

To

Embassador of Sri Lanka in Austria

Vienna, November the 15th 2006

Letter of condemnation on the killing of Nadarajah Raviraj

The killing of Nadarajah Raviraj the former mayor of Jaffna is a despicable act of cowardice to be condemned by one and all who reject and stand against communalist divisions.

Nadarajah Raviraj was a sitting MP and was known for his views on the ethnic/national question of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. He was accessible to many Southern political activists and fighters for various working people's struggles and issues. To those who campaign and build for genuine workers' unity in the Island, he was an honest fighter for the cause that he believed in.

In recent weeks Nadarajah Raviraj was active in the Civil Monitoring Committee (CMC) - a popular initiative organised by the left forces in Sri Lanka against Abductions and Killings which are increasing by the day. The CMC is headed by Siritunga Jayasuriya of the United Socialist Party. This mass initiative threatens many in the establishment and the gangsters they support, because the issue is being taken up on class lines rather than the conspiratorial methods that these gangs themselves adopt.

Being the dominant political question in the island of Sri Lanka, the Tamil National Question and the debate and disasters that surround it, draw in all genuine fighters for change – Sinhala or Tamil. There are brave Sinhala activists that are castigated for their work on campaigns like the CMC by the rightwing Sri Lankan media as 'Sinhala Tigers', trying to portray them as terrorists by linking them with the Liberation Tamil Tigers of Eelam and encourage the assassins to target them.

The communalist sectarians are allowed to carry out their murderous campaigns without hindrance. The killing of the likes of Raviraj and other political figures is a ploy, as Siritunga has said, to "destroy the bridges between the South and the North". They are aimed at silencing opposition to war and to frustrate the initiative of genuine peace with dignity to all.

- We condemn the assassination of Nadarajah Raviraj.
- We demand action to stop any further such killings.
- We condemn the inaction of the government and its failure to rein in the sectarian chauvinist communalist forces in Sri Lanka.
- We vehemently protest against the protection by the government of the gangsters who commit these heinous acts of cowardice.

Organisations:

Europabüro des Weltgewerkschaftsbundes – European Bureau of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WGB)
Gewerkschaftlicher Linksblock im ÖGB – Trade Union Left Block within the Austrian Trade Union Federation (GLB)
Jugend gegen Rassismus in Europa – Youth against Racism in Europe (JRE)
Plattform für kämpferische und demokratische Gewerkschaften – Plattform for fighting and democratic trade unions
Sozialistische LinksPartei - Socialist Left Party (SLP)
Sozialistischer Widerstand International – Socialist Resistance International (SWI)

Individuals:

Michael Gehmacher, Shop Steward ÖHTB, personal capacity
Mag. Grusch Sonja, Chairwomen of Socialist LeftParty
Sven Hilberth, Shop Steward - Chair Radio Orange, personal capacity
Herbert Wanko, Shop Steward NXP- Sound Solutions (former Philipps), personal capacity