



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TAMIL JOURNALISTS

சர்வதேச தமிழ் செய்தியாளர் ஒன்றியம்

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Press Release

We, the International Association of Tamil Journalists, convey our heartiest Congratulations to Mr. V. Kaanamylnathan, senior Tamil journalist and Chief Editor of the Uthayan Newspaper, for being honored by Reporters Without Borders with the prestigious international award of 'Information Hero'.

Reporters Without Borders introduced the 'Information Hero' award only this year. The award is made to 100 journalists, with a ratio of one person per country, who have worked with great dedication despite facing grave threats to their lives.

Mr. Kaanamylnathan who has 50 years of experience in the field of journalism has been chosen and honored as one such 'Hero'.

Despite the North- East of Sri Lanka being a veritable open-air prison, Tamil journalists continue with their work amidst grave threats to their lives. At least 46 Tamil journalists have paid with their lives for having worked with the motivation to reveal the truth. Not a single person responsible for these murders has been brought to justice by the Sri Lankan Government to date.

Instead, we learn that some of those responsible for the murders roam free while media freedom continues to suffer deterioration and suffocation. This serves to strengthen the allegations that there is indeed a close and direct link between the Sri Lankan Military Intelligence Division and the murders of the Tamil journalists.

We once again congratulate and wish Mr. Kaanamylnathan well, while also remembering those Tamil journalists who sacrificed their dear lives in order to present the truth. We assure both him and other journalists in the island of Sri Lanka who work with the utmost dedication and desire to reveal the truth that we will always be with them and support them.

At the same time, we cannot but request the international forces that show concern in relation to media freedom to use adequate pressure on the Government of Sri Lanka to bring to justice those who were behind the murders of the journalists. This will not only bring long due justice to those who were murdered but also prevent such acts in the future by assisting in the protection of many journalists who are at risk.

Central Committee
International Association of Tamil Journalists