



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TAMIL JOURNALISTS

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Another Tamil journalist shot dead in Sri Lanka

Selvarajah Rajivarman, a 25 year old journalist working for the tamil daily Uthayan has been shot dead in jaffna today (29/4/07) by unidentified gunmen while collecting news for his paper. He is the second tamil journalist to be killed within a week in Northern Sri Lanka.

Over the past year 6 media personnel have been killed in Jaffna and the authorities have not shown any interest in arresting and bringing the culprits to justice.

The International Association of Tamil Journalists condemns the continuing intimidation and killings of journalists in Sri Lanka and urges the government to take immediate steps to put an end to these target killings of journalists.

Media plays an important role in conflict areas providing information and details of incidents that the parties to the conflict may prefer remain unknown to the public. In such situations there is an urgent need for international efforts to protect journalists in conflict areas.

IATAJ is concerned that the international community, and specially the donor countries are not putting sufficient pressure on the Sri Lankan government to stop the Human Rights violations which have become a norm in Sri Lanka, and urges them to do their utmost to impress upon the Sri Lankan government that the rights and freedom of journalists must be upheld and the intimidation and killings of media personnel must stop.

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