

Anti-Tiger Tamil activist shot in Paris was strong supporter of Mahattaya. (1994, May 3). *The Observer*.

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By Panduka Senanayake

MR. SABALINGAM, the Tamil head of a Paris based Non-Governmental Organisation, ASIA, shot dead by suspected LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) operatives in France on Sunday, is believed to be a strong supporter of ousted Tiger deputy leader Mahattaya

According to informed sources, Sabalingam an anti-Tiger activist was gunned down in his Paris flat in the presence of his wife and sister. He was suspected by the LTTE to have masterminded the fire bombing of the Elanadu Office, the Tiger's main propaganda organ in Paris early this year.

"We believe he was killed because of this and also

because he was meeting a lot of former Tiger cadres in Europe to gather information for a book on the Tamil struggle for a separate state in Sri Lanka", sources said.

Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports said that an LTTE activist in London, named Segar, had resigned from the

organisation following the killing of Sabalingam. The reason for his resignation was not known but it is believed that some internal rifts within the organisation led to it.

The arrest of Mahattaya, the Tiger's former Deputy

leader last year, on charges of conspiring with Indian intelligence agents, led to a split in the LTTE which led to the arrests of over a hundred of his close aides and supporters by supporters of LTTE leader Prabhakaran.

Sentenced to be executed, early this year, Mahattaya's execution was stayed due to strong pressure from the people of the Jaffna peninsula and the Vanni which he defended against the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) when Prabhakaran was hiding in India.

Most of Mahattaya's supporters arrested along with him have been released but he is incarcerated along with a handful of his close aides at a secret location in Jaffna.