



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TAMIL JOURNALISTS

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London, 28.12.2007

## Attack on Rupavahini News Director in Sri Lanka

The International Association of Tamil Journalists (IATAJ) is seriously concerned that the Labour Minister Mr. Mervyn Silva had entered the offices of Rupavahini Corporation with some thugs and verbally abused and physically attacked the News Director T.M.G.Chandrasekara, demanding why one of his speeches was not telecast. Those who accompanied the minister also assaulted the News Director.

It is comforting thought that the employees of Rupavahini refused to be silent onlookers and held the minister and his goons in captivity until the army had to come to their rescue. The incident was telecast live by Rupavahini despite the fact that the perpetrator of this violence was a Government minister.

Rubavahini is a Government Television Centre and hardly telecast any dissenting views. If the voice of the Government itself can subject to such violations by one its very ministers, it is not surprising that outrageous atrocities including killings are unleashed against the media in Sri Lanka.

The International Association of Tamil Journalists strongly condemns the attack on T.M.G.Chandrasekara and urges the Government to take stung action against the minister concerned and his goons. The IATAJ also urges Sri Lankan Government to ensure that such attacks on media stops forthwith.

The IATAJ request the International Community to put pressure on the Sri Lanka Government to act immediately to uphold the freedom of the media in Sri Lanka.

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