

# Centre for Policy Alternatives

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13.08.2006

## **CPA condemns killing of Kethesh Loganathan**

Kethesh Loganathan was a valued colleague, a former Director of the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) and the first head of its Peace and Conflict Analysis Unit. He was a passionate advocate of human rights, an unflinching champion of the rights of the Tamil people and of an end to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka with democracy, justice and dignity for all.

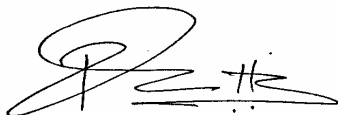
CPA condemns his murder and extends our sincere condolences to his widow Bhawani and members of his family for their and our tragic loss. Whilst Kethesh was an ardent and proud nationalist, he brought the same fervour, passion and commitment to the cause of unity in diversity, multi-culturalism and a settlement of the ethnic conflict based on meaningful power sharing. He uncompromisingly believed that the liberation of a people could not be founded on fear, the celebration of death, the negation or even suspension of basic democratic values. This made him a stringent and fearless critic of the LTTE for their insistence on being the sole representatives of the Tamil people and for their reliance on terror, repression and violence.

Kethesh never failed to criticize successive governments of Sri Lanka for their espousal of majoritarian democracy and insensitivity to the rights and aspirations of all the people who inhabit our island. He believed in the liberation of the Tamil people through the espousal of democratic values and in the reform of the state through a social contract based on human dignity and mutual self respect.

Whilst the identity of his killers has not been established and no single organization or actor has the monopoly of political killing in the current climate of division and violence in our country, the LTTE's record of assassinations of political opponents and Kethesh's public profile as one of their most trenchant critics, invariably marks them out as prime suspects. We call on the LTTE to refute this by unequivocally condemning his murder. We call on the Government of Sri Lanka to conduct a speedy and impartial investigation into Kethesh's murder and to ensure that the perpetrators are apprehended and brought to justice.

His killers have senselessly taken a life. They have not destroyed the values that life championed and upheld. These values live on and will have to be enshrined in a peace settlement, if it is to be one with justice and democracy for all.

Kethesh, we salute you for your courage, independence and integrity, passion and commitment in the advancement of this cause.



Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu  
Executive Director