

# Repression of Dissent

August 2022



*At least 21 activists including the convener of the Inter University Student Federation were arrested by police on 18th August 2022: Photo Courtesy: Twitter JDSLanka*

**INFORM**

**Human Rights Documentation Centre**

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Repression of Dissent in Sri Lanka in August 2022.

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*INFORM was established in 1990 to monitor and document human rights situation in Sri Lanka, especially in the context of the ethnic conflict and war, and to report on the situation through written and oral interventions at the local, national and international level. INFORM also focused on working with other communities whose rights were frequently and systematically violated. Presently, INFORM is focusing on election monitoring, freedom expression and human rights defenders. INFORM is based in Colombo Sri Lanka, and works closely with local activists, groups and networks as well as regional (Asian) and international human rights networks.*

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# 1. Executive Summary

**Context:** Inflation rates were higher, but slightly increased compared to previous months. 13 Members of Parliament who were part of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) informed that they have decided to sit independently in Parliament. UN Human Rights experts issued a statement condemning the extensive, prolonged and repeated use of state of emergency measures since 2 April 2022 by Sri Lankan authorities to crackdown on peaceful protesters. Various protests were organized by activists and relatives of disappeared on the international day of the victims of the enforced disappearances. A wave of arrests of anti-government protesters reported following the appointment of the new government. In total 3353 activists have been arrested and 1255 still remain in remand custody under the flimsiest of charges, according to a prominent journalist. Following a Fundamental Rights petition filed seeking accountability for the financial crisis in Sri Lanka, travel bans were issued against several key politicians and officials related to the former government.

**Case updates:** On 9th August, Sri Lanka Bar Association (BASL) wrote to the Inspector General of Police, regarding arrests and detentions being carried out without adherence to due process “in a manner akin to abductions.” The freelance journalist and student activist who was arrested in a manner similar to abduction, was granted bail on 9th August 2022, by Kaduwela magistrate. Bail was granted to Dhaniz Ali, the protester who disrupted the broadcasting of state television. Four cops were granted bail in the case of shooting at protesters in Rambukkana. On 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022 police opened fire on a group of protestors who were protesting against fuel shortage and fuel price hike, killing one person and injuring 24 others. A nun who supported anti-government protesters granted bail. The former Minister, and MP Ranjan Ramanayake who was imprisoned for contempt of court for calling judges corrupt was granted presidential pardon. Human Rights Commission (HRCSL) issued a press release on their inquiry into the attack on Sirasa Tv journalists by Special Task Force (STF) Police officers. Two recommendations were made: (1) to transfer the senior police officer in charge of the situation outside Colombo until the investigations are over, (2) Police to not wear camouflage uniforms during civilian operations. On 22nd August, HRCSL wrote a letter to the IGP on the arrest of protesters using Prevention of Terrorism Act. The letter said that PTA has been grossly manipulated, and undemocratically used to justify wrongful arrests of the protesters. Sri Lanka de-listed six international Tamil diaspora organisations including the UK-based Global Tamil Forum (GTF) and 316 individuals from its list of Terrorist organizations under the United Nations Regulations Act No. 1 of 2012. HRCSL made several recommendations about ongoing investigations into the 9th May attack on anti-government protesters. Recommendations included (1) appointment of a committee to identify the perpetrators within the law enforcement and to recommend appropriate legal actions, (2) examining the telephone conversations among IGP, his subordinates and Secretary of Defence at the time of incident.

## **Repression of Freedom of Assembly:**

Police issued a press release seeking public assistance in identifying 72 protesters who allegedly “forcibly entered the Presidential Secretariat President’s in Colombo on 09 July and damaged its property”. Journalist Manjula Samarasekara, who was expected to be appointed as the Media Co-ordinator of an organisation called the “National Centre for the Struggle ” connected with anti-government protests alleged that there is a clear indication that Police is attempting to arrest him. A court order was issued preventing YouTuber Ratindu Senaratne (Ratta) and Convener of the Higher

National Diploma Student Federation Haritha Darshana from travelling overseas. 19 people were arrested by Sri Lanka Police on 18th August during a protest held in Colombo, demanding the resignation of the government, and other issues related to socio-economic crisis in Sri Lanka. Inter University Student Federation (IUSF) organized another protest in Colombo, demanding the release of three PTA detainees including arrested student activists. It was attacked with tear gas and water cannon and 27 protesters were arrested. Police visited the house of the convener of the Inter Higher National Diploma Student Federation, Haritha Darshana and asked him to report to the police station to record statement. Four Policemen attached visited the office of Ceylon Teachers union in Colombo and searched for General Secretary Joseph Stalin and inquired about his night routine. He was later summoned to the Mutwal police station, regarding a protest he organized in the previous month. Duminda Nagmauwa, Organising Secretary of Workers Struggle summoned to the Harbor Police regarding the same protest. Civil society activist Chinthaka Rajapaksha was arrested while he was returning home after attending the Inter University Student Federation (IUSF) organised Protest on 18th August 2022. A young protester who joined the protest on July 9 was arrested and questioned by the Colombo Crime division. Four Youth who engaged in the recent massive protest received the summon notices from the Criminal Investigation Department on 22nd August 2022. National Organiser of Socialist Student Union, Rangana Lakaml Devapriya was arrested by the police. Shalika Rukshan Senadeera, a young performance artist who performed in the recent protest, was arrested in Vauxhall Street in Colombo by the police on 23rd August 2022. Piyath Nkeshhala and Nuwan Neelamuni, two youth who involved in the anti-government protests were summoned to the Criminal investigation Headquarters of Police and Slave Island Police Station in Colombo on 22nd August 2022. Young protester Sahaja Madushanka who took part in the recent protest was arrested by the Police on 20th August 2022. Terrorism Investigation in Colombo has summoned the Mannar based Tamil activist V S Sivakaran on 15th August 2022. Police Special Investigation unit has arrested the 38-year-old resident in Pannipitiya on 1st August 2022 for forcibly entering the Presidential Secretariat. Former Sri Lankan Swimming champion Julian Bolling and Businessman Jonathan Martenstyn have been summoned to the Criminal Investigation Department on 17th August 2022. Julian Bolling and Transparency International Sri Lanka have filed Fundamental Right petitions against 13 respondents including former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksha, current President and others. Police officers attached to the Nittambuwa police station have arrested Arjun Amadoru, a resident in France who was involved in organising a demonstration in Paris in solidarity with an anti-government protest. British National and social media influencer Kayliegh Frazer's passport was seized, and later her visa was terminated and asked to leave the country. Indika Attanayake, a lawyer from Monaragala was summoned to the Criminal Investigation Department on 31st August 2022 and he was questioned about his involvement in the recent anti-government protest movement. Cinnamon Garden police questioned a lyricist and a professional designer, Sanjaya Epa Seneviratne about his engagements in the recent anti-government protests. A press conference to condemn the police violence organized by a group of trade Unionists and some activists was disrupted by the police who were looking to arrest an activist who was involved with protests. A Police team attached to the Harbor Police station raided a Buddhist Temple in Colombo searching for Koswatte Mahanama Thero, who is the Media Secretary of National Bhikkhu Front.

**Other incidents:** Sri Lanka's minister of justice has announced the introduction of a new 'national security act' with more "relaxed" provisions to replace the controversial Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). The poet Ahnaf Jazeem who was previously arrested and later released on bail under the Prevention of Terrorism Act was named as a person designated for terrorism related Activities in a list published by the Defence Ministry on 1st of August.

## 2. Context

Inflation rates were higher, but slightly increased compared to previous months. According to official Central Bank reports, Year on Year inflation rate was reported as 70.2% in August 2022, with a 5.6% increase from the previous month. Food inflation increased to 84.6% in August 2022 from 82.5% in July 2022, while Non-Food inflation increased to 57.1% in August 2022 from 52.4% in July 2022.<sup>1</sup>

13 Members of Parliament who were part of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) informed that they have decided to sit independently in Parliament.<sup>2</sup>



A protest was held in Mullaitivu remembering the International Day of the Disappeared. Photo Courtesy: Tamil Guardian

On 8th August, a group of UN Human Rights experts issued a statement condemning the extensive, prolonged and repeated use of state of emergency measures since 2 April 2022 by Sri Lankan authorities to crackdown on peaceful protesters and prevent them from voicing their grievances amidst an economic collapse in the country.<sup>3</sup> Mothers and relatives of the disappeared and activists commemorated the International Day of the Disappeared-on 30th August, by organizing marches and other events. In Mullaitivu, families of the disappeared staged a protest in Puthukkudiyiruppu, marking 2,000 days of their continuous protest on the International Day of the Disappeared.<sup>4 5</sup> Other similar protests were organized in Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, and Batticaloa.<sup>6</sup>

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[https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/sites/default/files/cbslweb\\_documents/press/pr/press\\_20220921\\_inflation\\_in\\_august\\_2022\\_ncpi\\_e.pdf](https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/sites/default/files/cbslweb_documents/press/pr/press_20220921_inflation_in_august_2022_ncpi_e.pdf)

2 <https://www.themorning.lk/13-mps-decide-to-sit-independently-in-pment/>

3 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/08/sri-lanka-un-human-rights-experts-condemn-repeated-use-emergency-measures>

4 <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1564491255568023555>

5 <https://twitter.com/kumanan93/status/1564573032693514241>

6 <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/tamil-families-disappeared-mark-international-day-victims-enforced-disappearances-across-0>

A wave of arrests of anti-government protesters reported following the appointment of the new government. More than 100 protestors at the “RanilGoGama” in Galle Face have been arrested so far by the Police, and that around 25 cases have been filed against them according to Attorney-at-Law Nuwan Bopage.<sup>7</sup> RanilGoGama is the protest site established demanding the resignation of the new President Ranil Wickramasinghe, following the resignation of former President Gotabaya Rajapaksha. Prominent journalist Ranga Jayasuriya tweeted that in total 3353 activists have been arrested and 1255 still remain in remand custody under the flimsiest of charges including 31 activists who were arrested on 21st of August.<sup>8 9</sup>

The Government claimed that the Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Aviation was acquitted of bribery allegations levelled against him by the Opposition leader and others, based on the findings of an investigation conducted by a committee appointed by the President. After accusations were raised against him, he temporarily stepped down from his portfolio in early July as there was a pending investigation against him.<sup>10</sup> The bribery accusations were made in relation to the settlement of contractual issues of \$ 570 million with Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) funded Terminal-2 construction work at the BIA Development Project (BIADP) Stage two. On 22<sup>nd</sup> July president Ranil Wickramasinge appointed a three-member committee to investigate the allegations. Subsequently, within 9 days, the committee submitted a report claiming that he was not guilty of bribery charges, and soon after he was reappointed to the same post.<sup>11</sup> Civil society groups expressed doubts about the impartiality of the investigation, how the committee was appointed and how they came to such a conclusion within such a short period.<sup>12</sup> In another case, a lawyer filed a petition to the Court of Appeal claiming that MP Sanath Nishantha of Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) has done contempt of court by making a statement saying that judges must be held accountable for granting bail for criminals, soon after their arrests.<sup>13</sup>

The travel ban imposed against the former prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksha, former Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksha, former Central Bank Governor Ajith Nivard Cabaral on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 was further extended up to 5th September when the fundamental rights case relating to their responsibility regarding the financial crisis was taken up for hearing on 1<sup>st</sup> August and 10th August, 2022.<sup>14 15</sup>

On 30th August, Police arrested three suspects in relation to the assault on DIG Deshabandu Tennakoon,<sup>16</sup> after public notices were published seeking assistance of the public to identify suspects.<sup>17</sup> On 10th of May, the day after the attack on peaceful protesters, a group of angered people assaulted SDIG Tennakoon near the Beira Lake in Colombo.<sup>18</sup> Tennakoon was the most senior Police officer present during the attack, who is also allegedly responsible for police inaction in the case of 9th May attack on peaceful protesters.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://srilankabrief.org/100-protestors-arrested-in-sri-lanka-lawyers-govt-plans-removing-the-protest-site/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://twitter.com/RangaJayasuriya/status/1561762005434105857>

<sup>9</sup> <https://srilankabrief.org/sri-lanka-3353-activists-have-been-arrested-and-1255-still-remain-in-remand-custody-under-the-flimsiest-of-charges/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2022/07/06/nimal-siripala-resigns-as-minister-of-ports-shipping-and-aviation/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2022/08/02/nimal-siripala-de-silva-reappointed-as-minister/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://island.lk/bribery-claims-involving-japanese-contractor-lawyer-asks-govt-to-come-clean-over-allegations-levelled-against-nimal-siripala/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.themorning.lk/sanath-nishantha-charged-with-contempt/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2022/08/03/travel-ban-on-mahinda-rajakaksa-basil-rajakaksa-extended/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2022/08/10/travel-ban-on-mahinda-and-basil-extended/>

<sup>16</sup> [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_22B/Aug30\\_1661843055CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_22B/Aug30_1661843055CH.php)

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.adaderana.lk/news/84094/assault-on-sdig-tennakoon-police-seek-public-assistance-to-identify-suspects-involved>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.newswire.lk/2022/05/10/sor-dig-deshabandu-tennakoon-assaulted/>

### 3. Case Updates

**BASL informs IGP about arrest of protesters in a manner similar to abductions:** On 9th August, Sri Lanka Bar Association (BASL) wrote to the Inspector General of Police, regarding arrests and detentions being carried out without adherence to due process “in a manner akin to abductions.” BASL stated that it has received complaints from its members and the Colombo Magistrate’s Court Lawyers’ Association on the arrests of persons by police officers dressed in civilian clothing and without possessing any identification.<sup>19</sup> The letter further said “on these occasions no receipts of arrest have been issued nor an opportunity given to the persons arrested to inform relatives, friends or lawyers of their whereabouts. On these occasions they have been deprived of access to Attorneys-at-Law or the Human Rights Commission for a few hours.” The letter highlighted the arrests of Anthony Veranga Pushpika de Silva, Mangala Maddumage, and another student activist of Kelaniya University who have been arrested by persons in civilian clothing in a manner similar to abduction, and whose details were unknown for several hours, despite of the intervention of the lawyers.<sup>20</sup>

**Veranga Pushpika Granted bail:** The freelance journalist and student activist who was arrested in a manner similar to abduction, was granted bail on 9th August 2022, by Kaduwela magistrate. According to Police, he was accused of damaging government property while engaging in protests on multiple occasions, holding demonstrations in violation of Court orders, being a member of an unruly crowd, and criminally forcing police officers.<sup>21</sup>

**Bail granted to Dhaniz Ali, the protester who disrupted the broadcasting of state television:**

In late July, Dhaniz Ali, a member of the anti-government protests was taken into custody while he was on board a flight at Katunayake international airport in Colombo, without presenting a court order, amidst resistance from other passengers. He was arrested for forcibly entering state owned media institution, the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation and disrupting the broadcast, and allegedly causing a loss worth of an amount of 181,400 LKR by doing so, according to the Cinnamon Gardens Police. He was released on bail on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022.<sup>22</sup> While in detention, he was charged for using a mobile phone, a prohibited item inside the Prison premises, for which he pleaded guilty, and subsequently remanded for another 14 days on 10th of August.<sup>23</sup> Police later arrested three other suspects (1)Kelumpriya Amarasinghe, (2) M. Chandimal and (3) Arachchige Susil Wasantha in relation to the same case. Kelumpriya Amarasinghe was arrested on 22nd August, and granted bail on the same day. Susil Wasantha who got arrested on 15th August was granted bail on 29th August. Travel bans were issued against all the suspects.<sup>24</sup> On 29th of August, the magistrate ordered the Cinnamon Gardens Police to submit a progress report on the ongoing investigations into the incident, before 26th September 2022.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> <http://www.adaderana.lk/news/84230/basl-writes-to-igp-over-arrests-by-police-without-following-due-process>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.adaderana.lk/news/84230/basl-writes-to-igp-over-arrests-by-police-without-following-due-process>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.dailynews.lk/2022/07/29/law-order/284038/ruhunu-university-activist-remanded-till-august-8>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.dailynews.lk/2022/08/16/law-order/285098/dhanish-ali-released-bail>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.dailynews.lk/2022/08/06/law-order/284525/danish-ali-and-weranga-remanded-violating-court-orders>

<sup>24</sup> [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_22B/Aug22\\_1661185760CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_22B/Aug22_1661185760CH.php)

<sup>25</sup> [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_22B/Aug29\\_1661789381CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_22B/Aug29_1661789381CH.php)





*Dhaniz Ali taken to the remanded prison. Photo courtesy: Lankadeepa*

**Four Cops were granted bail in the case of shooting at protesters in Rambukkana:** Former Kegalle Senior Superintendent of Police K B Keerthirathna and three other policemen who were remanded over the Rambukkana gunshot incident were granted bail on 05<sup>th</sup> August 2022. On 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022 police opened fire on a group of protesters who were protesting against fuel shortage and fuel price hike, killing one person and injuring 24 others. Police claimed that they opened fire when protesters allegedly attempted to set fire to a fuel truck.<sup>26</sup>

**Nun who supported anti-government protesters granted bail:**

On June 7<sup>th</sup> 2022 former principal of the St. Anthony's Girls High school colombo 03, sister Mary Sonlai of Apostolic Carmel Congregation was summoned to the Wennappuwa police station in Puttalam District to record a statement of an investigation on an arson incident. On 31<sup>st</sup> August she was produced before Marawila magistrate and granted bail.<sup>27</sup> Sister Mary Sonali was a regular participant at the anti-government protest site.<sup>28 29</sup>

**Former MP imprisoned for contempt of court granted the Presidential Pardon**

The former Minister, and MP Ranjan Ramanayake was granted presidential pardon, the Presidential Media Division issued a statement on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Former MP Ranjan Ramanayake was sentenced to four years rigorous imprisonment on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021 for the offence of contempt of court, by the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. A statement made by him to the media in August 2017 calling that 'judges and lawyers are corrupt' led to the court sentence against him. Subsequently, he was charged for committing the offence of contempt of Court punishable under Article 105 (3) of the Constitution.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>26</sup> <https://colombogazette.com/2022/08/05/four-cops-granted-bail-over-rambukkana-shooting-incident/>

<sup>27</sup> <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1564964670091427841>

<sup>28</sup> <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1533957716510638081>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.ucanews.com/news/activists-urge-authorities-not-to-arrest-sri-lankan-nun/97580>.

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2022/08/26/conditional-presidential-pardon-for-ranjan-ramanayake-says-pmd/>

### **HRCSL inquiry into attack on Journalists at PM’s private residence**

Human Rights Commission (HRCSL) issued a press release on their inquiry into the attack on Sirasa Tv journalists by Special Task Force (STF) Police officers on 9th of July, at then Prime Minister Wickramasinghe’s Private residence in Colombo. HRCSL has summoned Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of STF Waruna Jayasundera and Director of STF, SSP Romesh Liyanage, and SSP D.S. Wickremasinghe of the Special Investigation Unit to make statements on the incident. SSP Liyanage denied any knowledge of the assault on the media personnel and HRCSL had shown him the video footage of the attack. HRCSL stated “there is serious doubt regarding the credibility of the evidence given by SSP Liyanage to the HRCSL.” Two recommendations were issued, requesting the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to transfer SSP Liyanage outside Colombo, until the Police investigations are over, and to stop wearing camouflage dress in civilian operations as it is difficult to identify the identity of individual Police officers.<sup>31</sup>

**HRCSL writes to IGP on arrest of protesters using PTA:** On 22nd August, HRCSL wrote a letter to the IGP on the arrest of protesters using Prevention of Terrorism Act. The letter said that PTA has been grossly manipulated, and undemocratically used to justify wrongful arrests of the protesters. Commission said they are deeply concerned about the use of PTA to arrest suspects that do not fall within the definition of the act, and informed IGP to inform them the facts and circumstances under which these suspects have been dealt with under the PTA. It further said “the reports received by the Commission so far only reiterate that these persons now arrested and detained by the police under PTA were merely exercising their fundamental rights of protest.” Also, they pointed out that offences such as harming to government property could not be used as a justification to arrest protesters under the PTA, as PTA is a special law that deals with acts of terrorism.<sup>32</sup>



*Protests were organized in Colombo, and North and East demanding the release of student activists under prevention of Terrorism Act. Photo Courtesy: Mari via Twitter [@EmDeeS11](https://twitter.com/EmDeeS11)*

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.hrcsl.lk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/HRCSL-Press-Notice-02082022.pdf>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.hrcsl.lk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/HRCSL-Letter-to-IGP-22.08.2022.pdf>

**Declassifying diaspora organizations and individuals from the list of Terrorist organizations:** Sri Lanka de-listed six international Tamil diaspora organisations including the UK-based Global Tamil Forum (GTF) and 316 individuals from its list of Terrorist organizations under the List of Designated Persons under Regulation 4(7) of the United Nations Regulations No. 1 of 2012. Delisted organizations were Australian Tamil Congress (ATC), Global Tamil Forum (GTF), World Tamil Coordinating Committee (WTCC), Tamil Eelam People's Assembly (TEPA), Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) and British Tamil Forum (BTF).<sup>33 34</sup>

**Protesters arrested for allegedly stealing tear gas:** In July and August, several protesters were arrested allegedly stealing tear gas from the Police.<sup>35 36</sup>

**Updates on May 9 Attack Inquiry:** HRCSL made several recommendations about ongoing investigations into the 9th May attack on anti-government protesters. Recommendations included (1) appointment of a committee to identify the perpetrators within the law enforcement and to recommend appropriate legal actions, (2) examining the telephone conversations among IGP, his subordinates and Secretary of Defence at the time of incident.<sup>37</sup> The court hearings on the incident happened on 3rd of August, and 24th August at the Colombo magistrate court. On 3rd, Police informed the court that probes carried out on Senior DIG Tennakoon in charge of the Western Province,<sup>38</sup> have been completed, and a report has been submitted to the Attorney General's (AG's) Department. However, Deputy Solicitor General who appeared at the Court on behalf of AG's Department stated that it is appropriate to study all the evidence in the case, as the submitted report is insufficient to make a decision regarding SDIG Tennakoon. The magistrate also inquired why the repeated directives given by the AG's Department to the Police to transfer SDIG Tennakoon during the investigation were not implemented.<sup>39 40</sup> Court also granted permission to conduct forensic inspection on 5 mobile phones belonging to five suspects including MPs Sanath Nishantha, Milan Jayathilaka, Moratuwa Mayor Saman Lal Fernando, and Dan Priyasad, and another individual. They were ordered to hand over their phones before the next court date.<sup>41</sup> On 24th August, as MPs Sanath Nishantha and Milan Jayathilaka and Dan Priyasad failed to hand over their mobile phones to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), the court ordered them to be detained at court, until the mobile phones are handed over.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>33</sup> <https://economynext.com/sri-lanka-lifts-ban-on-six-tamil-diaspora-groups-316-individuals-report-98542/>

<sup>34</sup> [http://documents.gov.lk/files/eqz/2022/8/2291-02\\_E.pdf](http://documents.gov.lk/files/eqz/2022/8/2291-02_E.pdf)

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2022/08/03/stolen-tear-gas-ammo-another-suspect-arrested/>

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.adaderana.lk/news/83717/suspect-arrested-with-50-tear-gas-canisters-stolen-during-protest>

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.hrcsl.lk/hrcsl-issues-a-recommendation-on-the-incident-that-took-place-in-galle-face-green-on-9th-may-2022/>

<sup>38</sup> The senior police officer present at the event, who is allegedly responsible for Police inaction

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.adaderana.lk/news/84071/probes-on-sdig-tennakoon-concluded-court-told>

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.themorning.lk/why-is-deshabandu-not-transferred-disciplined-chief-magistrate/>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.lankadeepa.lk/news/2022/08/24/240824-01> නීතිපතිගේ උපදෙස් නොනැකීම ගැන වාර්තාවක් ඉල්ලයි - Lankadeepa Online

<sup>42</sup> [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_22B/Aug24\\_1661345061CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_22B/Aug24_1661345061CH.php)

## 4. Repression of Freedom of Assembly

### 4.1. Police issued seeks public support to identify 72 protesters who entered into Presidential Secretariat

On 19th August Police issued a press release seeking public assistance in identifying 72 protesters who allegedly “forcibly entered the Presidential Secretariat President’s in Colombo on 09 July and damaged its property”.<sup>43 44</sup> In the statement, the Police Media Division said the Colombo North Division criminal investigations unit is carrying out investigations to arrest suspects in connection with the incident. The police also published photographs seeking information about 34 suspects who have been identified through social media networks but whose identities have not been confirmed so far. Police also sought public support to arrest those who sat in the President’s chair.<sup>45</sup> A young man and two women who sat on the President’s chair were subsequently arrested later.<sup>46 47</sup>



*Anti-government protesters gather outside the presidential palace in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on July 9, 2022. (AFP via Getty Images)*

### 4.2. Imminent arrest of Journalist Manjula Samarasekara

Journalist Manjula Samarasekara, who was expected to be appointed as the Media Co-ordinator of an organisation called the “National Centre for the Struggle ” connected with anti-government protests alleged that there is a clear indication that Police is attempting to arrest him. Samarasekara is also the Founding President of the ‘Sarvapaakshika Aragalakaruwo’ (All-Party Activists of the Struggle) organisation, which started negotiations with Opposition political parties in order to achieve the goals of the struggle.<sup>48</sup> Meanwhile, the Police head office has made a statement stating that Western Province Deputy Inspector General of Police Deshabandu Tennakoon has ordered the Police

<sup>43</sup> [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_22B/Aug19\\_1660923847CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_22B/Aug19_1660923847CH.php)

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2022/08/28/police-seek-public-assistance-to-identify-72-suspects/>

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.newswire.lk/2022/08/08/sri-lanka-police-seek-public-support-to-arrest-those-who-sat-in-presidents-chair/>

<sup>46</sup> [https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking\\_news/Man-who-sat-on-Presidents-chair-arrested/108-242287](https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking_news/Man-who-sat-on-Presidents-chair-arrested/108-242287)

<sup>47</sup> <https://island.lk/two-women-arrested-for-sitting-on-presidents-chair/>

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.themorning.lk/journo-manjula-samarasekara-to-be-arrested/>

intelligence to conduct an investigation into the conduct of the newly established organization “National Centre for the Struggle.”<sup>49</sup>

#### 4.3. Travel bans were issued against Ratta and convener of HNDA Student Federation

The Fort Magistrate's Court in Colombo issued an order on preventing YouTuber Ratindu Senaratne (Ratta) and Convener of the Higher National Diploma Student Federation Haritha Darshana from travelling overseas. Police informed the court that a case was filed against the suspects for being party to unlawful assembly at the Fort Police Jurisdiction, and there is a risk of them traveling overseas.<sup>50</sup>

#### 4.4. Ratta summoned and arrested



*Youtuber Ratta at the GoHomeGota occupy protest site in Colombo. Photo courtesy: newscutter.lk*

YouTuber Rathindu Senaratne, also known as RATTa, a prominent leader of the anti-government protests was arrested on 1st of August, after being summoned by the Colombo Crimes Division to provide a voluntary statement regarding Pathum Kerner who was previously arrested in relation to protests. Police said that he was arrested on charges of damaging public property during a protest at Bank of Ceylon Mawatha on the 21st of May.<sup>51</sup> He was granted bail on the next day.<sup>52</sup>

#### 4.5. 19 people arrested, including ISUF convener Wasantha Mudalige

19 people were arrested by Sri Lanka Police on 18th August during a protest held in Colombo, demanding the resignation of the government, ending Executive Presidency system, accountability on cases of corruption, relief measures against rising cost of living, reopening universities and to stop the repression against the protesters. They were arrested by multiple Police stations (Cinnamon Gardens, Slave Island, Borella) in Colombo, and the Kelaniya Crimes Division. While 16 of the suspects were

<sup>49</sup> ඉරගලයේ දෙවන රැල්ල ගැන සිරුවෙන්. [Lankadeepa Online](https://www.lankadeepa.lk). Published 24th Aug 2022.

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2022/08/01/travel-ban-on-ratta-and-another-suspect/>

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2022/08/01/rathindu-senaratne-ratta-arrested/>

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2022/08/03/ratta-released-on-bail-in-case-filed-for-damaging-public-property/>

released on a personal bail of Rs. 500,000 each by the Colombo Additional Magistrate's Court on the same day, three suspects Convener of Inter-University Student Federation Wasantha Mudalige, Convener of the Inter University Bhikku Federation Venerable Galwewa Siridhamma Thero, and student activist attached to the Kelaniya University Students' Union, Bhashantha Jeewantha Gunathilake were not granted bail. They were later detained under the prevention of Terrorism Act. An overseas travel ban was issued against actor Jehan Appuhamy who managed to escape the Police custody when Police arrested the protesters.



*Policemen try to block during the protest held in Colombo on August 18, 2022. (Photo by Ishara S. KODIKARA / AFP)*

During the court hearing, the Police accused the protestors of assaulting police officers and obstructing their duties, though the defense lawyers appeared on behalf of protesters held such accusations were fabricated.<sup>53</sup> Videos of the protest published by the media showed evidence contrary to the claims of the Police. When the protest was about to begin, Police made an announcement asking protesters to disperse, and not to be a part of an illegal gathering. While the protest was ongoing, hundreds of Police officers walked from the opposite side of the protest march, with batons, and water cannons, and attacked the protesters with water, and tear gas, and assaulted them with batons, and arrested them. They also chased after running protesters.<sup>54 55</sup>

Several days later Police stated that the Inspector General of Police instructed to hand over the investigation to the Criminal Investigation Department of Police to investigate whether detained student activists are involved in any anti-government or terrorist activities.<sup>56</sup> Police obtained detention orders under PTA to detain them for 90-days, and they were moved to Tangalle Central Detention Center, in Tangalle, Southern Province from Colombo.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2022/08/19/sri-lanka-student-activist-wasantha-mudalige-held-under-terrorism-act/>

<sup>54</sup> <http://www.adaderana.lk/news/84387/12-arrested-during-protest-by-university-students-in-colombo>

<sup>55</sup> <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2022/08/19/gvix-a19.html>

<sup>56</sup> [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_22B/Aug21\\_1661096575CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_22B/Aug21_1661096575CH.php)

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2022/08/23/sri-lanka-student-activists-held-under-pta-moved-to-tangalle-detention-center/>

#### 4.6. Police fires tear gas, arrests 27 at protest march organized by student activists

On 30th August, Inter University Student Federation (IUSF) organized another protest in Colombo, demanding the release of three PTA detainees including arrested student activists. It was blocked and dispersed with tear gas and water cannon attack on Deans Road, Maradana. Close to about 1,000 police personnel including the Special Task Force (STF) and the Riot Control Units backed by several water cannon trucks attacked the protesters who sat down on the tarmac road near the Ministry of Health with rounds of tear gas being fired into the air. The fleeing students were chased after by the advancing police forces up to the Technical Junction where the group then scattered. Also, over 27 protesters were arrested by the police.<sup>58</sup>



*Police firing tear gas at the protesters. Photo courtesy: Daily Mirror.*

#### 4.7. Police visits the residence of the convener of HNDA Student Federation

On 26<sup>th</sup> August Thebuwana Police station visited the house of the convener of the Inter Higher National Diploma Student Federation, Haritha Darshana and asked him to report to the police station to record statement.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1564644670654889989>

<sup>59</sup> <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1563133914801393664>



*Student activist Haritha Darshana at a protest. Photo Courtesy: JDS Lanka*

#### **4.8. Police visits office and residence of Teachers Union General Secretary**

On 25<sup>th</sup> August four Policemen attached to the Colombo Community Police visited the office of Ceylon Teachers union located at Chittampalam A. Gardiner Road in Colombo and searched for General Secretary Joseph Stalin and inquired about his night routine. On 26<sup>th</sup> Policemen attached to the Wolfendal Police station visited his private residence in Colombo 13 and questioned his old mother about his whereabouts. Stalin is a prominent activist and a well-known trade unionist who was also active in anti-government protests.



*Ceylon Teachers Union General Secretary Joseph Stalin. Photo courtesy: JDS Lanka*

#### **4.9. Joseph Stalin summoned to the to the Mutwal Police station**

General Secretary of Ceylon Teachers Union summoned to the Mutwal Police station on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022, in relation to an investigation about an anti-government rally held on 13<sup>th</sup> July. All the trade Unions organised a massive protest calling for stern action against former president Gotabaya Rajapaksha and resignation of Prime minister Ranil Wickrmasinghe on 13th July.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>60</sup> <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1561546062690766848>



#### **4.10. Duminda Nagamuwa summoned to the Harbour police station**

Duminda Nagmauwa, Organising Secretary of Workers Struggle summoned to the Harbor Police on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022, in relation to an investigation about an anti-government rally held on 13<sup>th</sup> July. All the trade Unions organised a massive protest calling for stern action against former president Gotabaya Rajapaksha and resignation of Prime minister Ranil Wickramasinghe on 13<sup>th</sup> July.<sup>61</sup>

#### **4.11. Civil society activist Chinthaka Rajapaksha arrested by the Police**

Civil society activist Chinthaka Rajapaksha was arrested while he was returning home after attending the Inter University Student Federation (IUSF) organised Protest on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022. He was arrested for speaking to the media when the President's house was occupied by the protesters in July.<sup>62</sup> Chinthaka Rajapaksha is the Moderator of the Movement for National Land and Agriculture Reform (MONLAR), On 19<sup>th</sup> August Chinthaka Rajapaksha and other arrested protesters appeared before Colombo Magistrate.<sup>63</sup> He was remanded until August 26<sup>th</sup> 2022. On 26<sup>th</sup> August, Magistrate granted him bail following a remote hearing.<sup>64 65</sup>



*The Moderator of the Movement for National Land and Agriculture Reform (MONLAR),  
Chinthaka Rajapaksha Photo courtesy: Vikalpa*

#### **4.12. Protester arrested for entering Presidential Secretariat**

A young protester who joined the protest on July 9 was arrested and questioned by the Colombo Crime division. Nalin Gunawardena who lived in Deraniyagala was arrested in this manner by the Mutwal police for entering the Presidential Secretariat on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Nalin Gunawardana was questioned by the Colombo Crime Division in Dematagoda and arrested by the Mutwal Police on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022. On 24<sup>th</sup> August he was granted bail.<sup>66</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1561546062690766848>

<sup>62</sup> <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1560583583840043011>

<sup>63</sup> <https://twitter.com/vikalpavoices/status/1560559518907371521>

<sup>64</sup> <https://mobile.twitter.com/vikalpavoices/status/1560559518907371521>

<sup>65</sup> <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1563061749380591618>

<sup>66</sup> <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1562717217224962049>

#### 4.13. CID summons a four youth who involved in protests:

Four Youth who engaged in the recent massive protest received the summon notices from the Criminal Investigation Department on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022. The notices mentioned that they were summoned to the Criminal Investigation Department to get some information regarding an ongoing investigation on illegally entering the prime minister's office, damaging and stealing its property on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022. Two of them were asked to provide their statements on 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> August and others on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.  
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#### 4.14. National Organiser of Socialist Student Union arrested by Slave island Police

On 22<sup>nd</sup> August, National Organiser of Socialist Student Union, Rangana Lakaml Devapriya was arrested by the policemen attached to the Slave Island Police and took to the Fort Police station. He was arrested after he was taking part in a silent protest. On 23<sup>rd</sup> August Rangana was bailed out by the Fort Magistrate.  
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#### 4.15. Police arrests a performance artist



*Shalika Senadeera performing in front of the Police headquarters. Photo credit: Prasad Welikumabarage*

67 <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1562709692349947904>

68 <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1562002334787461121>

69 <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1561595462901239808>

Shalika Rukshan Senadeera, a young performance artist who performed in the recent protest, was arrested in Vauxhall Street in Colombo by the police on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022.<sup>70</sup> Rukshan was arrested due to wearing a dress similar to the Sri Lanka army and police and taking part in the demonstration held in front of the Police headquarters on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022.<sup>71 72</sup>

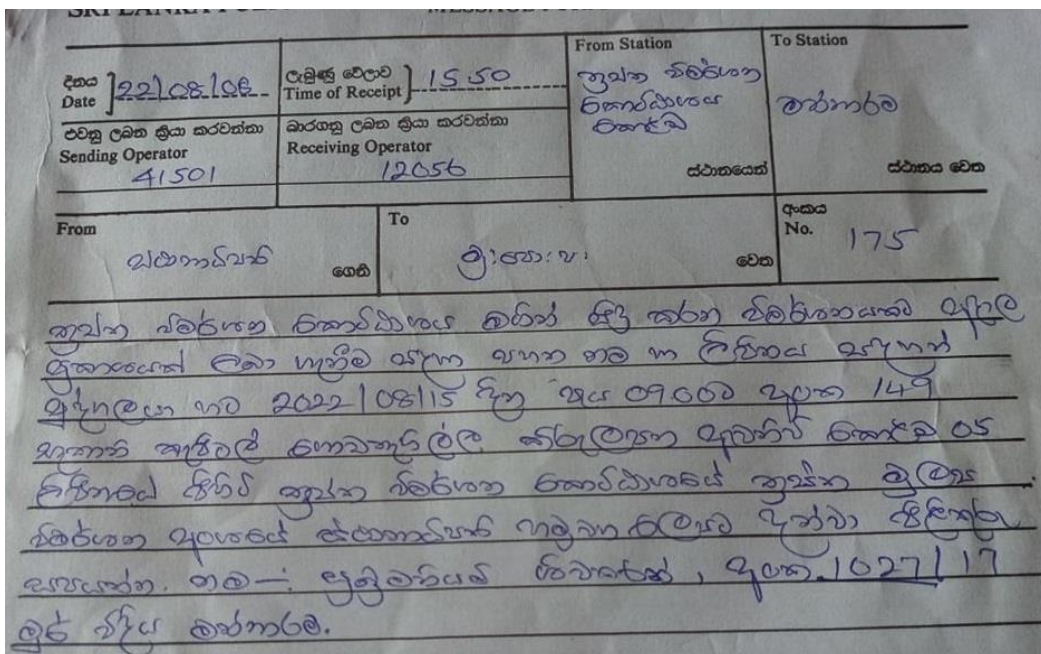
**4.16. Two young activists were arrested by the Criminal Investigation Department**

Piyath Nkeshhala and Nuwan Neelamuni, two youth who involved in the anti-government protests were summoned to the Criminal investigation Headquarters of Police and Slave Island Police Station in Colombo on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022. Piyath Nikeshala was produced before the Fort Magistrate and Magistrate ordered to remand him until 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Piyath was charged in connection with forcible entry to the Prime Minister office on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022.<sup>73 74</sup>

**4.17. Activist arrested by a group of Police officers at Galle Police:**

Young protester Sahaja Madushanka who took part in the recent protest was arrested by the Police on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2022. He was arrested by a team of officers attached to the Criminal Investigation Department, at his home town Galle.<sup>75</sup>

**4.18. Head of the Tamil National Right to Life Movement summoned Terrorism Investigation Department**



Police notice in Sinhala language summoning the Tamil activist for interrogation. Courtesy: Tamil Guardian

Terrorism Investigation in Colombo has summoned the Mannar based Tamil activist V S Sivakaran on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022. He was questioned for over four hours. Following the interrogation, Sivakaran stated that “a completely politicized investigation was conducted with the aim of undermining our work by constantly threatening civil society activists.” Sivakaran is the Head of the Tamila National Right to Life

<sup>70</sup> <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1562071229418422272>  
<sup>71</sup> <https://twitter.com/welikumbura/status/1562266950524616704>  
<sup>72</sup> <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1562071229418422272>  
<sup>73</sup> <http://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=84468>  
<sup>74</sup> <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1561547645226737664>  
<sup>75</sup> <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1560909335219290112>

#### **4.19. Protester who first entered to the President Secretariat arrested:**

Police Special Investigation unit has arrested the 38-year-old resident in Pannipitiya on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 for forcibly entering the Presidential Secretariat. According to the Police, he is the first person who has entered the Presidential Secretariat when protesters took over the building.<sup>77</sup>

#### **4.20. Veteran swimmer and reputed Businessman summoned to the police:**

Former Sri Lankan Swimming champion Julian Bolling and Businessman Jonathan Martenstyn have been summoned to the Criminal Investigation Department on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The duo was summoned to the Criminal Investigation Department to record statements for the purpose of future investigations into the arson attack on then Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe's private residence on 09<sup>th</sup> July 2022.<sup>78</sup> Julian Bolling and Transparency International Sri Lanka have filed Fundamental Right petitions against 13 respondents including former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksha, Former Central Bank Governor W D Lakshman, Former Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksha and then Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe (Wickramasinghe's name was later withdrawn) seeking an immediate inquiry into those responsible for the financial crisis in the country.<sup>79 80</sup>

#### **4.21. Tamil French resident arrested by the Police for supporting the Galleface protest**

Police officers attached to the Nittambuwa police station have arrested Arjun Amadoru, a resident in France who was involved in organising a demonstration in Paris in solidarity with an anti-government protest. He was arrested on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2022 when he came to Sri Lanka to visit his family.<sup>81</sup> An officer of the Nittambuwa police station stated that the suspect was arrested for the violent incidents in Nittambuwa on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022. He was produced to the magistrate on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022 and remanded until September 5<sup>th</sup>.<sup>82</sup>

#### **4.22. Department of Immigration and emigration seized the passport of the British Social media influencer who supported Sri Lanka protests**

British National and social media influencer Kayleigh Frazer's passport was seized, and later her visa was terminated and asked to leave the country, by the immigration officials, apparently due to her support to the ongoing protests against the government. She had been posting about the ongoing crisis and protests in Sri Lanka in her instagram profile.<sup>83</sup> Authorities argued that she could not do so as she had come on a medical visa.<sup>84</sup>

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<sup>76</sup> <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/sri-lanka-s-tid-interrogates-tamil-activist-colombo>

<sup>77</sup> <https://twitter.com/BasnayakeM/status/1554145939417403392>

<sup>78</sup> <https://www.ft.lk/news/Julian-Bolling-summoned-to-CID-today/56-738780>

<sup>79</sup> <https://www.tisirilanka.org/tisl-files-petition-in-the-sc-demanding-accountability-for-the-economic-crisis/>

<sup>80</sup> <https://www.ft.lk/news/Julian-Bolling-summoned-to-CID-today/56-738780>

<sup>81</sup> <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1561007294363713538>

<sup>82</sup> <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1561644745046253568>

<sup>83</sup> <https://www.instagram.com/kayzfraser/?hl=en>

<sup>84</sup> <https://ceylontoday.lk/2022/11/02/kayleigh-fraser-yet-to-be-found-2/>



*Kayleigh Fraser via @kayzfraser Instagram*

On 2nd August 2022, Sri Lankan immigration officers seized her passport and informed her that they needed to investigate on purpose of visit and she was asked to visit the Immigration and Emigration department after 7 days.<sup>85</sup> Following the investigation, on 10<sup>th</sup> August immigration department terminated her visa and asked her to leave the country by 15th August.<sup>86</sup> On 12<sup>th</sup> August Kayleigh filed a writ petition against the decision taken by the Department of Immigration and Emigration to deport her from Sri Lanka. On 16<sup>th</sup> August the writ petition was considered before the Court of Appeal under Judge Sobotha Rajakaruna and he dismissed the writ petition, noting that the Controller General of the Department of immigration and emigration has right to terminate or cancel a visa without providing reasons as confirmed by previous rulings delivered by the Supreme Court as well.<sup>87 88 89 90</sup> However, she did not leave the country, following the court decision, she is believed to be living in hiding in Sri Lanka.

#### **4.23. Attorney summoned to criminal Investigation Department:**

Indika Attanayake, a lawyer from Monaragala was summoned to the Criminal Investigation Department on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 and he was questioned about his involvement in the recent anti-government protest movement.<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>85</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGw0aBJnn\\_M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGw0aBJnn_M)

<sup>86</sup> <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/british-instagrammer-kayleigh-fraser-asked-to-leave-sri-lanka-for-backing-protesters-3247052>

<sup>87</sup> <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2022/08/17/scottish-instagrammer-missing-after-losing-deportation-case-immigration-dept/>

<sup>88</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGw0aBJnn\\_M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGw0aBJnn_M)

<sup>89</sup>

<https://www.facebook.com/Vikalpasrilanka/posts/pfbid032JTfX43KQhe181emhyiuggTcjTPD5wRDAWvxU98aEbZvQfCFhb4Qey6JabfnyDDpl>

<sup>90</sup> <https://ceylontoday.lk/2022/11/02/kayleigh-fraser-yet-to-be-found-2/>

<sup>91</sup> <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1565042288199450624>

#### **4.24. Lyricist and professional designer summoned to the Cinnamon Garden Police:**

On 31<sup>st</sup> August Cinnamon Garden police questioned a lyricist and a professional designer, Sanjaya Epa Seneviratne about his engagements in the recent anti-government protests.<sup>92</sup>

#### **4.25. Police interrupts a conference and claims that they were looking to arrest another leader in the anti-government protests**

On 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022, a press conference to condemn the police violence organized by a group of trade Unionists and some activists was disrupted by the police. Police officers with uniforms and plainclothes stormed to the Centre for Society & Religion in Colombo where the press conference was held. Police claimed that they were searching for the National Organiser of Youth for Change, Lahiru Weerasekara, former student leader who was strongly involved with the anti-government protests.<sup>93</sup>

#### **4.26. Special team attached to harbour police raided a Buddhist Temple for searching Koswatte Mahanama:**

On 14<sup>th</sup> August a Special Police team attached to the Harbor Police station raided a Buddhist Temple in Colombo searching for Koswatte Mahanama Thero, who is the Media Secretary of National Bhikkhu Front.<sup>94</sup> On 28<sup>th</sup> July Mahanama Thero was arrested along with Ceylon Teachers Union General Secretary Joseph Stalin for holding a demonstration allegedly violating a court order. He was released on bail on 05<sup>th</sup> August.<sup>95</sup>

## **5. Other incidents**

### **5.1. National security act**

Sri Lanka's minister of justice has announced the introduction of a new 'national security act' with more "relaxed" provisions to replace the controversial Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) according to the cabinet spokesman Minister Bandula Gunawardena. At a cabinet press briefing, he stated that a decision to draft the proposed new bill has been announced.<sup>96</sup> There are numerous calls from civil society and other sectors to repeal the PTA, a draconian law that has been long used to silence dissent, arrest HRDs and activists. However, the attempts to reintroduce new laws replacing PTA has been equally problematic. For example, the Counter Terrorism Act (CTA) which government attempted to introduce in 2018 also contained a number of sections that could have been easily misused by the authorities to repress dissent. Also looking at how the government responds to the recent anti-government protesters, INFORM assumes the proposed act could be more repressive and problematic.

### **5.2. Poet and teacher Ahnaf Jazeem listed under terrorism related activities:**

The poet Ahnaf Jazeem who was previously arrested and later released on bail<sup>97</sup> under the Prevention of Terrorism Act was named as as a person designated for terrorism related

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<sup>92</sup> <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1564877289942405120>

<sup>93</sup> <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1564602260671299584>

<sup>94</sup> <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1558758265022029827>

<sup>95</sup> <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2022/08/05/court-orders-release-of-mahanama-thero-on-bail/>

<sup>96</sup> <https://economynext.com/sri-lanka-to-replace-controversial-anti-terror-law-with-new-national-security-act-98899/>

<sup>97</sup> <https://www.themorning.lk/detained-poet-ahnaf-jazeem-held-under-pta-released-on-bail/>

Activities in a list published by the Defence Ministry on 1st of August.<sup>98</sup> He was arrested for allegedly promoting extremism through his poetry Navarasam.



*The poet Ahnaf Jazeem who was detained for 18 months, under draconian anti-terror laws in Sri Lanka.  
Photo Courtesy: Tamil Guardian*

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<sup>98</sup> <https://twitter.com/JDSLanka/status/1559138954749911040>