

**Rights group urges Sri Lanka to stop harassing journalists, media outlets**  
**By The Associated Press**  
**4 July 2012**

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka - An international human rights group has urged the Sri Lankan government to immediately end harassment of media outlets and journalists.

Human Rights Watch says the government's efforts to silence critical views have expanded since Sri Lanka's civil war ended three years ago.

The group's statement comes after police raided and sealed an office that ran a news website and pro-opposition website on Friday. The editor and eight other people who were arrested were released on bail the next day.

Brad Adams, HRW's Asia director, said the raids were part of a broader effort to intimidate and harass all critical journalists."

Media rights groups say Sri Lanka is one of the world's most dangerous countries for journalists.

© AFP