



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TAMIL JOURNALISTS

சர்வதேச தமிழ் செய்தியாளர் ஒன்றியம்

P.O Box 54079, London SW20 9WR

London, 28.12.2006

DEEPLY CONCERNED

The International Association of Tamil Journalists (IATAJ) is deeply concerned about the arrest and detention of Mr Ranga Jayasuriya, news editor, Sunday Observer and Mr Lionel Yodasinghe, associate editor of the Sunday Observer.

Iataj is also concerned that the killings of journalists, vandalism of news paper offices and intimidation of journalists is continuing in Sri Lanka.

Freedom of the press is a fundamental right in a democratic society and it is the duty of the media to be the voice of the voiceless regardless of who the voiceless is. In a civil society the journalist has a right to perform his duty without intimidation, harassment, and fear from the establishment. The public expects information and truths from the journalists, however unpalatable such information and truths may be to those in power. A democratic country respects and protects its media.

The IATAJ urges the government to release these journalists and ensure that such harassment of journalists do not occur in future.

Best Regards,

T. Kugathasan.

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