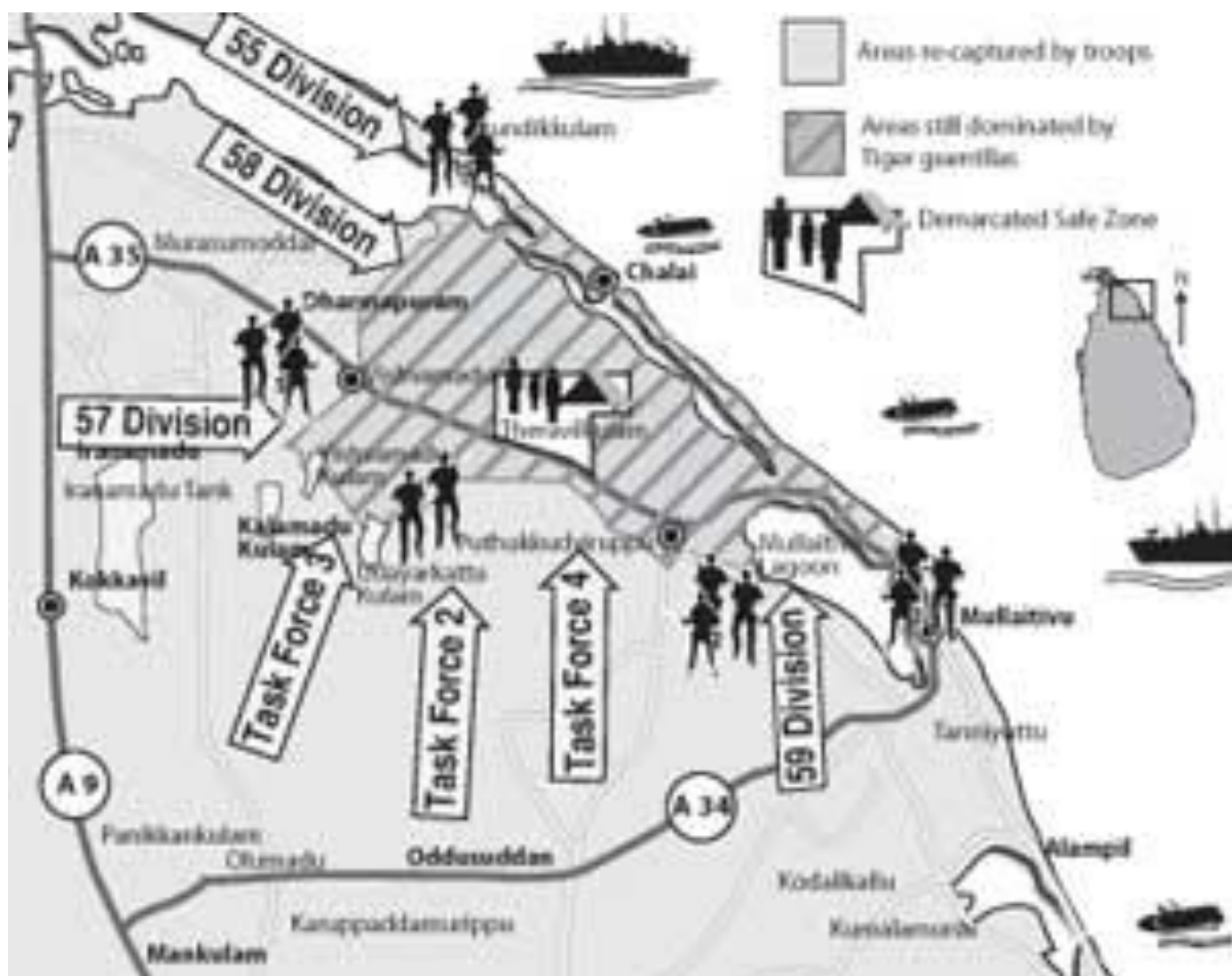
“Throughout late January and early February, the SLA continued to advance eastwards along the A35. Heavy fighting continued as the SLA advanced towards Puthukkudiyiruppu (PTK) hospital. The shelling of the area in and around the first NFZ had become so intense with many casualties that the civilian population began to leave the area and head towards the Eastern coast, congregating on the barrier island to the south of Putumattalan.”

³⁹ “Army 59 Division breaches LTTE strongholds south of Puthukkudiyiruppu. Sri Lanka Army 59 division soldiers operating West of Nanthi Kadal lagoon yesterday (Jan 31) breached the LTTE's heavily fortified defence south of Puthukkudiyiruppu, reveal battlefield reports. Clashes continue south of A-35 The Sri Lanka Army 57 Division, Task Force 3, Task Force 2 and Task Force 4 deployed south of A-35 road (Paranthan- Mullaitivu) continued to engage terrorists' pockets from Visuamadu to Puthukkudiyiruppu areas yesterday (Jan 31).”

MOD Situation Reports on 01st February, 2009.

⁴⁰ LTTE's secret weapons uncovered in final push, 1 Feb 2009, http://www.sundaytimes.lk/090201/News/sundaytimesnews_05.html

And “troops of 4 CLI of the 631 Brigade attached to the Task Force 3 made this recovery” <https://lrrp.wordpress.com/2009/01/30/mullaitivu-debacle-to-victory/>



Without going into detail, the UN report concluded that:

“the Sri Lankan Armed Forces used indirect-fire weapons, including artillery shells and MBRLs on the three NFZs and surrounding areas, causing widespread damage to civilian infrastructure and loss of civilian lives throughout the final phases of the armed conflict.(750)”

By late April, Task Force 3 is described as carrying out clearing operations in Kilinochchi and Oddusuddan⁴¹. It is unclear where Task Force 3 was in May 2009 as the war reached a climax but on 24 May 2009, Sathyapriya Liyanage is one of the main commanders whose picture is taken ceremoniously on the beach front⁴² given the significant role he played in the final phase of the war.

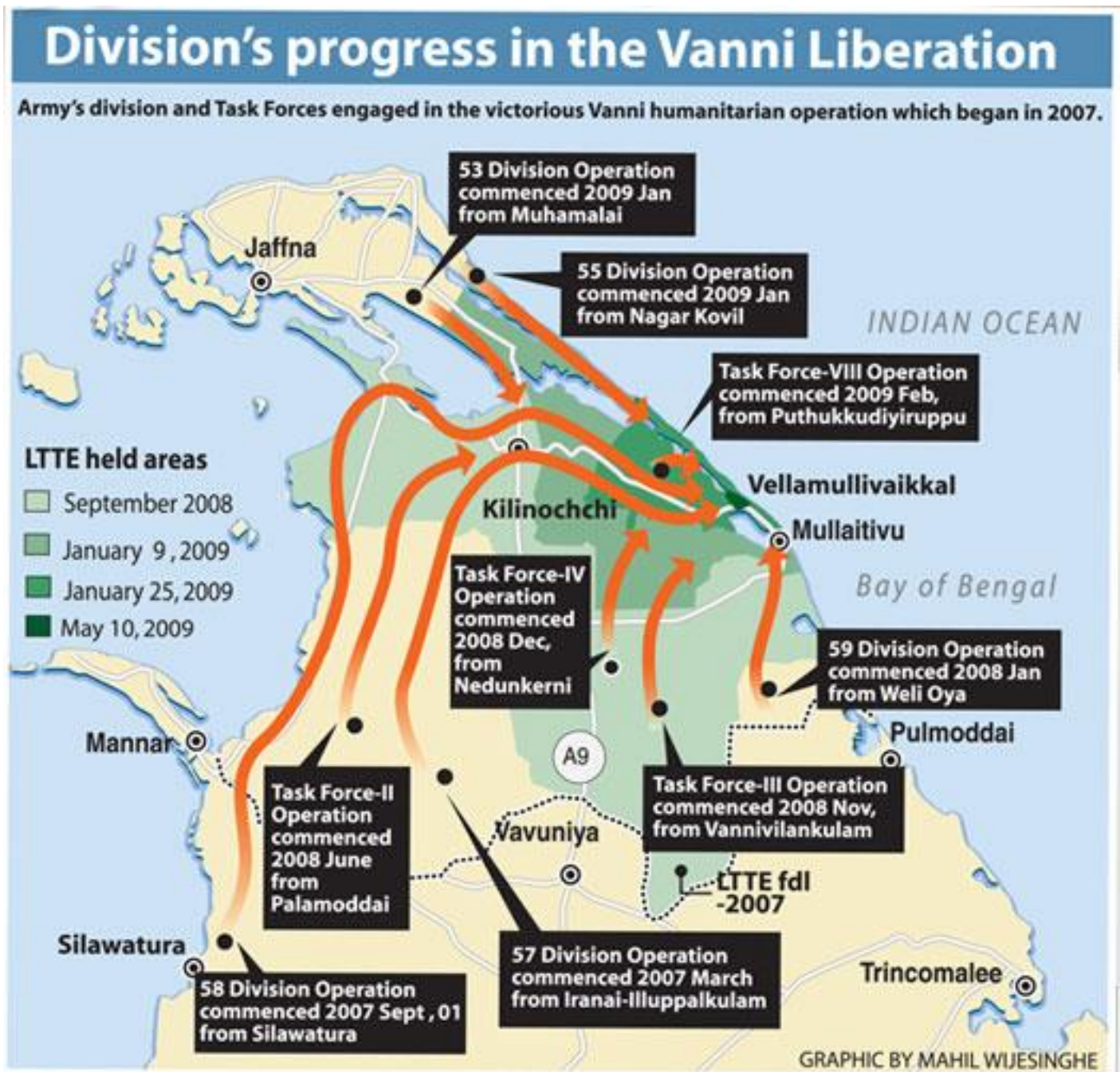
⁴¹ “TF 3 finds more LTTE military items – Kilinochchi. Troops of Task Force 3 (TF-3) continuing search and clearing operations in recently liberated areas in Kilinochchi uncovered more military items left behind by the fleeing terrorists.”

MOD Situation Reports on 19th April

“TF-3 uncovers more LTTE war materials – Oddusuddan. Troops of Task Force - 3 (TF-3) engaged in continuous search and clear operations in recently liberated areas have uncovered more military items left behind by the fleeing terrorists yesterday, 24 April.”

MOD Situation Reports on 25th April, 2009

⁴² Army sounds end of battle, 24 May 2009, Sunday Observer, <http://archives.sundayobserver.lk/2009/05/24/spe01.asp> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJChv9Qr9S0>



2. MAJOR GENERAL ARUNA JAYASEKARA



CAREER

OFFICER NUMBER O/60201

24 OCT 1998-12 SEP 2001

23 NOV 2002

NOV 2005

2006-7

2006

2007-8

28 JUN 2009

18 JUL 2009-10

2014

14 OCT 2015

12 JUN 2016

10 OCT 2018

20 NOV 2018

BEFORE THIS

MAJOR IN COMMAND OF 4GW

AHQ REP 23 DIV AND A LT COL⁴³.

DEPUTY CONTINGENT COMMANDER UN PEACEKEEPERS HAITI⁴⁴

DEFENCE SERVICES COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE

THE COMMANDER OF NAGARKOVIL BRIGADE⁴⁵

UNKNOWN BUT INVOLVED⁴⁶

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS OF THE ARMY⁴⁷, GEMUNU REGIMENT.

COLONEL, OPERATIONS COMMANDANT, COLOMBO⁴⁸.

NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE, DHAKA⁴⁹

DIRECTOR TRAINING⁵⁰.

MADE A MAJOR GENERAL⁵¹

COLONEL OF GEMUNU WATCH REGIMENT⁵²

COMMANDER OF SFHQ-EAST

GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING (GOC) IN THE 22 DIVISION⁵³.

⁴³ <http://www.peaceinsrilanka.lk/negotiations/slmm-027>

⁴⁴ <http://www.island.lk/2005/11/24/news15.html>

⁴⁵ This article is about an army officer named Major Indika Walisundara, who died in Muhamalai FDL. This website was operated probably by an army unit, during the war time <https://lrrp.wordpress.com/2018/08/01/%E0%B6%9A%E0%B7%9C%E0%B6%A7%E0%B7%92-%E0%B6%B6%E0%B6%82%E0%B6%9A%E0%B6%BB%E0%B6%BA-%E0%B6%9A%E0%B6%A9%E0%B7%8F-%E0%B6%AF%E0%B7%92%E0%B6%BB%E0%B7%92%E0%B6%BA%E0%B7%99%E0%B6%B1%E0%B7%8A-%E0%B7%83/>

In the sixth paragraph it says:

"By 2006, Major General Sanath Karunaratne was in charge of Muhamalai defence. Colonel Shantha Dissanayake was the Muhamalai brigade commander. Colonel Aruna Jayasekara worked as the commander of Nagarkovil Brigade while Colonel Ruwan Kulatunge was the commander of Eluthumadduval Brigade."

⁴⁶ "Three Brigadiers who courageously led the troops in the massive thrust to capture Wannai - Shavendra Silva, Prasanna de Silva and Chagi Gallage were promoted to the rank of Majors General this week. In addition 46 Colonels were promoted as Brigadiers. They are: D.R. Mayadunne, Tissa Jayasuriya, D.M. Guneseekara, K.P. Wickramasinghe, K.C. Gunawardene, D.D. Dias, D.S. Weeman, D.I. Karunaratna, D.S. Weerasekera, R.P. Rowell, C.S. Wanniarachchi, W. Kariyawasam, A. Kariyakarawana, A.S. Ranasinghe, U.K. Hettiarachchi, Sarath Ambewa, S.K. Senadhira, **Aruna Jayasekera**, Ralph Nugera, Nishantha Wanniarachchi, Sudath Perera, **Laksiri Waduge**, Athula Koddipilli, **G.V. Ravipriya**, Athula Galagamage, Raj Ranawaka, S. Dissanayaka, I.P. Ranasingha, C.M. Kodituwakku, P.R. Seneviratna, B.A. Sudasingha, M. Kulatunga, Suraj Bangsajayah, T.J. Nanayakkara, Janaka Mohotti, R. Wanigasuriya, K.P.D. Perera, A.D. Silva, Mahinda Weerasuriya, Athula Hennadige, M.J. Seneviratna, C.D. Gunawardene, Wasantha Kumarapperuma, V.K. Jayasingha, E.G. Jayakody And K.P. Sumanapala."

<http://www.nation.lk/2009/08/02/militarym.htm>

⁴⁷ <https://www.nation.lk/2009/06/28/militarym.htm>

⁴⁸ <http://www.island.lk/2009/07/18/news26.html>

⁴⁹ http://ndclibrary.selevenit.com/index.php/research_paper/paper_list/all/740

⁵⁰ <http://colombogazette.com/2015/10/14/chinese-military-delegation-discuss-training/>

And <https://www.mfa.gov.lk/sri-lanka-honours-united-nations-peacekeepers/> and <https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/paperspresented/performance-report-srilanka-army-2015.pdf> and http://www.defence.lk/sinhala/sn.asp?fname=20150715_02

⁵¹ <https://www.pressreader.com> <http://www.sundaytimes.lk/160612/columns/mp-status-only-for-rajapaksa-in-japan-197227.html>

⁵² <https://www.army.lk/news/maj-gen-jayasekera-new-colonel-regiment-gw>

⁵³ <https://www.army.lk/news/major-general-aruna-jayasekera-takes-over-new-commander-security-forces-east> and <http://archives.dailynews.lk/2002/11/25/sec02.html>

HAITI

Major General Aruna Jayasekera was deployed in the third Sri Lankan contingent that went to Haiti on 3 November 2005⁵⁴. An internal UN OIOS inquiry found there had been systematic child sexual exploitation of children from 2004-7 by the Sri Lankan contingents. As deputy commander of one of those contingents, Jayasekera should have been held accountable for the conduct of the troops under his command, which he was not. Until his role in the Haiti is credibly investigated and his role determined, he should not hold office.

For more on Haiti see our earlier report with *Journalists for Democracy in Sri Lanka*⁵⁵.

⁵⁴ FIRST CONTINGENT OF GEMUNU WATCH FLIES TO HAITI, <http://www.army.lk/news/first-contingent-gemunu-watch-flies-haiti> which says: "The UN contingent consists of 35 Officers and 527 Other Ranks from GW and 14 Officers and 174 Other Ranks from Service and Support Regiments".

⁵⁴ <http://www.island.lk/2005/11/24/news15.html>

⁵⁵ <http://itjpsl.com/assets/press/haiti-FINAL.pdf>

3. MAJOR GENERAL KUMUDU PERERA



CAREER

5 MAR 1984	JOINED ARMY
16 NOV 1985	COMMISSIONED AS 2 LIEUTENANT.
2007	551 BDE
2008-9	SLMA COMMANDER ⁵⁶
19 JUL 2009	51 DIV. COMMANDER ⁵⁷ - ALSO COLONEL GENERAL STAFF 55 DIV.
UNKNOWN	COMMANDED 55, 59 AND 22 DIVISIONS.
FEB 2015	PROMOTED TO MAJOR GENERAL, 55 DIVISION COMMANDING OFFICER.
2016	22 DIV COMMANDER
31 JUL 2017	SFHQ-W COMMANDER ⁵⁸
6 JUL 2017	SFHQ-C COMMANDER
27 MAR–1 SEP 2018	COLONEL MECHANIZED INFANTRY REGIMENT ⁵⁹
UNKNOWN	CHIEF OF STAFF AT THE OFFICE OF CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

HAITI

Kumudu Perera was reportedly the officer sent to Haiti to investigate the allegations of child sexual exploitation from 2004-7 by a large number of Sri Lankan UN peacekeepers. Twelve years later there has been no transparency about the investigation process, no report has been published and no soldier has been held accountable for the violations or is known to have spent time behind bars in connection with the violations⁶⁰.

⁵⁶ http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Sri_Lanka_Military_Academy

⁵⁷ <https://www.nation.lk/2009/07/19/militarym.htm>

⁵⁸ New Major General appointed as Commander -Security Force, Wanni, July 31, 2017

http://220.247.224.39/PrintPage.asp?fname=Houses_for_deserving_families_in_Wanni_20190418_01

⁵⁹ <https://www.army.lk/news/major-general-kumudu-perera-new-mir-colonel-regiment-assumes-office>

⁶⁰ Controversy over Haiti charges, 11.08.2007 The Daily Mirror by Sunil Jayasiri.

"On October 30, a special team had arrived to Haiti from the New York UN Headquarters in order to conduct an inquiry into this allegation and informed Sri Lanka to send a probe team to Haiti. On October 6, a top level team of four senior officers, a female brigadier, a doctor and a lawyer including Mohanathi Peiris, Chief Legal Officer of the Sri Lanka Army and Brigadier Kumudu Perera were sent to the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince." <https://lrrp.wordpress.com/2007/11/09/heavy-casualties-abort-muhamalai-offensive/>

4. MAJOR GENERAL G. VIJITHA RAVIPRIYA



CAREER

2008-9	571 BDE THEN TASK FORCE 8
UNTIL 10 AUG 2011	MINISTER COUNSELLOR DEFENCE, USA ⁶¹
2012	ACTING MILITARY SPOKESMAN ⁶²
2016	DIRECTOR GENERAL GENERAL STAFF OF THE ARMY ⁶³
9 JUN 2017	BECOMES A MAJOR GENERAL ⁶⁴
29 MAR 2019	SFHQ – KILINOCHCHI COMMANDER ⁶⁵

FINAL WAR

Colonel Ravipriya is named in the OHCHR Investigation report (para 119) as in charge of TASK FORCE 8. His unit was involved in assaults on PTK and Mullaivaikkal and as such he should have been vetted for office after the war and screened out of holding any public office. Instead he has been promoted.

571 BRIGADE IN 2008

Media reports say Ravipriya began as a senior brigade commander (571) of the 57 Division and contributed major victories for them with the capture of Akkarayankulam. The 572 Brigade also assisted by the 571 Brigade under the command of Colonels Bandara and G.V. Ravipriya respectively were instructed to capture Madhu in Mannar District. The 572 and 571 Brigades reported directly to Major General Jagath Dias – see ITJP’s dossier on him⁶⁶.

⁶¹ <http://slembassyusa.org/archives123/embassy-of-sri-lanka-coordinates-student-washington-visit-for-project-common-bond-2/>

https://washdiplomat.com/index.php?option=com_content&id=8131:december-2011&Itemid=439

<http://slembassyusa.org/topstories/ambassador-jaliya-wickamasuriya-second-from-left-meets-with-members-of-the-sri-lankan-community-in-raleigh-north-carolina-including-left-to-right-smantha-muthukumarana-lalith-perera-jayantha/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/brigadier-ravipriya-a9884424/>

⁶² <http://www.dailymirror.lk/article/court-of-inquiry-wasnt-appointed-to-implicate-the-officer-army-21938.html>

⁶³ <http://www.adaderana.lk/news/42254/annual-peacekeeping-meeting-to-be-held-in-colombo>

⁶⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/SLForces/photos/a.210276946154979/228559520993388/?type=1&theater>

⁶⁵ <http://www.dailynews.lk/2019/03/30/local/181720/kilinochchi-commander-assumes-office>

⁶⁶ http://www.itjpsl.com/assets/ITJP_Jagath_Dias_dossier-final.pdf

Ravipriya became Task Force 8 commander in the first quarter of 2008, operating initially under the 53 Division. The reports credit him for many military victories in Puthukudiyiruppu (PTK)⁶⁷.

ATTACK ON PTK TOWN

Task Force 8 was present in the advance on PTK in March 2009 according to media reports⁶⁸.



Photo: On 18 May, 2009, Ravipriya (on left) with Ralph Nugera (middle) & Kamal Gunaratne (the tallest, turning his back to the camera).

PRESENT IN MULLIVAICKAL IN MAY

According to Kamal Gunaratne's book, *The Road to Nandikadal*, it was Colonel Ravapriya who brought him the news of the LTTE leader's death⁶⁹.

⁶⁷ <http://archives.dailynews.lk/2009/06/03/supstory.asp?id=s01>

⁶⁸ "Meanwhile, 53 Division's 68-1 Brigade under Lt. Col. Lalantha Gamage and Task Force VIII's 68-1 Brigade under Lt. Col. Subashana Welikala, are advancing on Puthukudiyiruppu East. Task Force VIII demolished the LTTE's two kilometre long earth barricade south of Puthukudiyiruppu on Tuesday (24), and forged ahead despite heavy resistance. " <https://www.nation.lk/2009/03/01/militarym.htm>

"The 1Gajaba Regiment and 4 Vijayaba Infantry Regiment attached to the Task Force VIII also joined hands with the 58 Division troops in securing the entire Puthukudiyiruppu junction having entered the Puthukudiyiruppu junction from the South of A-35 road."

Troops marching on to LTTE's last terrain, 8 March 2009, Sunday Observer.

"The Task Force 8 troops operating under the command of Colonel G.V. Ravipriya cut off the links the LTTE had to Puthukudiyiruppu through the A-35 road.",

Troops encircle over 200 Tigers, Daily News, 2 April 2009.

"Task Force VIII captured about a 1.5 km area on the Paranthan- Mulaitivu road from West to East on March 21. With this, heavy fighting erupted, as they continued to advance from there."

REBEL'S LAST DITCH STAND, 28 March 2-09, The Nation.

"TF 8 joined Vanni Liberation in February 2009 from Puthukudiyiruppu south. " 13 March 2012,

Sri Lankan Army to come up with its own film, <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/sri-lankan-army-to-come-up-with-its-own-film/article2988547.ece>

⁶⁹ KG iv <http://asianmirror.lk/news/item/19103-controversial-revelation-by-maj-gen-gunaratne-army-given-warnings-on-possible-us-air-strike>

"q: who gave you the news?

a: colonel ravipriya told me "sir, we killed prabhakaran in the last assault". it was unbelievable. i asked lalantha gamage to confirm it. he went in and ten minutes later called me to confirm....all those stories are rubbish. prabhakaran died on may 19, 2009, at around 9.30 in the morning. he was not killed by the commandos or snipers. he died during the operation by two groups of eight of the 4th vijayabahu infantry regiment. he was not captured alive. we did not know he was hiding in the mangroves. we shot the terrorists in the mangroves. we found his body afterwards. that is it

Media reports describe how Task Force 8 were operating on the bank of the lagoon adjacent to No Fire Zone 3⁷⁰. Media reports also put Col Ravipriya's unit advancing on Velliamullivakkal in late April 2009⁷¹.

This means Task Force 8 was at the forefront of assaults from March to May 2009 when a wide range of alleged violations of IHL were committed by Sri Lankan forces.

The significance of his role was acknowledged in an article in the Nation which named him with other top military figures as instrumental in winning the war⁷².

Ravipriya is one of a handful of senior officers rewarded for their contribution in 2009⁷³. In 2013, an article in a Sri Lankan newspaper actually raised concerns that he was one of the officers who might be targeted by a UN human rights investigation into the war⁷⁴.

⁷⁰ "As there was no access for them towards the shore the 59 Division troops under the command of Brigadier Prasanna Silva and the Task Force VIII under the command of Colonel G. V. Ravipriya who were operating in the Western bank of the Nanthikadal lagoon were alerted about a possible attempt by the LTTE to breach the defence lines in the Western bank of the Nanthikadal lagoon.

With this information the 59 Division troops and the Task Force VIII troops were ready to face any eventuality by Saturday night. It was around 1.20 a.m. on Sunday morning when troops detected some Tiger boats were heading towards the Western edge of the lagoon. As troops were hundred percent sure that the boats arriving towards them were not civilians they directed fire towards them destroying them."

The Grand Finale, 22 May 2009, Daily News.

⁷¹ "Meanwhile, troops of the Air Mobile Brigade of 53 Division and 17 GW under Lt. Col. Kitsiri Kottewatte, belonging to Task Force VIII led by Col. G.V. Ravipriya, along with the troops of 4 Vijayaba Regiment (VR), were advancing along the A-35 route towards Wellamullawaikal, where LTTE leaders were tipped to be staying." Biggest hostage rescue in military history, The Nation, 26 April 2009.

⁷² "Three Brigadiers who courageously led the troops in the massive thrust to capture Wanni - Shavendra Silva, Prasanna de Silva and Chagi Gallage were promoted to the rank of Majors General this week. In addition 46 Colonels were promoted as Brigadiers. They are: D.R. Mayadunne, Tissa Jayasuriya, D.M. Gunsekara, K.P. Wickramasinghe, K.C. Gunawardene, D.D. Dias, D.S. Weeman, D.I. Karunaratna, D.S. Weerasekera, R.P. Rowell, C.S. Wanniarachchi, W. Kariyawasam, A. Kariyakarawana, A.S. Ranasinghe, U.K. Hettiarachchi, Sarath Ambewa, S.K. Senadhira, Aruna Jayasekera, Ralph Nugera, Nishantha Wanniarachchi, Sudath Perera, Laksiri Waduge, Athula Koddipilli, G.V. Ravipriya, Athula Galagamage, Raj Ranawaka, S. Dissanayaka, I.P. Ranasingha, C.M. Kodituwakku, P.R. Seneviratna, B.A. Sudasingha, M. Kulatunga, Suraj Bangsajayah, T.J. Nanayakkara, Janaka Mohotti, R. Wanigasuriya, K.P.D. Perera, A.D. Silva, Mahinda Weerasuriya, Athula Hennadige, M.J. Seneviratna, C.D. Gunawardene, Wasantha Kumarapperuma, V.K. Jayasingha, E.G. Jayakody And K.P. Sumanapala."

<http://www.nation.lk/2009/08/02/militarym.htm>

⁷³ Wanni war heroes given military honours and their service appreciated, The Island. <http://www.island.lk/2009/05/30/news11.html>

"The roles of Heads of Task Force One (Brig Rohana Bandara), Task Force 2 (Brig Satyapriya Liyanage and Task Force 8 (Col GV Ravipriya, who actually killed Prabhakaran) too will be probed by such an investigation."

Indian defence analyst identifies possible witch-hunt targets, 23 March 2013, The Island, http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=75408

5. MAJOR GENERAL DARSHANA HETTIARACHCHI



CAREER

6 MAR 1984	JOINED ARMY, CORPS OF ENGINEERS ⁷⁵
16 NOV 1985	2 ND LT SRI LANKA ENGINEERS REGIMENT
1986	SALIYAPURA - ADVANCED INFANTRY TRAINING COURSE CONDUCTED BY SPECIAL SERVICE GROUP (SSG) PAKISTAN ARMY ⁷⁶ .
1997-8	GRADUATE OF THE DEFENCE SERVICES COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE IN BANGLADESH
2005	MASTERS DEGREE IN 'CONFLICT RESOLUTION', COLOMBO.
21 FEB 2012-28 JUN 2013	COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF REHABILITATION ⁷⁷
2013-14	NATIONAL RESILIENCE INSTITUTE, INDONESIA
FEB 2015	PROMOTED TO MAJOR GENERAL – 23 DIVISION
BEFORE JAFFNA	COMMANDER SECURITY FORCES - EAST
1 APR 2017-19	JAFFNA SFHQ CO ⁷⁸

REHABILITATION

As Commissioner General of the Rehabilitation programme for more than a year, Major General Hettiarachchi has yet to issue a public acknowledgement of wrongful imprisonment as directed by the United Nations⁷⁹. On this ground alone he should not be holding an office where he has the potential to be responsible for wrongful detention.

⁷⁵ <https://www.army.lk/news/new-jaffna-commander-major-general-hettiarachchi-assumes-office>

⁷⁶ Seen in photograph.

⁷⁷ <http://www.bcgr.gov.lk/news.php?id=184>

⁷⁸ <http://slwaronterror.blogspot.com/2017/08/in-absence-of-monument-for-ipkf-in-india.html>

<https://www.army.lk/news/new-jaffna-commander-major-general-hettiarachchi-assumes-office>

http://www.cimicjaffna.com/Cimicnews_2017_03_31.php

⁷⁹ A/HRC/39/45/Add.2 23 July 2018,

UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on Sri Lanka's 'rehabilitation' programme.

"Para 87. The Working Group recommends that the Government of Sri Lanka undertake the following measures in relation to the rehabilitation of ex-combatants.....

(b) Ensure that those who are currently detained and have previously been detained at the centre receive public acknowledgement of wrongful imprisonment and compensation and/or guarantees of non-repetition, including the immediate cessation of harassment and surveillance by the authorities of the detainees and their families."

6. MAJOR GENERAL R.W.W.A. DUSHYANTHA B RAJAGURU⁸⁰



CAREER

SINHA REGIMENT	INTAKE 20, DUE TO RETIRE 20 SEPT 2019.
1996-2000	10 SLSR
2000-2	UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA.
1992-5	6 SLSR
2002-3	MADRAS UNIVERSITY, MSC IN STRATEGIC STUDIES
2004-5	DSCSC
2005-6	NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY, USA ⁸¹
2007-9	UNKNOWN
UNCLEAR	31 ST HEAD OF SRI LANKA MILITARY ACADEMY ⁸²
2011-25 MAR 2012	ASSISTANT MILITARY SECRETARY ⁸³
2015-2016	COMMANDANT, SRI LANKA MILITARY ACADEMY ⁸⁴ .
17 DEC 2017	COMMANDER SRI LANKA NATIONAL GUARDS (SLNG) ⁸⁵
23 JAN 2018	BECOMES MAJOR GENERAL ⁸⁶ ,
2 MAY 2018	COLONEL COMMANDANT MILITARY INTELLIGENCE ⁸⁷
2017-2019	COMMANDER SFHQ-MLT ⁸⁸

MEDIA REPORTS

There is only one reference left online, on a school website, suggesting Major General Rajaguru had an active role in the 2009 war. All other references to his past activities appear to have been wiped off the Internet.

⁸⁰ <https://alt.army.lk/slsr/former-centre-commandant?>

⁸¹ LinkedIn

⁸² <https://www.army.lk/news/brigadier-rajaguru-assumes-office-31st-sima-commandant>

⁸³ <https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/paperspresented/performance-report-srilanka-army-2011.pdf>

⁸⁴ http://www.defence.lk/PrintPage.asp?fname=Army_to_Army_Staff_Successfully_Concludes_in_New_Delhi_20160123_01

⁸⁵ <http://www.adaderana.lk/news/31303/chinese-military-delegation-reviews-diyatalawa-project-and>
https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:cxFeCk04EPUJ:https://alt.army.lk/slima_joomla/index.php%3Foption%3Dcom_content%26view%3Darticle%26id%3D352%26Itemid%3D50+&cd=7&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=au&client=safari

⁸⁶ <https://www.army.lk/news/new-slng-colonel-regiment-assumes-office>

⁸⁷ <https://alt.army.lk/slsr/content/major-general-rrwwadb-rajaguru-rwp-rsp-usp-ndc-psc-felicitated-regimental-centre>

⁸⁸ <https://www.army.lk/news/new-mic-colonel-commandant-major-general-rajaguru-assumes-office>

Also <https://www.army.lk/news/mic-26th-anniversary-day-reveres-memory-fallen-war-heroes>

⁸⁹ <https://alt.army.lk/sfhqmlt/content/condacts-another-wednesday-training-programme> and as such he is command of <https://alt.army.lk/sfhqmlt/organization>

“Old Rajans Brig. Nirmal Dharmaratne and Brig. Dushyantha Rajaguru have been promoted to the Rank of Major General of the Sri Lanka Army. They both played an active role on the battle front in the Eelam War IV.⁸⁹”

⁸⁹ <http://www.dharmaraja.org/other.php?id=802>

7. MAJOR GENERAL GALWADUGE JANAKA LAKSIRI WADUGE



CAREER

SINHA REGIMENT

16 APR 1965

16 APR 1985

APRIL 15, 2020

1 JAN 1996-6 JAN 1997

15 NOV 1996-28 FEB 99

6 MAR 1999-28 DEC 1999

20 MAR 2003-17 FEB 2005

APR 2008

2009 WAR

20 JAN 2009 PRESENT IN ALAMPIL NORTH 59 DIV⁹³.

2009

AUG 2009

2016

APRIL 2016

2018

13 APR 2019

DATE OF BIRTH⁹⁰

JOINED ARMY

RETIREMENT DUE DATE

2ND IN COMMAND 6SLSR

ADJUTANT OF REGIMENT, SLSR⁹¹

CO 7 SLSR

CO 8 SLSR

HAITI⁹² CONTINGENT COMMANDER

1 SLSR (59 DIVISION) AND PRESENT IN PTK

COMMANDER IN IN WELI OYA⁹⁴

PROMOTED TO BRIGADIER⁹⁵

ALLEGED TO BE HAITI UN PEACEKEEPER CONTINGENT COMMANDER.

DG OPERATIONS, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF⁹⁶

CO 52 DIVISION, SFHQ-JAFFNA⁹⁷

COMMANDER SFHQ-CENTRAL⁹⁸

⁹⁰ <https://alt.army.lk/sfhqcentral/commander>

⁹¹ <https://alt.army.lk/slsr/former-adjutant-of-the-regiment>

⁹² "Meanwhile, the commander of the Sri Lankan contingent, Laksiri Waduge, thanked the Haitian people "for their cooperation and hospitality," while he congratulated his troops for their "professionalism"." <http://www.sl-unlimited.com/modules.php?name=Forums&file=viewtopic&t=2236> Sri Lankan troops in Haiti honoured
Also <http://www.asiantribune.com/node/1034>

⁹³ This post says Waduge was 593 deputy commander in 2009 January 20 and was planning the Alampil attack.

<https://www.facebook.com/Hasthiofficial.lk/posts/%E0%B6%94%E0%B6%B6%E0%B6%A7-%E0%B6%B8%E0%B6%AD%E0%B6%9A%E0%B6%AF-%E0%B6%B1%E0%B7%92%E0%B6%B8%E0%B7%8F%E0%B6%9A%E0%B6%BB-%E0%B6%BA%E0%B7%94%E0%B6%AF%E0%B7%8A%E0%B6%B0%E0%B6%BA-%E0%B6%85%E0%B7%80%E0%B7%83%E0%B6%B1%E0%B7%8A-%E0%B6%85%E0%B6%AF%E0%B7%92%E0%B6%BA%E0%B6%BB-%E0%B7%80%E0%B6%B1%E0%B7%8A%E0%B6%B1%E0%B7%92-%E0%B6%B8%E0%B7%94%E0%B6%AF%E0%B7%8F%E0%B6%9C%E0%B7%90%E0%B6%B1%E0%B7%92%E0%B6%B8%E0%B7%99%E0%B7%92-%E0%B6%B8%E0%B7%8F%E0%B6%B1%E0%B7%94%E0%B7%82%E0%B7%93%E0%B6%BA-%E0%B6%B8%E0%B7%99%E0%B7%84%E0%B7%99%E0%B6%BA%E0%B7%94%E0%B6%B8%E0%B7%92-%E0%B6%87%E0%B6%BB%E0%B6%B9%E0%B7%92%E0%B6%BA%E0%B7%9A-200/2049066005414171/>

⁹⁴ "59 වන සේනාංකාධිපති බ්‍රිගේඩියර් නන්දන උඩවත්ත විසින් සිය 591 බලසේනාධිපති කර්නල් අරුණ ආරියසිංහ, 593 සේනාංකාධිපති ලුතිනන් කර්නල් ජයන්ත ලියනගේ හා සේනාංකයේ නියෝජ්‍ය අණදෙන නිලධාරී කර්නල් ලක්ෂි රිච්චන් ඇතුළු ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ හමුදා සාමාජිකයින් පිරිසක් 2009 වසරේ ජනවාරි මස 20 වෙනිදා උතුරු අලමුපිල් ප්‍රදේශයේදී ඉදිරි මෙහෙයුම් ගැන ප්‍රගති සමාලෝචනයක් සිදුකල අතර තමන්ගේ ඉදිරි ගමනට බාධාවක්ව පවතින කොටි ත්‍රස්තයින්ගේ පස්බැමීම අත්පත් කර ගැනීමේ මෙහෙයුම් සඳහා කාලතුවක්කු බලකායේ හා ගුවන් හමුදා ප්‍රහාර එක් කර ගැනීමට මෙහිදී නිර්ණය කෙරුනි." <http://ahasgawaa.blogspot.com/2012/04/blog-post.html>

⁹⁵ Promoted Aug 2009: 'Forty six Colonels have also been promoted to the rank of Brigadier considering their seniority and the contribution to the Wanni battle. Colonels C.V. Ravipriya Nishantha Wanniarachchi, Mahinda Weerasoriya, Ralph Nugera, Athula Koddippili, Sudath Perera, Shantha Dias, Suraj Bansajaya and Laksiri Waduge, who were directly involved in the Wanni Operation, are among those promoted to the rank of Brigadier...' <http://archives.sundayobserver.lk/2009/08/02/fea02.asp>

⁹⁶ http://www.ocds.lk/more_details.php

⁹⁷ <https://www.pressreader.com>

⁹⁸ <https://www.army.lk/news/new-central-commander-assumes-duties-07fbclid=IwAR0i4XfCYR3DqVOIrbAKxIKvZJiKcNaz5nw1wQ2pk0Yb3D5E0m8nPVhew>

FINAL WAR

Most entries regarding his war service in 2009 appear to have deliberately been removed offline. However, in March 2009 a media report described Laksiri Waduge coming under fire near PTK town⁹⁹. The significance of his role in the 2009 war was acknowledged in an article in the Nation which named him with other top military figures as being instrumental in winning the war¹⁰⁰.

"General Officers Commanding of 11 Division and 12 Division, Commanders of 111 Brigade, 112 Brigade, 121 Brigade, 122 Brigade and Commanding Officers of under Command Battalions were there to greet him on the occasion."

⁹⁹ "When Col. Laksiri Waduge rushed to the scene, to evacuate the injured, his vehicle came under LTTE fire.", FALL OF LAST TIGER BASTION IMMINENT, The Nation, 1 March 2009.

¹⁰⁰ "Three Brigadiers who courageously led the troops in the massive thrust to capture Wanni - Shavendra Silva, Prasanna de Silva and Chagi Gallage were promoted to the rank of Majors General this week. In addition 46 Colonels were promoted as Brigadiers. They are: D.R. Mayadunne, Tissa Jayasuriya, D.M. Gunasekara, K.P. Wickramasinghe, K.C. Gunawardene, D.D. Dias, D.S. Weeman, D.I. Karunaratna, D.S. Weerasekera, R.P. Rowell, C.S. Wanniarachchi, W. Kariyawasam, A. Kariyakarawana, A.S. Ranasinghe, U.K. Hettiarachchi, Sarath Ambewa, S.K. Senadhira, Aruna Jayasekera, Ralph Nugera, Nishantha Wanniarachchi, Sudath Perera, Laksiri Waduge, Athula Koddipilli, G.V. Ravipriya, Athula Galagamage, Raj Ranawaka, S. Dissanayaka, I.P. Ranasingha, C.M. Kodituwakku, P.R. Seneviratna, B.A. Sudasingha, M. Kulatunga, Suraj Bangsajayah, T.J. Nanayakkara, Janaka Mohotti, R. Wanigasuriya, K.P.D. Perera, A.D. Silva, Mahinda Weerasuriya, Athula Hennadige, M.J. Seneviratna, C.D. Gunawardene, Wasantha Kumarapperuma, V.K. Jayasingha, E.G. Jayakody And K.P. Sumanapala."

<http://www.nation.lk/2009/08/02/militarym.htm>

8. MAJOR GENERAL L MAHINDA MUDALIGE



CAREER

STAFF NO O/60451 SRI LANKA LIGHT INFANTRY; RETIREMENT DUE 9 MARCH 2020

1986	SALIYAPURA - ADVANCED INFANTRY TRAINING COURSE CONDUCTED BY SPECIAL SERVICE GROUP (SSG) PAKISTAN ARMY ¹⁰¹ .
1987	PHOTO SHOWS HIM INSPECTING NEW RECRUITS AT TRAINING INSTITUTE AS A SECOND LIEUTENANT.
1997	6SLLI
1999-2002	4SLLI
2007	2 ND IN COMMAND OF THE 6 TH CONTINGENT OF PEACEKEEPERS SENT TO HAITI WHEN TROOPS WERE REPATRIATED FOR ALLEGED CHILD SEA ¹⁰² .
2015	59 DIV GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING
2018	24 DIVISION COMMANDER IN EAST ¹⁰³ .

¹⁰¹ Seen in photograph.

¹⁰² See ITJP report on Haiti, also Lankaenews at <http://www.lankaenews.com/news/5257/si>
<http://www.island.lk/2007/06/09/news13.html>

¹⁰³ <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2019/05/01/politicians-driver-arrested-in-samanthurai/>



Haiti – photo from his facebook page

HAITI

In the recent deployments in the East of Sri Lanka Major General LM Mudalige has been the officer in charge but he has yet to be held accountable for his failure to prevent systematic child sexual exploitation by his men serving as peacekeepers in Haiti in 2007¹⁰⁴.

¹⁰⁴ "Daily Mirror, 2 May 2019:

"A contingent of armed security personnel consisting of the Army, STF and Police were hastily deployed in the Sainthamarudhu region. The greater part of the security personnel were from the Sri Lankan army. The Amparai district is manned by the 24 Division. Initially raised in 2009 as Task Force – 3 for combat in the Wanni, it was upgraded as a full-fledged division in 2013. 24 division is the "youngest" division in the Sri Lankan Army. Troops from 241 and 242 Brigades of the 24 division were transported in the Kalmunai-Savalakkadai – Sainthamarudhu – Maalihaikkaadu areas. The 24 division General Officer Commanding(GOC), Major -General Mahinda Mudalige personally assumed operational command". Battle of Sainthamarudhu, Daily Mirror, 2 May 2019, <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news-features/Battle-of-Sainthamarudhu-Zahran's-family-members-dead-in-Sainthamarudhu-skirmish-between-security-fo/131-166282>