



From : Action contre la Faim
102, rue de Paris
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To: President Anura Kumara Dissanayake

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Colombo 00100
Sri Lanka

CC :
H.E. Manisha Gunasekera
Ambassador of Sri Lanka to France & Permanent Delegate to Unesco
16 rue Spontini
75016 Paris
France

H. E Sumith Dassanayake
Permenant Mission of Sri Lanka to Geneva
56 rue de Moillebeau
P.O. Box 54
1211 Genève 20
Switzerland

Montreuil, Monday, May 11, 2026

Re: Request for information on action taken and envisaged following the killing of 17 of Action Against Hunger employees in Muttur in 2006

Dear President Dissanayake,

We have the honour of addressing you in your official capacity as President with a request for information and swift action to end impunity for one of the gravest of crimes against humanitarian workers.

On the 4th of August 2006, 17 of our colleagues were executed in Muttur, Sri Lanka. They were in Muttur delivering aid to the local population severely impacted by the 2004 tsunami, and ongoing conflict.

Their names were M. Narmathan, I. Muralitharan, R. Arulrajah, T. Pratheeban, A. Jaseelan, G. Kavitha, K. Kovarthani, V. Kokilavathani, S. Romila, M. Ketheswaran, M. Rishikesan, S.P. Anantharajah, G. Sritharan, S. Koneswaran, S. Ganesh, Y. Kodeeswaran and A.L.M. Jawffar.



We have noted previous efforts by the Sri Lankan government to investigate these crimes and others, including investigations by local bodies (2006-2008), the National Human Rights Commission (2006-2008), the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (2006-2010) and the Attorney General (2012-2019). However, we are deeply concerned that twenty years on there has been no justice for our colleagues. The impacts of the Muttur massacre persist to this day; the families of the victims continue to experience the trauma of a decades long wait for those responsible for killing their relatives to be held accountable. Our teams and the humanitarian community as a whole remain profoundly impacted by the failure to shed light on this egregious crime. The reverberating impacts of this attack, and its unresolved status, on the humanitarian sector in Sri Lanka cannot be overstated.

The fact that the Muttur Massacre file remains open offers a dangerous signal that such attacks on humanitarian workers can be perpetrated without consequence. Sri Lanka is not only a State Party to the Geneva Convention in which humanitarian workers are protected, but is also a signatory to the recent Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel. In signing the Declaration, Sri Lanka has affirmed its determination to put an end to impunity and to ensure accountability for all attacks on humanitarian personnel (paragraph 19 of the Declaration).

We call on the Sri Lankan Government to follow through on their commitment to protect humanitarian workers.

We kindly request an account/ explanation of the efforts made through Sri Lanka's governmental and judicial authorities to investigate the Muttur massacre, and bring those responsible to justice, in accordance with Sri Lanka's international obligations.

We would be grateful for the opportunity to meet with you in order to discuss the progress achieved towards an impartial, transparent and effective investigation into the killing of our colleagues.

Action Against Hunger (ACF) wishes to offer its support and cooperation to any initiative that may once again be undertaken, including judicial action. We also remain at the disposal of the Sri Lankan judicial authorities for this purpose.

Any action undertaken must ensure the safety of our former surviving colleagues, as well as that of witnesses and the victims' families, in accordance with the requirements of proper justice.

On the 20th anniversary of the Muttur massacre, it is high time to put commitment into practice and signal an end impunity toward this crime. This is all the more pressing in a context of increasing violence against humanitarian personnel, and would provide a strong signal that justice will be upheld.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Robert Sebbag
President

