His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksa
Presidential Secretariat
Colombo 1
Sri Lanka

Copy to:
Ambassador Jaliya Wickramasuriya
Embassy of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
2148 Wyoming Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Date: _____

Your Excellency:

We are concerned about the journalist, cartoonist and political analyst **Prageeth Eknaligoda** who disappeared from Homagama shortly after leaving work at the Lanka-e-News office on January 24, 2010. His wife, Sandya Eknaligoda, was taken into custody for several hours when she went to lodge a complaint with the police on January 25. She believes her husband was abducted by the government because of his criticism of President Rajapaksa.

In the days leading up to his disappearance, Mr. Eknaligoda had told a close friend that he believed he was being followed. Local residents reported seeing a white van without number plates close to his house around the time he went missing on January 24. Prageeth Eknaligoda had previously been abducted in August 2009 by a group who also arrived in a white van, but at that time he was released the following day. White vans have been used in many abductions and enforced disappearances in Sri Lanka, particularly since 2006, when the security forces and allied paramilitary groups stepped up attacks on government critics.

There still has been no evidence of a proper, effective investigation into the disappearance of Prageeth Eknaligoda.

We request that the Sri Lankan government conduct a thorough investigation into the disappearance of Prageeth Eknaligoda, make the results of the investigation public, and hold accountable those responsible for the disappearance. We also urge an end to the climate of impunity that has allowed a long campaign of intimation and violence against independent journalists in Sri Lanka.

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