



வடக்கு கிழக்கு மனித உரிமைகள் செயலகம்
North East Secretariat on Human Rights - NESoHR

கரடிப்போக்கு சந்தி,
கிலினொச்சி,
இலங்கை.

Karadipokku Junction,
Kilinochchi,
Sri Lanka.

0094 21 228 5986,
nesohr@yahoo.com,
http://www.nesohr.org

2007.10.09

The High Commissioner for Human Rights,
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR),
Geneva,

Your Excellency,

Threats to Tamil Media personnel

College of Thamizh Media Science and Jaffna Journalist Association, based in Kilinochchi and Jaffna respectively have brought to our notice threats to their personnel by elements which are apparently working with the Sri Lankan military authorities in Jaffna peninsula. Threats have been made not only on telephones but also through a government controlled broad cast namely "Ithayaveenai" sponsored by the paramilitary E.P.D.P utilizing a channel in the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC).

It should be pointed out here that such a threat was in fact expressed on this broadcast on 31 Jan 2007 to the president of the association Mr. Gananathan who was shot dead the following day. This, the association alleges, is a clear indication as to who is behind this episode

Attached to this memorandum, please find copies of appeal for help by the above associations and a similar letter signed by the Tamil legislators in the parliament of Sri Lanka, expressing concern and soliciting remedial measures by the international community.

NESoHR as an independent body that is mandated to monitor human rights violations in the north and east feels morally obliged to bring these serious matters to your Excellency's notice and plead in mitigation that threat on media personnel is a serious infringement on the collective human rights of a people.

We give below a list of assassinations of Tamil media personnel during the period of cease fire – 22.02.2002 up to date, available with us.

No	Name of the media personnel	Age	Date of Incident	Profession
01	Mr. Aiyathurai Nadesan.	48	31.05.2004	Tamil Journalist
02	Mr. Tharmaratnam Sivaram	47	28.04.2005	Tamil Journalist
03	Mr. Kannamuthu Arisakumar	38	29.06.2005	Newspaper delivery agent
04	Mr. David Selvaratnam.	50	29.08.2005	security guard – Sudar Oli
05	Mr. Yogakumar Krishnapillai	38	30.09.2005	distributor of the newspaper
06	Mr. Subramaniam Sukirtharajan	35	24.01.2006	Correspondent for "Sudar Oli,"
07	Mr. George Sahayathas	37	02.05.2006	Marketing Manger – Uthayan
08	Mr. Rasaratnam Rajitkumar	25	02.05.2006	Reporter – Uthayan
09	Mr. Sinnathamby Sivamaharajah	68	21.08.2006	Managing Director of Namathu Eelanadu
10	Mr. S. T. Gananathan	64	15.02.2007	Tamil Journalist
11	Mr. Subesh Chandrabos	32	16.04.2007	Editor of Tamil monthly magazine Nilam
12	Mr. Selvarajah Rajivurman	25	29.04.2007	young journalist

It is pertinent to mention here that the general pattern of threats on media personnel in Sri Lanka differs considerably compared to that on Tamil media personnel. The latter one has a communal touch, in that, they are based on an ethnic selection, Tamil, rather than that of a political issue based selection.

Thanking you,

I remain



Attached copies of appeal



தமிழ் ஊடக அறிவியல் கல்லூரி

பிரதான வீதி, அறிவியல் நகர், கிளிநொச்சி.

Hon. Secretary General,
United Nations Organization (UNO)
Geneva, Switzerland

Via
Residential Representative
Vanni
07-05-2007

Protect the Free Media

Dear Sir,

we will be grate full to you. If you could take into your Consideration about the matter that we bring your kind notice.

Within ten days two Tamil prominent Journalits have been brutaly murdered in Vavuniya and Jaffna both places are in the nothern province of Sri Lanka. We are media personels make this request world at large.

In this technologically developed world every person is entitled to have the right of expression of iedas and exchange of Ideas. But his has been denied to the Tamil media presonels by the Government of Sri Lanka.

The pen is mumed at the Gun Point. We would like to express the entire -world why they are silent in this matter?

Whether the entire world is going to be in Active and inefficiency on taking an appropriate action. But they merely publish annual reports on the issue of untimely death of Journalists.

For last six decades the Tamil people of Sri Lanka have launched a political struggle for their political freedom. Within this period media personels have been the traget of the Government of Sri Lanka. They want to suppress the voice of the Tamils.

For last seven years this has gone beyond the Control of the rights thinking people. They are not in a possition to Stop this. Specially first week of May is red letter days to the media personels world wide. But these Days are doom days to the Journalits in Sri Lanka.

Last year (2006) a Tamil Journal Uthayan office was attacked by the gunmen. Two people were shot dead, one person was seriously ingered. The managing Director of Namathu

College Of Tamizh Media Science
Main street Arivigalnagar Kilinochchi.


தமிழ் ஊடக அறிவியல் கல்லூரி
 பிரதான வீதி, அறிவியல் நகர், கிளிநொச்சி.

Felanadu Tamil dailly, Mr.S.Sivamaharajah was gunned down at his residence while he was sleeping.

director of Tamil News Information Center (TNIC) Mr. Gananathan was brutally mared at his residence.

Mr.chanthirebose Suthakar , a young free lance Journalist was shotdead at Vavuniya while he was sleeping at his residence. Mr.Selvarajah Rahivarman a young Journalist of Uthayan dailly, was gunned while he was in his duty.

The Government wants to create a negative claimate for Tamil journalism in Sri Lanka. Since August 2006, Jaffna based Journals never receive basic materials for their publications. The Government of Sri Lanka wants to have a Naturaly Death on Tamil Journalism.

There fore we humbly request you please take measures to Protect Journalism, Rescue the life of the Tamil Journalist and Procect democracy in Sri Lanka.

On behalf of the Journalist
 தமிழ் ஊடக அறிவியல் கல்லூரி


 அதிபர்/தலைவர்
 (S. RATHEYAN)



Petition being handing over to UN Residential representative

யாழ் ஊடகவியலாளர் ஒன்றியம்

Jaffna Journalist Association

14-02-2007

ஊடகவியலாளர் அச்சுறுத்தப்பட்டமைக்கான கண்டனம்

யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் தமிழ் செய்தி தகவல் மையத்தின் ஊடகவியலாளர்களுக்கும் பணியாளர்களுக்கும் வெளிப்படையாகவே கொலைப்பயமுறுத்தல் விடுக்கப்பட்டமை என்பது நாட்டின் ஒட்டுமொத்த ஊடக சுதந்திரத்துக்கு விடுக்கப்பட்ட சவாலாகும். இதை சகல சர்வதேச ஊடகங்களும் கண்டிக்க முன்வரவேண்டும் என சர்வதேச ஊடகவியலாளர்களை கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறோம். இலங்கை அரசாங்கத்தின் ஊடக விதிமுறைகளுக்கு அமைவாக சுயாதீன ஊடகமாக பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டு இயங்கி வரும் இவ் ஊடக மையத்திற்கு தொலைபேசி வானொலி ஊடாக கொலைமிரட்டல் விடுக்கப்பட்டமை மட்டுமின்றி பட்டப்பகலில் மையத்திற்குள் அத்துமீறி பிரவேசித்த இனந்தெரியாத ஆயுததாரிகள் மையத்தின் ஊடக ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர் ஜெ.பாரதி, மற்றும் சர்வதேச ஊடகங்களின் தொடர்பாளராக செயற்பட்ட கு.காண்டிபன் (கீதார்த்தன்) ஆகியோரின் விபரங்களையும் புகைப்படங்களையும் கேட்டு மிரட்டியமை என்பது நடக்கப்போகும் விபரீதங்கள் பற்றிய அச்சத்தை தோற்றுவித்துள்ளது. மற்றும் மையத்தில் காணப்பட்ட ஒளிப்படங்களை சேதப்படுத்தியும் அபகரித்தும் சென்றமை ஊடக சுதந்திரத்தை கொச்சைப்படுத்தும் ஒரு நடவடிக்கையாகும். இது தவிர கடந்த ஜனவரி 31ம் திகதி இரவு இதயவீணையூடாக மையத்தின் தலைவரான திரு கணநாதனுக்கு வெளிப்படையாகவே கொலை மிரட்டல் விடப்பட்டு, அதிகாலை சுட்டுக்கொல்லப்பட்டமையானது இக்கொலையின் பின்னணியில் யார் இருந்தார்கள் என்பதை ஐயம் தெளிவின்றி புரிய வைத்துள்ளது.

ஆகவே இது தொடர்பாக அனைத்து ஊடகவியலாளர்களும் ஒன்றிணைந்து குரல்கொடுத்து, ஏனைய ஊடகவியலாளரையாவது காப்பாற்ற முன்வரவேண்டும் என கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறோம்.

இப்படிக்கு,

த.தவாணலிம்

Clock Tower Road, T.P No +94212227936
Jaffna +94776544166
Srilanka

E-Mail:- thavaonline@gmail.com
jjatamil@gmail.com

தமிழ் ஊடகவியலாளர்கள் மீதான கொலை அச்சுறுத்தல், கொலை முயற்சிகள், கொலைகளுக்கு எதிரான கண்டன தீர்மானம்.
 Memorandum on the threatening, attempt to murder and killing on the Tamil Media Personnel

No	Name	Contact Details	Signature
1	க. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	2 மண்டலம்	m. sivasubramanian
02	அ. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	Fl. 450000	A. Sivasubramanian
03	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	5. 09. 09. 09.	S. Sivasubramanian
04	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	5. 09. 09. 09.	m. sivasubramanian
05	ப. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	கொழும்பு	panthulu
06	க. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	கிளினிக்	K. Sivasubramanian
07	க. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	5. 09. 09. 09.	k. sivasubramanian
08	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	4000000000	A. Sivasubramanian
09	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	யு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	S. Sivasubramanian
10	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	5. 09. 09. 09.	S. Sivasubramanian
11	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	மொனிடர் (TTN)	S. Sivasubramanian
12	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	மொனிடர்	S. Sivasubramanian
13	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	மொனிடர்	S. Sivasubramanian
14	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	மொனிடர்	S. Sivasubramanian
15	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	மொனிடர்	S. Sivasubramanian
16	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	மொனிடர்	S. Sivasubramanian
17	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	மொனிடர்	S. Sivasubramanian
18	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	மொனிடர்	S. Sivasubramanian
19	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	மொனிடர்	S. Sivasubramanian
20	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	மொனிடர்	S. Sivasubramanian
21	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	மொனிடர்	S. Sivasubramanian
22	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	மொனிடர்	S. Sivasubramanian
23	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	மொனிடர்	S. Sivasubramanian
24	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	மொனிடர்	S. Sivasubramanian
25	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	மொனிடர்	S. Sivasubramanian
26	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	மொனிடர்	S. Sivasubramanian
27	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	மொனிடர்	S. Sivasubramanian
28	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	மொனிடர்	S. Sivasubramanian
29	சு. சிவசுப்பிரமணியன்	மொனிடர்	S. Sivasubramanian

தமிழ் ஊடகவியலாளர்கள் மீதான கொலை அச்சுறுத்தல், கொலை முயற்சிகள், கொலைகளுக்கு எதிரான கண்டன தீர்மானம்.
Memorandum on the threatening, attempt to murder and killing on the Tamil Media Personnel

No	Name	Contact Details	Signature
30	வினாய்	18C பஸ்	வினாய்
31	செல்வாட்சு		செல்வாட்சு
32	சுபா	அ.ப. சபா	சுபா
33	தி. சீதாபதிமணி		சீதாபதிமணி
34	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்	பி.பி.சி	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்
35	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்	பி.பி.சி	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்
36	சுபா	பி.பி.சி	சுபா
37	சுபா	பி.பி.சி	சுபா
38	சுபா	பி.பி.சி	சுபா
39	சுபா	பி.பி.சி	சுபா
40	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்	பி.பி.சி	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்
41	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்	பி.பி.சி	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்
42	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்	பி.பி.சி	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்
43	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்	பி.பி.சி	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்
44	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்	பி.பி.சி	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்
45	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்	பி.பி.சி	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்
46	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்	பி.பி.சி	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்
47	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்	பி.பி.சி	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்
48	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்	பி.பி.சி	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்
49	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்	பி.பி.சி	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்
50	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்	பி.பி.சி	சி. சிவசுப்பிரமணியம்

A few clippings relating to killings of media personnel in the past:

1. Batticaloa journalist shot dead

Mr. Aiyathurai Nadesan, a leading Tamil journalist in Sri Lanka, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen Monday morning around eight a.m. when he was going to work in a motorbike. The assailants came in a motorbike in front and fired at him, Batticaloa Police said.



The body of Mr. Nadesan was handed over to the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital and the autopsy was held, medical sources said.

The Batticaloa Police launched an immediate investigation into the killing, sources said

Mr. Nadesan has been reporting to Tamil daily, Virakesari, IBC Tamil service and to some electronic media, media sources said.

Mr. Nadesan was very critical of the Sri Lanka Army and paramilitary groups in his widely read political column in the Sunday edition of the Virakesari.

Mr. Nadesan was born in Nelliady, a town 25km northeast of Jaffna town, and won the NorthEast Sahithya Academy award for his book "History of Ethnic Strife," written in Tamil. He also won the best Tamil journalist award in 2000.

2. Journalist Sivaram murdered

The body of abducted journalist Mr Dharmeratnam Sivaram was found with severe head injuries in Himbulala, a Sinhala suburb between Jayawardhenapura hospital and the Parliament building in Colombo Friday morning. The location is about 500 meters behind the parliamentary complex and lies inside a high security zone. Mr Sivaram, a senior editorial board member of TamilNet, was abducted Thursday evening around 10.30 PM by unidentified persons in front of the Bambalapitya Police Station in Colombo.

Family members visited the scene and have identified the body, according to sources.

Inspector of Police from the Thalangama Police division, Asoka Gunasekere, took the body to the hospital for postmortem examination.

Reporters who saw the body said that the head injuries were likely to have been caused by either gunshots from close range or from blows to the head with a blunt instrument.

The exact cause of death will be known only after the medical examinations, police sources said.

He leaves behind his wife Herly Yogaranjini (43) and three children: Vaishnavy (16), Vaitheky (13), and Seralathan (10).

3. **Newspaper delivery agent shot dead in Kalmunai**

Mr Arasakumar Kannamuthu, 38, a newspaper delivery agent for Batticaloa Eelanatham newspaper, was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen Wednesday morning around 8.45 am. The killing took place at Matupola in Kalmunai-Akkaraipattu road, a Sri Lanka Army (SLA) held place 50 km south of Batticaloa. The victim was on his route to Oluvil in a motorbike after delivering newspaper to Ninthavoor newspaper agent, sources said.

Arasakumar was shot by two gunmen riding a motorbike, according to the farmers in the area.

The gunmen had used 9 mm handgun, according to the Sammanthurai Police conducting investigations into the killing. Gunmen had shot the victim twice in his neck.

Arasakumar, also known as Bobby, is from Kokkaddicholai and a father of 3 children. Arasakumar began his carrier as a paperboy and later became an agent delivering newspaper in bulk to shops in Amparai district.

Karuna Group had earlier threatened newspaper agents in Batticaloa and Amparai districts over phone and via fax, newspaper agents in Amparai said. Eelanatham Batticaloa edition is the only newspaper published in LTTE held area in Batticaloa Amparai. Sammanthurai Police Officer In-Charge (OIC) Seran Perera is conducting investigations into the killing.

4. **Colombo Tamil daily bombed, one dead, three injured**

Unidentified attackers lobbed two grenades into the printing office of the Colombo Tamil daily Sudar Oli around 6:15 p.m. Monday. A security guard, Mr. David Selvaratnam, 50, who was injured in the attack, succumbed to his wounds at Colombo Hospital. A proof reader, a computer operator and a visitor from Deepam TV were also injured in the attack. The attackers sped away soon after they lobbed the grenades into the Sudaroli printing office located on Madampitiya Road at Grandpass in Colombo.

Mr. Manickam Kamalanathan, 49, a proof-reader, was injured in the attack.

Another employee, a computer operator, Mr. Subramaniyam Suthas, 29, and Mr. A.M.F Anas, an employee from Deepam TV, who was visiting the office at the time of the attack, also sustained minor injuries, Sudaroli officials said.

The editorial staff working in the office at the time of attack escaped unhurt, sources said.

The security post of the office was severely damaged. Windows of the office and the stationeries inside the building are also damaged.

A van and a car in the vicinity were also damaged.

An eyewitness said that the attackers were riding in a white van. But, another eyewitness claimed that the attackers escaped from the scene in a motorbike.

Two weeks ago, unidentified men lobbed two grenades into the branch office of the Sudaroli in Wellawatte. The grenades did not explode. Later, the police removed those grenades and defused them at a beach front in Wellawatte.

In another incident, a photojournalist of the paper, Mr. Yathurshan Premachandran was severely assaulted by a group of Janath Vimukthi Peramuna(JVP) supporters when the journalist went to cover the JVP's demonstration at the Colombo Fort railway premises.

5. Newspaper distributor killed in Batticaloa

Two unidentified gunmen shot and killed Mr. Yogakumar Krishnapillai the distributor of the Batticaloa-Eelanatham newspaper. The killing took place in the heart of Batticaloa town on Central Road in front of HNB Bank, a high security area of Sri Lanka Army, Friday morning around 7:30 a.m. Batticaloa Eelanatham, the only newspaper in Batticaloa, is printed in the LTTE held Kokkadichholai. On 10 September, Sri Lankan Special Task Force soldiers blocked the sales of the Eelanatham paper in SLA controlled areas of Batticaloa and Amparai districts.

Mr. Krishnapillai, a 38-years-old father of 3 children, was riding in a motorbike distributing paper to the shops in the town Friday morning when he was shot and killed.

The body was handed over to the mortuary in Batticaloa Hospital by Police.

On 29 June 2005, Mr Arasakumar Kannamuthu, the Amparai distributor of Batticaloa Eelanatham was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen. Eelanatham Batticaloa edition is the only newspaper published in LTTE held area in Batticaloa Amparai.

6. Tamil journalist shot dead in Trincomalee

Mr.S.S.Rajan, Trincomalee correspondent for "Sudar Oli," a Tamil daily published from Colombo was shot dead Tuesday morning around 6:00 by unidentified men close to his residence while waiting for transport to his workplace.

The victim, 35-year old Subramaniam Sugirtharajan, a father of two, has been working in the Sri Lanka Port Authority.

His residence is located along the Lower Road facing the Trincomalee harbor in the suburb of Orr's Hill in Trincomalee.

The Governor's secretariat is situated close to the scene of crime.

Police rushed to the site and began investigation into the crime.

Residents in Trincomalee said that Rajan was instrumental in exposing the involvement of Sri Lanka Army (SLA) in the recent execution style killing of the five Trincomalee students.

7. Paramilitary gunmen attack Jaffna daily, 2 killed

Five armed paramilitary gunmen who entered the main office of the Jaffna daily Uthayan Tuesday night around 7:45 p.m., opened fire on editorial staff, killing at least two staffers, including the daily's marketing manager and wounding two, according to initial reports. At least 40 gunshots were heard, residents said.

The Marketing Manger, Bastian George Sagayathas (Suresh), 37, and Rajaratnam Ranjith, 25, were killed.

S. Uthayakumar and N. Thayakaran, two staffers at the office were rushed to Jaffna Hospital with wounds.

Two editorial staffers who were working at the top-floor of the office escaped as they had managed to hide inside the office.

"The gunmen were shooting at will, everybody they found inside the office were shot. Finally, they smashed all the computers in the office," an employee who managed to escape from the attackers told TamilNet.

Four gunmen were armed with T-56 rifles and the other was firing using a handgun, eyewitnesses said.

One of the attackers, in black civil clothes, was identified as an EPDP paramilitary cadre by the eyewitnesses in the area.

Uthayan office is located on Kasthuriyar Road in Jafna town.

Police has arrived at the site.

8. **Sivamaharajah assassinated**

Managing Director of Jaffna Tamil daily "Namathu Eelanadu" and the veteran chairman of Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society (MPCS) in Tellippalai, Jaffna, Sinnathamby Sivamaharajah, 68, was shot and killed at his temporary residence inside the High Security Zone of the Sri Lanka Army (SLA) in Tellippalai Sunday night around 7:20 p.m. Mr. Sivamaharajah is a former parliamentarian (TULF) and a senior member of Ilankai Tamil Arasu Katchi (ITAK), the main constituent party of the Tamil National Alliance (TNA).

The veteran Tamil activist Sivamaharajah also championed the cause of resettling the Internally Displaced People from High Security Zone areas, was assassinated at his temporary residence, 300 meters inside the HSZ, Sunday.

Sivamaharajah is from Kollankaladdy, Tellippalai.

He has also served as the President of the Consortium of Valikamam North Public Organizations.

Tellippalai is located 14 km northeast of Jaffna town.

9. **Young journalist shot dead in Jaffna**

Selvarajah Rajivarman, 25, a young journalist working at Jaffna's Uthayan newspaper was shot and killed Sunday by gunmen riding in a motorbike at Naavalur Road, Rasaavin Thoaddam junction around 10:00 a.m. The journalist was on duty collecting news in Jaffna town, according to the Uthayan officials. Mr. Rajivarman was a talented and energetic newsreporter who was also attending an external degree course at Jaffna Univeristy according to North Sri Lanka Journalists Association (NSLJA).



Rajivarman was working as a staff reporter and was on training since he had joined the daily 6 months ago.

He had earlier worked as staff reporter at Jaffna Thinakkural and previously in Namathu Eezhanaadu.

Rajivarman is from Aavarangkaal East, Puththoor in Valikaamam.

Jaffna police has handed over the body of the victim to Jaffna hospital.

10. Jaffna journalists fearful amid threats, killings

The campaign of intimidation backed up by deadly violence has compelled Sri Lankan journalists of all ethnicities to flee Sri Lanka. But unlike their southern colleagues, journalists in the Jaffna have no easy escape and media institutions in the northern peninsula are appealing for international support in the face of threats by Army-backed paramilitaries.

In an urgent appeal issued this week, the Jaffna Journalists Union urged international media groups to protest the targeting of reporters in Jaffna.

The Union singled out the targeting of individuals associated with the Jaffna-based Tamil News and Information Centre (TNIC), a registered non-governmental organisation whose board includes local reporters, Jaffna university lecturers, and civil society activists,

Two of TNIC's members had been murdered by gunmen and many others were facing death threats from Army-backed paramilitaries, the Union said.

On February 1, one of the TNIC's patrons, Mr. S. T. Gananathan, was shot dead barely 200 meters from the Sri Lanka Army (SLA) camp at Mampalam junction in Ariyalai.

Mr. Gananathan, 64, had been President of the Jaffna Multi Purpose Co-Operative Society (MPCS).

His predecessor, Mr. Solomen Sri, left Jaffna in December 2005 after receiving death threats.

The night before he was shot dead, the 'Ithayaveenai' radio station run by the Army-backed paramilitary group and political party, EPDP, had lambasted Mr. Gananathan, Jaffna journalists said.

Among other politically motivated killings, the EPDP has been blamed for the killing of BBC correspondent M. Nimalrajan, also in Jaffna, in 2000.

In August 2006, one of TNIC's directors, Mr. Sinnathamby Sivamaharajah, a former Parliamentarian, was also shot dead at his home located inside the Army's High Security Zone (HSZ) in Tellipallai.

Mr. Sivamaharajah, 68, had been the Managing Director of Jaffna Tamil daily 'Namathu Eelanadu' until his death.

"In addition to the death threats issued via anonymous telephone calls, unidentified gunmen rampaged into the [Jaffna] office of TNIC," the Jaffna Journalists' Union said in its statement.

The gunmen threatened forced staff at gun point to provide details of the TNIC's Media Cordonator, Mr. J. Barathy and its International Coordinator, Mr. K. Kandeepan, the Union said.

The two are the most active journalists working to bring abductions by paramilitaries to light, the Union said.

Personal details and photographs of the two men were taken away by the gunmen, who destroyed documents, videos and other collected material being kept in the TNIC office.

The following day, the homes of the two journalists were raided, again by unidentified gunmen.

Death threats are being made to other TNIC staff and members, accusing them of being spies for the LTTE and saying that Mr. Sivamaharajah and Mr. Ganathan were killed as they were LTTE agents.

11. Editor of the Vavuniya based monthly magazine “Nilam” shot dead 20/4/2007

Editor of Tamil monthly magazine “Nilam” (the Ground), Subash Chandraboas(32), married and father of a daughter (08), was shot dead on Monday the 16th of April at about 7.30 p.m at his residence in Thirunavatkulam, Vavuniya.

Mr. Chandraboas is a former student of the first batch of the College of Journalism and has also obtained a month’s training from the Virakesari news paper after passing out from the college. He has served the London based magazine “Tamil World” as a freelance journalist until a last month ago. Mr. Chandraboas owns a printing press in Vavuniya and has always had a passion for literature.

His daughter confirms that the assassins spoke in Tamil and Sinhala languages. Free Media Movement is appalled by this killing. Although the reason for killing him is not clear FMM fears that this could be an another attack on journalists and media personal working in North and East.

According to newspaper reports 25 civilians has been killed during the first 18 days of April this year in Vavuniya.