



CENTRE FOR POLICY ALTERNATIVES
විකල්ප ප්‍රතිපත්ති කේන්ද්‍රය
மாற்றுக் கொள்கைகளுக்கான நிலையம்

CPA STATEMENT IN REGARD TO THE ATTACK ON PEACEFUL PROTESTERS AT GGG ON THE 21ST JULY 2022.

22nd July 2022, Colombo, Sri Lanka: The Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) vehemently condemns the violent attack by the authorities on the protestors, lawyers and media personnel at the Galle Face green soon after midnight on the 21st July 2022. CPA notes that the attacks are all the more heinous as they came just hours after protestors had publicly expressed their desire to leave the premises of the Presidential Secretariat and to allow the new President time to prove himself. These senseless attacks by security forces have undermined peace & security and have further escalated tensions in Sri Lanka.

This attack comes less than twenty four hours after Ranil Wickremesinghe took oaths as President and when Sri Lanka is confronted with multiple crises. As President and the commander-in- chief of the armed forces, Mr. Wickremesinghe must take responsibility for these actions, initiate immediate investigations and hold to account perpetrators linked with violence. Inability or unwillingness to take swift action in this regard will further exacerbate the crisis, entrench impunity and further erode the trust people have with government and governance in Sri Lanka.

As such CPA calls on Mr. Wickremesinghe to forthwith;

- 1) Issue a public apology pertaining to the said attacks;
- 2) Ensure an independent investigation into the circumstances of the attacks on citizens, media and lawyers and hold perpetrators to account;
- 3) Revoke his proclamation declaring a State of Emergency & the relevant Emergency Regulations.

CPA reiterates that the multiple crises faced by Sri Lanka cannot be resolved by a single political party or by having recourse to the powers of the Executive Presidency. In fact the powers of the Executive Presidency have shown themselves to be a driver of instability and conflict in Sri Lanka over the past four decades. As such CPA calls for the formation of a multi-party government aimed at abolishing the Executive Presidency and setting the economic circumstances that allow immediate Parliamentary elections.

Centre for Policy Alternatives