About the photojournalist: B Murali Krishnan.

B. Murali Krishnan, a photojournalist at Mathrubhumi, captured a powerful image for his entry in the PII-ICRC Annual Awards 2024. The photograph features 16-year-old Akhil, who was born with disabilities due to exposure to the toxic pesticide endosulfan, which was sprayed in Kasaragod district, Kerala, by the government years ago. Despite his limited vision and inability to walk unaided, Akhil attended a protest in front of the secretariat in the capital city, holding his mother Geetha's hand. The protest demanded the inclusion of 1,031 people who were excluded from the list of recognized endosulfan victims. The image highlights the unparalleled fighting spirit of those born with congenital disabilities.

The photograph was published in Mathrubhumi Daily on December 9, 2023, in all editions.