



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TAMIL JOURNALISTS

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**We strongly condemn the cowardly act of the killing of Mr.Sivamaharajah MP and the burning of the ware house of “Uthayan”, a tamil daily .**

The International Association of Tamil Journalists strongly condemns the assassination of a senior Member of Parliament and the Managing Director of “Namathu Eelanadu” a Tamil daily Mr. Sivamaharajah, in the government security zone, in Tellippalai, North of SriLanka. The killings of people who voice their dissatisfaction about the brutal behaviour of the Government Forces and their supporters are increasing day by day in SriLanka. The malice behind any of these killings is to surpress freedom of speech. We as an association of journalists strongly condemn this violation of international human rights and the act of brutal violence. When the fate of a respected Member of Parliament in a security zone could end like this what guarantee exists for the normal citizens. Not only an individual but also the ware house of “Uthayan “, a Tamil news paper became the target of an attack showing democracy is totally dead in SriLanka. This clearly indicates there is fear for truth.

The human rights organisations and the International community should take a stand and coerce the government to impede such inhumane acts directed towards individuals and media. Who ever responsible for these cruel acts should be brought to justice and that is our plea. Tolerance has its limits. But it is high time, together with the voices of Tamils living all over the world, the international voices are also raised against such cruel atrocities committed against the Tamil community in Srilanka.

Our heart felt condolence to Mr. Sivamaharajah’s family and Uthayan Tamil Daily.

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