

### Witnesses ready to reveal conspiracy

By W.K. Prasad Manju | Published: 2:00 AM Oct 31 2020











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Several witnesses are ready to reveal how a group of former and incumbent MPs, representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), some officers of the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) and certain representatives of Western diplomatic missions hatched a conspiracy to file 10 cases, based on false charges, to imprison around 100 intelligence officers, State Minister Jayantha Samaraweera alleged.

Samaraweera added the group of politicians includes former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and MPs Patali Champika Ranawaka, Dr. Rajitha Senaratne and former Minister Mangala Samaraweera.

The State Minister claimed the most severe and undue political influence exerted and brought to bear on the political authority in the witch-hunt against the Intelligence Services officers, had been done by Ranawaka.

"These witnesses are ready to give evidence before Presidential Commissions of Inquiry and the Courts. They are prepared to reveal many unrevealed facts about undue influence exerted by the former Director of the CID, Shani Abeysekara, and Nishantha Candappa and Tissera (both attached to the CID), in filing false charges against war heroes attached to the Intelligence Services in order to put them behind bars."

Samaraweera alleged that Abeysekara and a group of CID officers had exerted severe undue influence in order to obtain bail for imprisoned war heroes attached to the Intelligence Services and to then forcibly obtain statements from them to implicate President Gotabaya Rajapaksa (then former Secretary to the Ministry of Defence) in these incidents.

Therefore, he claimed that since 10 cases (including the incident concerning Journalist Prageeth Eknaligoda, the murder of Editor Lasantha Wickrematunge, the assault of Journalist Keith Noyahr, the assault of Editor Upali Tennakoon, the abduction of four youths in buses, the incident concerning 11 youths who were abducted from Trincomalee, the murder of former MP Joseph Pararajasingham, the murder of former MP Nadarajah Raviraj, and the murder of ruggerite Wasim Thajudeen) had been purposefully filed on false charges in the witch hunt against the war heroes attached to the Intelligence Services, he would request from President Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, to review these cases.

Furthermore, he claimed that Candappa had fled to Switzerland owing to the involvement of some NGOs and certain representatives of foreign diplomatic missions attached to countries in the West in this conspiracy, and that therefore, legal action must definitely be taken against them, the political authority they operated, and all involved in the witch hunt against the war heroes.

Samaraweera also claimed that owing to around 100 war heroes attached to the Intelligence Services from the Army and the Navy being imprisoned and punished, they had lost all benefits and privileges owed to them from their employment and that this had resulted in a great injustice to the families of these war heroes. Samaraweera pointed out that he would soon be writing to President Rajapaksa and Premier Rajapaksa requesting that this injustice be rectified and for all such denied benefits and privileges to be afforded to them once again.

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