

## Media Release

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## A Threat to Dissent

Response to Attack on MTV/MBC

Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) strongly condemns the attack on the MTV/MBC studio complex in Depanama, Pannipitiya. TISL states this is an attack on the freedom of expression in the country, and a clear threat to dissent.

This act, and similar acts in the recent past, shows the deterioration of the Rule of Law and the erosion of democratic values in the island, resulting in an unsecure environment for all Sri Lankans.

TISL reiterates that a free media is a core component of transparent and accountable governance and urges relevant authorities to conduct an impartial investigation into the incident without delay. Only an impartial and speedy investigation will absolve the State of any involvement in the attack.

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