

Tamil MP leaves Sri Lanka amidst death threat

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Following the assassination of Tamil National alliance MP, Nadrajah Raviraj, in the capital Colombo, another Tamil MP representing the Capital Tamils left the island nation under death threat.

Western People's Front Leader and Member of the Sri Lanka parliament, Mr. Mano Ganesan left for Chennai, India amidst threats to his life, on Thursday. Despite a promise by the government to step up his security following the threat, little had been so far taken in that regard, said sources in the Western People's Front.

Mr. Ganesan sought an urgent meeting with Sri Lanka President Mahinda Rajapaksa on Wednesday to discuss the threat to his life, the sources further said. The Sri Lanka police on Wednesday warned Mr. Ganesan that he along with Ministers Nimal Siripala De Silva and Keheliya Rambukwella was on the LTTE hit list.

Many in his close circle told TNS, the police warning is a prelude to kill him and put the blame on the Tamil Tigers. It is also learnt that though the security of the two ministers were stepped up, adequate steps had not been taken to increase Mr. Ganesan's security.

Meanwhile the Free Media Movement (FMM) in Sri Lanka expresses serious concern over the alleged death threats on Head of Shakthi TV, J. Sri Ranga, warned the Government and relevant authorities to take immediate steps to ensure his safety.

"This situation is extremely disappointing and disturbing, especially in light of the most recent credible death threat to his life", a FMM statement said. On November 12, 2006, the "Minnal" talk-show discussed the assassination in Colombo of Tamil National Alliance MP Nadrajah Raviraj, it said. After the broadcast of this particular programme, that the Police conveyed information on a serious death-threat to J. Sri Ranga's life.

This is not the first time that he has faced a serious death threat. Previous Complaints to relevant authorities have not elicited any response to date. "Investigations of these complaints are not made public and the FMM doubts they have made any progress," the statement further said.