



A Brief Biography of His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa

He is a former attorney-at-law and has the distinction of being the youngest member of the house in 1970, at the age of 24. Percy Mahendra “Mahinda” Rajapaksa was born on November 18, 1945. He was born in Weerakatiya in the southern rural district of Hambantota. His father was a member of the Sri Lankan Parliament from 1947 to 1965. He was educated at Richmond College, Galle before moving to Nalanda College Colombo and later Thurstan College in Colombo. After passing out as an Attorney-at-Law from the Colombo Law College, he took his place at the bar, with a special concern in human interest. Throughout his parliamentary career, except for the period from 1994-2001 when he was a minister, he continued his law practice in Tangalle, to whose development Rajapaksa has a great commitment. The most important milestone in his career is the defeat of Tamil Tiger rebels in May 2009 thereby ending the country’s civil war, which waged for 26 years. He was elected President for the second time in January 2010 after his win over Sarath Fonseka.

After the death of his father in 1967, Rajapaksa took over as the SLEP candidate and was elected to Parliament in 1970.

He became Labor Minister under President Chandrika Kumaratunga, and later the Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. He was appointed Prime Minister by Kumaratunga in April 2004 after the Sri Lanka Freedom Party won the general election.

He was endorsed by Kumaratunga as her successor in November 2005 and was elected the fifth President of Sri Lanka.

From the start of his career, Rajapaksa adopted a centre-left political stands, identifying himself with labor rights and becoming a champion of human rights. He was a leading member of the Parliamentarians for human rights. Loyalty to principle and party has been the hallmark of Rajapaksa’s political philosophy.

In 1994, following the election victory of the People’s Alliance, a political front led by Sri Lanka Freedom Party and headed by Chandrika

Kumaratunga, Rajapaksa was appointed Minister of Labour. He held this post until 1997 when, following a cabinet reshuffle, his portfolio was changed to Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

When the United National Party (UNP) defeated the People’s Alliance in the 2001 elections, Rajapaksa lost his position in the Government. He was however appointed as Leader of Opposition in March 2002.

Rajapaksa was sworn in as Sri Lanka’s 13th Prime Minister on April 6, 2004.

Mahinda Rajapaksa was chosen by Sri Lanka Freedom Party to contest with former Prime Minister and Opposition Leader, Ranil Wickremasinghe, the leader of the United National Party in this Presidential Election held on November 17, 2005. Despite the huge election campaign led by UNP, Mahinda Rajapaksa was able to gain a narrow victory by 190,000 votes. The Opposition claimed that LTTE calling for a boycott

President Mahinda Rajapaksa being honored with “Honoris Causa Doctorate” by Patricia Lumumba University of Moscow in Russia on 6th February, 2010.





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1. President Mahinda Rajapaksa with Jigmi Y. Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan.

2. President Mahinda Rajapaksa with Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

3. President Mahinda Rajapaksa with Mr. Mohamed Nasheed, President of Maldives.

4. President Mahinda Rajapaksa with the First Lady Shriranthi Rajapaksa (left) with U.S. President Barack Obama and the First Lady Michelle Obama.

5. President Mahinda Rajapaksa with UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon.

6. President Mahinda Rajapaksa receives unmatched love, faith and reliance from his people.

7. President Mahinda Rajapaksa happily expectant of the future of his Nation.



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of the polls in the North and East from Tamil voters in areas within their control lead to their defeat. Most voters in these areas were forcibly restrained from voting, and it is said that they would have favored Ranil Wickremasinghe and his UNP party in the said election. Rajapaksa received 50.3% of the vote.

After becoming President of Sri Lanka, Rajapaksa reshuffled the cabinet and took the portfolios of Defense and Finance in the new cabinet, which was sworn on November 23, 2005.

Although styling himself as a man of peace and a willing negotiator, Rajapaksa signaled his intention to end the peace process once in power by forging an alliance with the Sinhalese nationalist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna and the Jathika Hela Urumaya. The JVP had opposed the original 2002 peace process as treasonous.

Rajapaksa is married to Shiranthi Wickremasinghe, a Roman Catholic. He has three sons, Namal Rajapaksa is active in politics while

his brother Yoshitha was commissioned as an Acting Sub Lieutenant in the Sri Lankan Navy in March 2009 and appointed an Aide-de-camp to the President in 2006.

Even when he was a cabinet Minister, he shunned security and lived the simplest of lives with his family.

He was conferred with two Honorary Doctorates a Doctor of Law by the University of Colombo on September 6, 2009 and a degree was awarded by the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia on February 6, 2010 for his contribution for word peace and outstanding success against defeating terrorism.

His remarkable record of human rights activities was honored by the Vishva Bharathi University of Kolkata in India.

He was honored by the most venerable Malwatte Chapter by offering him an honorary title of "Sri Rohana Janaranjana" in the year 2000 which is a very rare occasion for a citizen of Sri Lanka. ■