



# International Federation of Tamils

18 Rue des Paquis, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland  
tel/Fax 00 41 22 7320 831 [ift@bluewin.ch](mailto:ift@bluewin.ch)

## **MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO SIVANAYAGAM AYYAH, THE MEDIA GENIUS!**

Siva ayyah deserves honour for his invaluable services as an English language journalist. Panning the rays of Tamil nationalism, he remains a beacon light, illuminating the vast expanse of the world media, with his advocacy for Tamil national struggle.

We celebrate Sivanayagam ayyah's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday this month. As a journalist, he works with dedication to obtain recognition to the Tamil national struggle. He clamours for human equality and human justice to Tamils at international level. If the English language journals such as Saturday Review, Tamil Nation and Hot Spring could be considered pivotal in disseminating Tamil nationalism, then, Siva ayyah could take pride in associating himself with the founder-members at the conceptual stage and for being the first editor-in-chief of all three journals. Through them, he made his contribution for the national struggle, rallying world support for the Tamil cause.

The two books Siva ayyah has written in English remain witness to his prolific language, acute intelligence, fore-sight, honesty and his dedication to Tamil freedom struggle and spirit of nationalism. The first book, Pen And Gun, is a compilation of a number of selected articles reflecting his arguments for the Tamil national resurgence. The second, Sri Lanka: Witness To History, is a chronological record of his reminiscences, a personal attestation to the historical episodes in the history of Tamil nationalism, discriminations, oppressions, armed struggle, emancipation, leadership and the will of the people, bequeathed to his nation by an honour-bound historian.

Sivanayagam ayyah was born in 1930, at Kokuvil, Jaffna. He had his early education at Kokuvil Hindu College and at Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai before he moved to Colombo where he commenced his career as a journalist. While serving on the Editorial Boards of The Daily News first and then The Daily Mirror, he earned his island-wide recognition as a reputed journalist.

As soon as the armed struggle for the liberation of Tamil Eelam commenced, Siva ayyah moved to Jaffna, identified himself with the founders of Saturday Review and committed his pen to the freedom struggle. He became the first editor-in-chief and wrote profusely, inculcating the ideals of nationalism in the mind of his readers. As expected, the Sinhala armed forces set fire to the printing office.

---

In India, where Siva ayyaa sought refuge, he commenced working in the Tamil Information centre, Madras. It was a matter of time before he could align himself with like-minded visionaries wishing to serve the nation through media and The Tamil Nation was born, with Siva ayyah as the first editor-in-chief. His pen posed a challenge to the Intelligence Unit of the Indian Security Forces and the convenience of the undemocratic TADA, put Siva ayyah, permanently manacled behind bars. Though a chronic diabetic patient, he was denied proper medical care. His health deteriorated. Conditional release from jail gave him an opportunity to flee to France where he was given political assylum. Ignoring his physical incapacity and with his over-zealous yearning to contribute towards the struggle for nationalism, he co-founded Hot Spring and became its editor-in-chief.

Afflicted with age and disease, Siva ayyah is confined to his bed today. But, to those associated with him, it is only a matter of time before he springs back into action as he has done before. He has been loyal to his pseudonym, Arjuna, the legendary character in Mahabaratha. His comments and criticisms have been sharp and prolific. It was in 2005 when he surprised the world from his sick-bed with his Sri Lanka: Witness To History, an encomium to the Tamil national struggle.

Sivanayagam ayyah, deserves a special place in our hearts. Let us heap our hands in salute, and wish Sivanayagam ayyah a speedy recovery and many more happy days at work.

21.09.2005

---