



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TAMIL JOURNALISTS

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Destruction of Voice of Tamils Radio Station.

The International Association of Tamil Journalists strongly condemns the brutal act of silencing the voice of tamils in north of Sri Lanka.

All despotic regimes resort to stifling the voice of the media when it suits them. In Sri Lanka a series of murder and intimidation of journalists, destruction of newspaper offices, sacking or forcibly replacing the editorial staff have been the methods used by a repressive government to crush the freedom of expression and the voicing of opposition to the Government. It is little surprising that the Sri Lankan air force deliberately targeted the voice of Tigers radio.

An independent tamil voice was thereby crushed. This radio station not only provided news from north and east, which were mostly ignored by the radio and television stations in the south. But also put out genuine cultural programs. It was the main source of information to the tamil diaspora, who had to leave Sri Lanka due to the army violence and for security of their life.

IATAJ condemns this brutal act of silencing the voice of the tamils. It is another nail in the coffin to bury freedom of speech and expression. IATAJ also hopes that the fellow broadcasting media in southern Sri Lanka will find common cause in condemning this act of violence. As there is every possibility that an unchecked Government would meet out similar violations against them.

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