

by the women's movement of the Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM-H) outside the Karachi Press Club. A media driver was taken hostage by the armed protesters who warned journalists not to broadcast footage

**April 9 2008:** Three journalists were injured, including a camera woman from GEO TV whose arm was broken, while covering confrontations between rival political groups in Karachi. Four cameras were snatched and two media vehicles were torched by protesters.

#### Abduction and Detention

**June 17 2007: Latif Khosa**, staff reporter at the Urdu daily *Jang* was kidnapped by intelligence agencies in Baluchistan.

**August 10 2007: Munir Mengal**, the head of Baloch Voice TV station was detained by police in Qalat shortly after being released from a 16-month military detention under a 30-day custody order in Baluchistan.

**September 19 2007: Babar Hussain**, a senior Dawn TV correspondent was reportedly abducted and interrogated by members of an intelligence agency in relation to a report on a suicide bombing in Pakistan's capital.

**September 2007: Riaz Mengal**, a journalist for the Intikhab newspaper in Baluchistan was reported missing by his family after writing articles about stolen car trafficking. His family suspected a government minister was involved in his disappearance.

**December 28 2007:** Ten journalists reporting on events related to the assassination of Benazir Bhutto were arrested under anti-terrorism and riot law. Some of the detained journalists worked for Kawish Television Network (KTN) and *Daily Kwaish*.

**February 29 2008: Hameed Baluch**, and **Khalid Khosa**, both journalists at the *Azadi* daily, were reported missing to police by their families. Khosa was last seen at a press conference in Nasirabad and Baluch was reportedly abducted in Taftan, near Pakistan's border with Iran

## SRI LANKA

### Media Workers Killed

**April 16 2007: Subash Chandraboas**, editor of the Tamil-language monthly magazine "Nilam" ("the Ground") was shot dead at his residence in Thirunavatkulam, Vavuniya.

**April 30 2007: Selvarahj Rajivarman**, a crime reporter for the *Uthayan* newspaper was killed after investigating reports of disappearances in the Jaffna area. He was 23.

**August 1 2007: Nilakshan Sahadavan**, 22, a student journalist at the Jaffna Media Resource Training Centre (MRTC) and a part-time journalist, was shot dead by gunmen on motorcycles in Jaffna, around 4am during curfew hours.

**November 27 2007: Isaivizhi Chempiyan** (also known as Subajini), **Suresh Linbiyo**, a technical desk worker and **T. Tharmalingam** were killed when Sri Lankan Air Force jets bombed the Liberation of Tamil Tigers Ealam (LTTE) radio station Voice of Tigers (VOT), Radio presenters K. Jenanai, 34, and Anparasi Rajkumar were wounded in the attack.

### Physical Harm, Threats and Intimidation

**May 8 2007:** The Sri Lanka Tamil Media Alliance (SLTMA) expressed concern over the continuing ban in the East on certain Tamil newspapers. Unidentified armed persons attacked many newspaper agents and transporters. SLTMA stated that the people in the areas, namely Batticaloa, Ampara and Trincomalee, were deprived of the right to know what is happening around them.

**May 16 2007: Navarathnam Parameshvatan** a Jaffna based freelance journalist was threatened by a political group connected to the government after a verbal dispute over a news item he provided to a Jaffna newspaper

**May 16 2007: Sonali Samarasinghe** the editor of *The Morning Leader* was questioned by the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) of the Sri Lanka Police for over four hours in relation to series of investigative articles published in the *Sunday Leader* and *Irudina* news papers last year.

**May 2007-ongoing: Uthayan** newspaper was threatened by Sri Lankan Army personnel not to publish any news of the student agitation calling for the immediate release of the four students arrested by the police

**May 16 2007: Ranjith Rajapaksa**, *Lankadeepa's* Hatton provincial correspondent was threatened by prison officers at Hatton railway station to report on a derailment. His media vehicle was also attacked.

**May 30 2007: Sajeewa Chinthaka**, *Lakbima* photojournalist was allegedly assaulted by a group of Navy personnel who demanded his national identity card as he was returning to his newspaper office

**May 30 2007: Pasan Samarawickrama**, *Lakbima* provincial journalist was chased out of an Urban Council Committee meeting at the Weligama UC premises by Chairman of Weligama UC

**May 2007: Saman Pathirana** Polonnaruwa District Correspondent for the MTV/MBC Media Network was threatened with death by Illegal river sand miners while covering mass scale illegal sand miners around Wasgamuwa forest reserve and Amban Ganga River. Acting on his complaint Polonnaruwa police arrested suspects.

**June 8 2007:** Jaffna *Thinakural* News Paper office was searched by the Army. Nothing incriminatory was found in the search

**June 14 2007: Parameshwari Munusami** was attacked by two armed people with State security ID who demanded her national ID and passport. Despite waiting at Rajagiriya Police Station as instructed, her passport and ID were not returned. Parameshwari told the FMM that the person who took her IDs was the same person who bundled her into a van and threatened her against speaking to the media and politicians in April this year.

**June 18 2007:** Colombo based Tamil language newspaper *Verakesari* was searched by the Army and asked to provide details and personal addresses of all employees, including editorial staff. Nothing incriminatory was found by any search.

**June 2007: Vincent Jeyan**, the last Tamil freelance journalist in Jaffna, working for AP and local media in the volatile Jaffna Peninsula in the north, fled to Colombo after he received death threats via a text message from a satellite phone. He was acting as the Jaffna coordinator for the international Press freedom Mission to Sri Lanka when he received the death threat.

**June 23 2007: Suranga Rajanayake**, a correspondent for *Lankadeepa* and SLRC in the Gampola district was threatened with death by a gang for an article he wrote against treasure hunters. The gang members were reportedly close political supporters of one senior minister in the government. He has made a complaint at Gampola Police Station against the death threat at Gampola Police.

**June 28 2007: K. P. Mohan** the Tamil daily, *Thinkural's* Defence Correspondent was harassed by air force officers at a security check point in Colombo as he was returning from a news conference on the current security situation in the country. Despite producing a media identity card issued by the Information

Ministry, he was verbally abused by the officers. He was assaulted and seriously injured again by a group of armed Air Force personnel at Fort on June 29. He was on his way to the Presidential Secretariat to cover a meeting between President Rajapaksa and the Maha Sangha.

**June 2007: Sandaruwan Senadeeram**, editor of Lanka-e-News a widely read Sinhala and English news website received a number of threatening emails including one with a photograph of small weapons. It said "You are publishing your all nonsense news, slinging mud under the labeled of free media. Don't be such a Bad egg. It smells very bad. Someday you will punish by the public".

**June 2007: N. Jeevendran**, a Tamil language producer of Young Asia TV received email threats accusing him of supporting LTTE.

**July 14 2007: B. A. Wijerathna Podibanda** the TV/SIRASA Aralaganvila provincial correspondent was threatened and assaulted by Mahaweli Authority officials for filming Araganvila Children's Park. The officials confiscated some of his equipment. Five media organisations and local journalists' organisation held a protest demonstration in Aralaganvila on 23<sup>rd</sup> Monday July 2007.

**July 16 2007:** United National Party (UNP) MP Lakshman Kiriella, lashed out at a female journalist of Derana TV on June 13 and shouted at a male journalist of the same station June 16 at the Parliamentary Complex. He claimed that Derana journalists have a political agenda. Derana New Director Shehan Daranage said his station had no political agenda and its journalist was free to ask any question anywhere.

**August 7 2007: Rupe Silva**, the mother of slain journalist Sampath Lakmal was threatened with death by unidentified person, posing as a CID officer. Journalist Sampath Lakmal (26) was gunned down on July 01, 2006, in Dehiwala, south of Colombo. The police have not produced any suspect before the courts for the last 12 months.

**August 10 2007: Jafrall Askhant** a journalist for the Tamil daily *Werakesari* was verbally abused by Deputy Minister K.A. Faiz for who threatened to kidnap and "finish off" the journalist, claiming that a story he had written was incorrect.

**August 15 2007: Iqbal Athas** defence correspondent and associate editor of *The Sunday Times* was fired for exposing an allegedly corrupt purchase of Mig 27 fighter jets by the Sri Lankan government. The case was under the investigation of the Barbary commission of Sri Lanka. Government leaders accused Athas of having created a national security threat by exposing the deal.

**August 16 2007: Sahampathi Manage** of Sirasa TV, **Kulasingha Chaminda** from ABC Radio and **Sanjeeva Mathaweea** from *Swarnawahini* were forcibly removed while covering a protest at Mayuarapura, Hambantota, in which police wielding batons charged upon unarmed peasants. All three made complains to the relevant authorities, no action was taken.

**August 27 2007: W.G. Gunarathna** local editor of *Lankadeepa* newspaper was threatened by a person posing as an Air Force officer for translating articles written by *The Sunday Times* Defence Correspondent Iqbal Athas. Both newspapers are published by the same group.

**August 29 2007: Freddie Gamage** and other editorial staff for the *Meepura* newspaper was threatened by security staff of ELSUMA factory in Daluwakotuwa, Negambo because of an article on rights of ELSUMA factory workers which appeared in August.

**September 6 2007: Parameshwari Munusami** was followed by two unidentified people who she reported were the same men who abducted her after her release in May and confiscated her passport and ID card. On this occasion, Parameshwari had run

into a nearby police station for safety and later lodged a complaint at the Human Rights Commission in Colombo.

**September 17 2007: Mr Wijesingha** the Pottuvil correspondent for *Lankadeepa* and *The Daily Mirror* newspapers was verbally abused by a Deputy Inspector General for covering an on-going police recruitment programme at Pottuvil police station. The DIG confiscated his camera and tape recorder.

**September 20 2007: Janith Vipulaguna** a Young Asia TV journalist reported to FMM that he has been receiving various threats including death threats over phone for months. According to his letter released to the public, anonymous callers are now giving him death threats.

**September 22 2007: Sirasa TV** crew members were threatened by people connected to Labour Minister Mervyn Silva to stop covering a public meeting of the minister despite receiving official invitations to cover the event. Minister Mervyn Silva has himself threatened the station on several occasions, once saying that he is ready to use his official pistol against them. His verbal threats have been recorded and shown on Sirasa TV.

**September 14 2007: Indika Sakalasooriya** a journalist for *The Nation* was questioned by Criminal Investigations Department (CID) over his report, published on September 9 about an Aston Martin super luxury car allegedly owned and bought by a highly placed politician.

**October 2 2007: Iqbal Athas** was 'named and shamed' on the Ministry of Defence website for his coverage of defense-related matters in Sri Lanka, accusing him of assisting in the psychological operations of the LTTE terrorists.

**October 8 2007:** All Sri Lankan media organisations were threatened by Director General of the Media Centre for National Security (MCNS) Lakshman Hulugalle who told the media, "We consider anyone who criticizes the defense forces to be a traitor to the nation as such people undermine the lives of armed forces personnel." The statement was reported in the *Daily Mirror*.

**October 18 2007: a Sirasa TV** correspondent was verbally abused by Labour Minister Mervyn Silva and chased away from the Mount Lavinia court premises where he was covering a case related to Silva's son, who was in prison over a case of alleged assault.

**October 26 2007: Meepura** journalists were verbally abused and chased away from an opening ceremony in Negambo by a police officer.

**November 8 2007: Wasantha Pradeep** and **I.K.A. Waruna Sampath** from Sirasa TV were assaulted by a gang in Ranminithanna, Tissamaharamaya while on an assignment to cover killings and the destruction of two villages by unidentified persons.

**November 27 2007: Karunarathna Gamge** a journalist for *Divaina* newspaper was verbally assaulted by the President of Tamankaduwa local government authority in Polonnaruwa for covering a story related to garbage whilst taking some photographs.

**December 13 2007: Nimal Jayarathana** from *Lakbima*, **J.K. Jayakody** from *Divaina*, and **Wijerathna Podibabdara** from Sirasa TV were harassed and sent away by Samurdhi officials for reporting abuse of power by government officials in the Polonnaruwa district

**December 16 2007:** the wife of **Anuruddha Lokuhapuarachchi** a senior Reuters photojournalist was questioned at their home in Ratmalana, by officers of the Criminal Investigation Division who posed as telephone repairman for Sri Lanka Telecom.

**December 27 2007: T.M.G. Chandrasekara**, news director of SLRC was assaulted by Labour Minister Mervyn Silva and a group of unidentified armed men because SLRC did not broadcast a speech made by him the previous day at a public meeting

**December 30 2007:** a group of Wee Radio supporters who were putting up posters of the station were assaulted by supporters of Minister Mervyn Silva.

**January 2 2008: Mahanumi Subramaniam** was threatened by paramilitary cadres as he was trying to cover a claymore bomb attack.

**January 2 2008: Chevaan Daniel**, the head of MTV, **Kingsley Ratnayaka**, Sirasa director, and **Susil Kedelpitya** Sirasa news director, three leading media personnel of the MTV and MBC TV-Radio networks filed complaints against underworld gang members who had allegedly been ordered to kill them for their protests of Mervyn Silva's assault on the SLRC

**January 4 2008:** sections of the **Sri Lankan media** were labeled "traitors" in an interview by the commander of the Sri Lankan army Major General Sarath Fonseka published in the state-controlled Sinhala daily *Dinamina*

**January 5 2008: Sanath Balasuriya** president of the Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association (SLWJA) and **Dharmasiri Lankapeli** general secretary of the Federation of Media Employees Trade Unions (FMETU) report threats against their lives and fear that they will be targeted for assassination in relation to Mervyn Silva's assault on SLRC

**January 7 2008: Sri Ranga Jeyarathnam** host of the "Minnal" programme on Shakthi TV was accused by Minister of Social Services and Social Welfare Mr K.N. Douglas Devananda of being "a traitor" and "conspiring with the LTTE to promote terrorism"

**January 7 2008: Poddala Jayantha** was assaulted by Sri Lanka police at his home in an apparent attempted abduction.

**January 9 2008: Mr E Saravanapavan**, managing director of Uthayan newspaper reported threats against the newspaper, warning him to stop functioning immediately.

**January 23 2008: Indika Sri Aravinda**, a TV journalist was arrested by civic police under suspicion of being an LTTE member and verbally abused at Mount Lavinia police station where his media accreditation card was not accepted

**January 28 2008: Suhaib M Kasim** the associate editor of the state-controlled Tamil daily *Thinakaran* was stabbed at his home in Colombo in an attack related to his position at the newspaper

**January 30 2008:** the mother of **Duleep Dushantha**, media worker of the state-owned Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC) was threatened by two armed men searching for her son and warned that if she informed the police she would be killed. The attack is believed to be related to Duleep's protests of the SLRC - Mervyn Silva incident

**January 30 2008: Dushantha Darshana** a part-time SLRC newsreader who read the live news of Mervyn Silva's intrusion in the SLRC offices was forced to hand over his SLRC ID card and leave the premises by authorities

**January 31 2008:** twenty-one SLRC journalists were interrogated by the Criminal Investigation Department in relation to the SLRC - Mervyn Silva incident

**February 12 2008: M.S.M. Noordeen** and **S.M.M. Musthafa**, two Muslim journalists, were denied access to a press conference at the Batticaloa Secretariat by policemen.

**February 14 2008: Susil Kindelpitya** news director of Sirasa TV was followed by a hostile group that forced open the door of his car in an apparent attempt to harm him.

**February 15 2008: Parameshwari Munusami** reports that she and her relatives are being followed by unidentified people. The unidentified people have reportedly shown photos of her to taxi drivers saying she is a wanted woman.

**February 28 2008: Priyal Ranjith Perera**, Assistant Director News Camera at the SLRC who was involved in videotaping the SLRC-Mervyn Silva incident was harassed by a gang of four who approached him at home in Pitakotte

**March 15 2008: Ravi Abeywickrama**, a SLRC music producer received death threats on his telephone

**March 16 2008:** the house of **Sunethra Athugalpura**, from *Lakbima* and her husband **Sashi Kumara** from Sirasa TV News Producer was ransacked by an unknown gang. Nothing was stolen, leading Kumara to consider it an act of intimidation

**March 20 2008:** journalists from **MTV** and **MBC TV** were threatened by Labour Minister Mervyn Silva who told them to "find a place to hide"

**March 20 2008: Samanala Graphic printing press** was ordered to suspend all print runs by police due to a poster allegedly campaign for a main opposition party. Two police officials guarded the premises while it was searched and printing plates were confiscated

#### Media Workers Attacked

**June 27 & 28 2007: K.P. Mohan**, defence report for the Tamil daily *Thinakural* was assaulted twice on consecutive days by officials manning roadblocks over an argument about a media accreditation card

**August 15 2007: K.P. Mohan** defence reporter for the Tamil daily *Thinakural* was attacked with acid while returning home from hospital where he was being treated for injuries suffered in a previous attack

**November 21 2007:** the printing press of Leader Publications which publishes *The Sunday Leader*, *Morning Leader* and *Irudina* was destroyed by arsonists causing damage of millions of rupees. The *Morning Leader* print run was in operation when the armed gang of 15 forced themselves into the printing house and set it on fire.

**January 10 2008: Victor Somaweera** a Bingiriya provincial journalist was stabbed and threatened with a gun to his head by an identified person. Despite reporting the incident to the police, the perpetrator was not arrested.

**January 16 2008: U.S.A. Bandara**, a provincial correspondent for Sirasa TV was assaulted by a ruling party politician while covering the aftermath of an attack on a civilian bus in Okkampitiya, Monaragala. At least 27 passengers were killed and more than 50 persons were injured as the result of the attack.

**January 25 2008: Lal Hemantha Mawalage** a producer in the news division of the SLRC was cut with a sharp knife while returning to his home in Athurigiriya by two men on a motorcycle. The incident is believed to be related to the Mervyn Silva-SLRC confrontation. Mawalage was among those who spoke live on behalf of SLRC employees as the whole SLRC staff protested against the minister's intrusion.

**February 2 2008: M.P. Dias** a photographer attached to the Ceylon Tourist Board was assaulted for not offering his seat the Office in Charge of Rambukkana Police while covering a story at Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage

**February 23 2008: Sugath Dharmapriya**, a news producer of the Derana TV channel covering the bomb blast on a bus in Mount Lavinia, a suburb of Colombo, was abused and assaulted by a Senior Inspector of the Mount Lavinia Police, Mahesh Perera.

**February 28 2008: Pankaja Sankalapa**, a journalist for the Independent Television Network (ITN) verbally abused by a chief monk Getamane Siridhammakitti Thera of a Buddhist religious school in Mathara. The monk has assaulted journalist Pankaja for his coverage of a sexual abuse story involving him on ITN.

**March 5 2008: Ranjani Aluthge** a librarian for the SLRC was cut with a razor knife while traveling home on a public bus. The attack on Ms Aluthge was linked to her participation in the protest against the infamous Mervyn Silva incident in December 2007.

**March 14 2008: Arunasiri Hettige**, Assistant Director (Supplies) of the SLRC was attacked on his way to work at a bus stop in Kottikawatta suburb, Colombo. A club affixed to a sharp object on his neck was used to attack him. Hettige represented the SLRC Workers Unions at a meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March with government leaders regarding the infamous Mervyn Silva incident in December 2007.

**March 14 2008:** the family of female Tamil journalist **Parameshwari Munusami** was attacked by a mob in their village. Her father and sister were seriously injured in the attack before they were rescued by the Gampola Police. This is not the first time a gang of thugs has threatened Parameshwari and her family

#### Abduction and Detention

**May 1 2007: Sivanathan Sivaramya**, a female journalist, was arrested at the entrance of a World Press Freedom Day conference organised by UNESCO in Colombo and accused of being a suspected suicide attacker from the LTTE.

**May 30 2007: Tiran Alles**, chairman of Standard Newspapers Ltd and former Civil Aviation Authority Chairman was remanded by the Terrorist Investigation Division and was released without charge after three months detention.

**June 1, 2007: Parmeshwari Munusami** was released from detention after the Attorney General advised police that despite "a volume of incriminatory material against Parameshwari", the evidence was not sufficient to charge her. A Foreign Ministry statement detailing this decision appeared in the government-owned *Daily News* (01/06/2007).

**October 24 2007: Arthur Wamanan** a journalist for *The Sunday Leader* was arrested by Criminal Investigating Department after a complaint lodged by Minister Mano Wijeratne who the journalist had contacted for her comment on a story.

**November 5 2007: Anthonypillai Sherin Sithranjan**, 36, a newspaper delivery person of Jaffna based Tamil daily *Yal Thinakkural*, was reported missing taking papers for distribution from *Yal Thinakkural* office in K.K.S Road at 6:00 a.m. on 5<sup>th</sup> November. His whereabouts remain unknown.

**November 17 2007: Vadivel Nimalarajah**, proofreader for Jaffna based newspaper *Uthayan* was abducted by an unidentified group after being last seen cycling home.

**December 2 2007: Ranga**, a journalist for the Tamil daily *Sudaroli* was arrested and searched by Rajagiriya Police and detained without charge for 12 hours

**December 24 2007: Capucine Henri** and **C. Simon** from France 24 news channel were detained by the military for videotaping a Tamil family visiting their detained relatives on Christmas eve. The journalists were released without charge after 43 hours

**February 12 2008: Gemunu Amarsinghe** a photojournalist working for Associated Press (AP), was arrested by Civil Defense Committee members while he was covering students entering Isipathana College, Colombo. He was released nearly two hours later after intervention by media institutions and organizations.

**March 6 2008: N Jesiharan**, owner of E-Kwality printing press and his partner **Valamarthi**, were arrested without charge for their involvement with [www.outreachsl.com](http://www.outreachsl.com), a news and features website. Jesiharan remains in detention

**March 7 2008: J.S. Tisseinayagam** the editor of [www.outreachsl.com](http://www.outreachsl.com) and freelance journalist, was arrested without charge by the Terrorist Investigation Department. He remains in detention and has filed a Fundamental Rights case against the government in the Supreme Court

**March 7 & 8 2008: K. Wijesinghe** a journalist, **Uthayanan**, a visual editor and **Ranga Lasantha** a cameraman for [www.outreachsl.com](http://www.outreachsl.com) were arrested without charge. They were released on March 13.

**March 8 2008: S. Sivakumar** (alias Balasubramaniam Wasanthan), spokesperson of the Free Media Movement and Editor of the bi-monthly Tamil language *Sarinihar* magazine was arrested, questioned by Terrorist Investigation Department (TID) and released on the same day. On March 7, the TID took one of his cousins hostage to compel him to appear before them.

**March 27 2008: Susanthi Thambirasa**, who had been arrested on the charge of being a LTTE suicide bomber in November 2006, was freed by the Colombo Magistrate's Court

#### Media Workers Displaced or in Self-Exile

**June 2007: Vincent Jeyan**, an Associated Press correspondent left Jaffna immediately after receiving a death threat via text message. He remains in hiding.

**July 2007:** dozens of **Tamil-language journalists** left Sri Lanka in fear of their lives. Their names have been withheld for safety reasons.

**September 2007: J. Jeevendran** a Tamil program producer fled Sri Lanka because of continuing death threats and hate mail by extremist groups.

**November 10 2007: K.P. Mohan**, defence correspondent for *Thinakkural* fled to Switzerland in fear of his safety and his life after three attacks were launched against him and no perpetrator had been arrested.

**March 2008: Sanath Balasuriya**, president of Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association left the country temporarily after receiving repeated death threats over his leading role in media protests against minister Mervyn Silva's intrusion into the SLRC offices