

Write for Rights
Make a difference

3-17 December 2011

Ragihar Manoharan
Sri Lanka



ACT NOW

Write to the President of Sri Lanka:

- Reminding him that the family of Ragihar Manoharan deserve justice and to know the truth about what happened to their son.
- Calling on him to publish the report of the commission of inquiry established in November 2006 which examined the killing of Ragihar Manoharan.
- Calling for genuine investigations to be carried out into this and other human rights violations in Sri Lanka.

Send appeals to:

President Mahinda Rajapaksa
Presidential Secretariat
Colombo 1
Sri Lanka

Fax: 00-94 11 244 6657

Email: prsec@presidentsoffice.lk /

lalith@icta.lk

Salutation: His Excellency the President,
Mahinda Rajapaksa

Send a message of solidarity:

Send a message of solidarity to Ragihar Manoharan's family, care of Amnesty International. Please do not send religious cards.

Dr K. Manoharan and his family
c/o Sri Lanka Team,
Amnesty International
1 Easton Street
London
WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom

AMNESTY
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Amnesty International
International Secretariat
Peter Benenson House
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom

www.amnesty.org/individuals-at-risk

ACT NOW FOR Ragihar Manoharan



Ragihar Manoharan and four fellow students were shot dead by Sri Lankan security forces on 2 January 2006. Ragihar Manoharan's father, who heard the shots, has received death threats for giving evidence at an inquest into his son's killing.

Ragihar Manoharan was part of a group of students who gathered for a chat at the seafront in Trincomalee at about 7pm on 2 January. A grenade was thrown at the group from a passing auto-rickshaw, and the students fled. Several were injured in the explosion. A short time later, 10 to 15 officers in uniform arrived, believed to be police from the elite Special Task Force. They put the injured students into their jeep and beat them with rifle butts, before pushing them out onto the road. Witnesses say they then shot dead five of the students, including Ragihar Manoharan.

Shortly before his death, Ragihar Manoharan left a frantic message on his father's telephone saying he was surrounded by security forces. His father, Dr Kasippillai Manoharan, ran to the scene in time to hear the students pleading for their lives and guns being fired. A postmortem concluded that the five students died from gunshot wounds, although security forces had claimed they were killed in the grenade attack.

After giving evidence at an inquest on 10 January 2006, Dr Manoharan and his family were subject to threats and harassment, including death threats. Ultimately, they were forced to leave the country and claim asylum abroad. Thirteen security forces personnel were detained in connection with the killings, but were later released. A commission of inquiry was established to investigate the incident along with 11 other deaths. However, the commission report, delivered directly to the President, has never been published. No thorough investigation has ever been conducted and no one has been brought to justice for Ragihar's murder.

Dr Manoharan has become an outspoken campaigner, seeking justice for the killing of his son ever since.

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