



Tamil Information Centre

தமிழ் தகவல் நடுவம்

Committed to Human Rights and Community Development

THULASI

Bridge End Close (Off Clifton Road)
Kingston Upon Thames KT2 6PZ, (UK)
Telephone: + 44 (0) 20 8546 1560
Fax: + 44 (0)20 8546 5701
E-Mail: admin.tic@sangu.org

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A Tribute to Eliyathamby Ratnasabapathy

The Tamil Information Centre (TIC) is greatly saddened by the death of Eliyathamby Ratnasabapathy at the Charing Cross Hospital in London this morning. He was ill for the last six years and had been housed in Hazlewell Nursing Home in Putney.

Born in Inuvil, Jaffna on 3 November 1938, he became politically active at a young age. He became very concerned at the plight of the Tamil people of Sri Lanka and began his life's struggle against oppression. His untiring efforts came to fruition when he founded the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) in London in 1975. Friends and colleagues describe him as a person steeped in communist ideals and as a visionary leader who campaigned resolutely throughout the major part of his life. Many members of the various Tamil militant groups regard him as a pioneer in the Tamil struggle for equality and justice and look upon him with great respect.

Ratnasabapathy contested the parliamentary elections in 1989. He was elected to the Sri Lankan Parliament along with nine other members of EROS, but later resigned.

He was closely associated with the TIC during the later stages of his political life. The TIC pays its tribute to Ratna for his historic contribution as guide and philosopher, and as a militant in the struggle against the oppression of the Tamil speaking people of Sri Lanka. He was proud of his people and often said that their resilience in the face of oppression inspired and drove him towards his goals. He believed that the future will be determined by the oppressed people, because their cause is just, and not by the oppressors. We sincerely hope that Ratna's life, his vision and his beliefs will give strength to the Tamil people

May his soul rest in peace.

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