



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TAMIL JOURNALISTS

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## **Journalist shot dead for revealing corruption in the army**

IATAJ strongly condemns the killing of freelance journalist Sampath Lakmal de Silva in Colombo by interested parties, thus stifling the publication of information which is the right of a journalist.

Lakmal Sampath, who was earlier warned not to reveal details about the Sri Lanka intelligence community in his articles, had gone out with a person to discuss matters to a story Sunday morning, relatives said.

He was found dead on Vijaya Road in Dehiwale, Colombo, 3 km away from his residence in Borallasgamuwa, south of Colombo.

Sampath had continued as a source to fellow Sinhala writers despite warnings by the intelligence establishment. His articles have been published in news papers Irudina, Lakkbima, Sathdina. He also worked for TNL television.

In the past 10 months seven journalists (the recent murdered journalists have all been Tamil) have been killed in Sri Lanka, none of which have been investigated or resolved.

International Association of Tamil Journalists supports its affiliates in Sri Lanka in condemning the murder of Sampath Lakmal de Silva and in calling upon international community and fellow journalist associations to put the pressure on Sri Lankan government to stop the violence and to institute proper investigation

into this murder with a view to bringing the guilty parties to justice, within a reasonable period

IATAJ also extends its sympathy to the family of Lakmal Sampath .

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