



Proyecto Desaparecidos Project Disappeared

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May 11, 2009

Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse
President
C/- Office of the President
Temple Trees 150, Galle Road
Colombo 3
SRI LANKA
Fax: +94 11 2472100 / 2446657

Dear. Mr. Rajapakse

I am writing to express our deep concern about the apparent forced disappearance of Sinnavan Stephen Sunthararaj, a human rights defender based in Jaffna. Mr. Sunthararaj had just been released from jail by the courts, when he was abducted from his car by masked and armed men. In March, Mr. Sunthararaj had escape an abduction attempt by members of the Special Task Force.

We remind you of Sri Lanka's obligations under international law to cease the use of forced disappearances and to protect human rights defenders. We urge you to locate and release Mr. Sinnavan Stephen Sunthararaj immediately, and to assure that his personal integrity will be respected. We remind you that forced disappearances are international crimes subject to universal jurisdiction.

We thank you for your efforts on this matter, and hope to hear soon from you.

Sincerely,

Margarita Lacabe
Executive Coordinator