



## International Association of Tamil Journalists

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### PRESS RELEASE

The International Association Tamil Journalists condemns the killing of Marie Colvin, a veteran journalist of the London Sunday Times newspaper and wish to express our deepest sympathies to her family and friends. Marie was killed in the besieged Syrian city of Homs when a makeshift media centre was shelled by the Syrian Army on 22 February 2012. Marie's colleague a French photo journalist Remi Ochlik also died in the attack.

In her work as a correspondent for the Sunday Times, she travelled the world reporting from theatres of war, drawing the attention of the international community to the suffering of civilian populations caught-up in war.

Marie won many best foreign correspondent press awards and was recognized for her excellence and commitment to her work. She was wounded and lost vision in one eye in April 2001 in Vavuniya, Sri Lanka when a Sri Lanka army soldier threw a grenade at her.

In May 2009, she was involved in the efforts to organize the surrender of the political officials of LTTE including P.Nadesan, the Political Head of the LTTE and Director of Peace Secretariat, S. Pulidevan. Sadly both men and other LTTE officials were brutally massacred by the Sri Lankan Army. But Marie fought on to report the true horror of the infamous "white flag" incident when leaders of the LTTE, holding white flags of surrender were murdered by the Sri Lankan Army. This later became one of the allegations of war crimes against the Sri Lankan State.

The International Tamil Journalists' Association salutes her courage, discipline and commitment to her work and to humanity.

Marie will always be fondly remembered by the Tamil community all over the world.

Anandhi Suryapirakasam  
President