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பாதுகாப்பு அமைச்சு - ஊடக மையம்  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE - MEDIA CENTRE

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Director General/ News Director/ News Editor

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26 April 2023

**REQUEST FOR MEDIA PUBLICITY**

1. It is kindly requested from your esteemed media institution to provide wide media coverage to the following Press Release/News article/Event.
2. For more information please visit: [www.defence.lk](http://www.defence.lk)
3. Your cooperation and assistance in this regard is highly appreciated.

Thank you.

**MBB NALIN HERATH RSP**

Colonel

Officiating Director - Media Centre

**Clarification by the Ministry of Defence on a statement made by Hon. Wimal Weerawansa MP regarding the Chief of Defence Staff and former Army Commander**

Deputy National Security Advisor Level Meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave, a security conference organized between friendly countries in the South Indian Ocean region, was held in India on 07 July 2022. The Ministry of Defence emphasizes that under the directions and approval of the then President of Sri Lanka and the Defence Ministry, the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and former Commander of the Army General Shavendra Silva participated in the Meeting representing the Government of Sri Lanka.

Appearing on the 'Paththare Visthare' programme of Hiru TV, today (26 Apr), Journalist Chamuditha Samarawickrama quoting from the speech made by Hon. Wimal Weerawansa MP at the launching ceremony of his book "Nine; The Hidden Story" (නවය; සැඟවුණු කතාව), had alleged that the first plan by those behind the protests on May 09, 2022 was to assassinate the then Executive President and the defence heads inside the President's House and that General Shavendra Silva's visit to India, aroused suspicion.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Defence further emphasizes that the above statement is baseless and the Chief of Defence Staff and former Commander of the Army General Shavendra Silva was on an official visit to India in July 2022 to attend the meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave with the approval of the then President of Sri Lanka and Ministry of Defence.