



TAMIL NEWS INFORMATION CENTRE

Media Unit

PRESS RELEASE

SL Police backed murder operation continues on the media workers of TAMIL NEWS INFORMATION CENTRE - JAFFNA

Tamil News Information Center (TNIC), which is guided by a board of directors, including professors of Jaffna university, Senior Journalists, Lawyers, Reverent fathers and several intellectuals, was registered as an Independent Media Organization under the laws of the socialist Democratic Republic of Srilanka and performs it activates abiding the regulations of the Government. One of its directors, **Mr. Sivamaharaja**, former MP was brutally assassinated on 22 Aug 2006 for being involved in this Organization following the threats by anonymous phone calls. The legal action taken by the **TNIC** against the illegal disappearance was publicly criticized and threatened by the "Ithayaveenai" the official Radio of **EPDP**, on 31 Jan 2007. In the same manner, one of its patrons and the head of cooperative union **Mr. S.T. Gananathan** was shot dead on 2nd of Feb 2007. Shortly afterwards, young Journalist **Mr. Rajivarman** was murdered as the third media worker of **TNIC**. These continuous assassinations and death threats faced by the Journalists and members of **TNIC**, Jaffna – Srilanka, was considered as an absolute challenge to the freedom of Media in entire Country and condemned by all media movements and organizations.

Following that, CID members of Srilankan police rampaged into the office of **TNIC** and forced the staff at gun point to provide information of its Media Coordinator **J. Barathy** and the International Coordinator **K.Kandeepan** who are the most active journalists working to bring the abductions of paramilitaries, to light. They also extremely violated the freedom of media by destroying the documents, videos and essential evidences which were kept in the office of **TNIC**. As personal details and photographs of deprived from the office, their houses were raided on the following days. This has been reported to the police and the Human Right Commission in Jaffna. A campaign was conducted by the parliamentary committee of Tamil National Alliance and a public protest march was held handing over a petition to United Nations High Commissioner pleading to protect the lives of the above named media workers and all other journalists in Srilanka

Despite all efforts, the Paramilitants in corporation with the SL CID still continue the search operation targeting the **TNIC** media workers. As a part of this prolonged operation they raided the house of **MR. K.Kandeepan**' brother on 03rd of Oct and removed his national ID and some diaries. This was reported to the Human Rights Commission, but the Srilankan police refused to register the complaint or take any steps to investigate.

This clearly portrays, beyond any doubts that these assassinations and the murder attempts are obviously conducted by the CID with the assistance of the EPDP and Srilankan Police.

We kindly request all the International Medias to come forward and condemn the Srilankan Police for turning a blind eye on this violation of fundamental human rights.

Secretary

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