

N. K. Illangakoon
Inspector General of Police (IGP)
New Secretariat
Colombo 1
SRI LANKA

February 2015

Appeal for Prageeth Eknaligoda

Dear Inspector General,

I am writing to you on behalf of Sri Lankan journalist Prageeth Eknaligoda, who has been missing for more than five years. On 24 January 2010, Prageeth Eknaligoda left work at the Lanka-e-News office but never arrived home. According to witnesses, an unmarked white van was seen by his house shortly before his disappearance.

Human rights organisation Amnesty International believes he was subjected to enforced disappearance due to his work as a journalist and outspoken criticism of the authorities. He was a well-known journalist and was covering the upcoming elections – the week before he disappeared, he had written in support of the main opposition candidate.

Since then his wife Sandya Eknaligoda has been campaigning for truth and justice for her husband. However, official investigations have been ineffective and his whereabouts are still unknown: When Prageeth Eknaligoda was taken up in court in December 2012, the Presiding Judge stressed major deficits in the investigation of his “disappearance”. Since then, the trial has not made any progress and hearings have been adjourned again and again.

Considering this state of affairs, allow me to appeal to you urgently to do everything in your power as Inspector General of Police that a prompt, impartial and thorough investigation into the disappearance of Prageeth Eknaligoda be opened. Please ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice in fair trials adhering to international standards. The results of the investigation should be published.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,