

**SAMPATH LAKMAL DE SILVA** was found shot dead three kilometres from his home in Dehiwela, Colombo on 2 July 2006. A freelance Sinhalese journalist specializing in defence issues, he was covering the conflict between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam for the weekly *Sathdina*. Two Sri Lankan army personnel were among those initially arrested by the police but the investigation came to a halt, allegedly due to pressure from the army.

## SRI LANKA: JUSTICE FOR MEDIA WORKERS

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



Dear President,

At least 10 media workers have been unlawfully killed in Sri Lanka since the beginning of 2006. Others have been arbitrarily detained, tortured and allegedly disappeared while in the custody of security forces.

Amnesty International is unaware of any investigation that has led to the arrest and prosecution of those responsible for the killing of journalists and other media workers.

I therefore urge the Sri Lankan government to:

- **Protect** media workers and their rights to life, liberty and security of person, in compliance with Sri Lanka's obligations under international law;
- **Respect** media workers and publicly announce that killings, threats, or other attacks will not be tolerated;
- **Investigate** all cases of attacks, disappearances and killings of media workers promptly, independently, impartially and effectively, irrespective of the identity of perpetrators or victims;
- **Invite** the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression to visit the country without delay.

Yours sincerely,

Name: .....

Country: .....

Signature: .....

Attach  
post stamp

**MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA**

His Excellency the President

Presidential Secretariat

Colombo 1

SRI LANKA

ASA 37/009/2008