

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 37/03/99

15 January 1999

Further information on UA 320/98 (ASA 37/28/98, 23 December 1998) and follow-up (ASA 37/02/99, 11 January 1999) - "Disappearance"

SRI LANKA Pakiyaratnam Yogeswaran (16)
Subramaniam Atpudarasa (17)
Selvarasa Tamilchelvam (16)
Mylvaganam Jayaseelan (23)
Lakshman Ketheeswaran (22)
Nadarasa Rajaratnam (30)
Veeraiah Udayakumar (30)
Gunakularasa Danushan (17)
Ponnathurai Ravindran (alias Ravi)

Amnesty International has learned that relatives of Subramaniam Atpudarasa and Selvarasa Tamilchelvam were allowed to visit them at the "Lucky House" camp, an unofficial place of detention run by the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) in Vavuniya, on around 10 January 1999.

The other seven men taken into custody by members of the army or PLOTE between 27 October and 21 December 1998 remain unaccounted for.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or in your own language:

- welcoming the news that the relatives of Subramaniam Atpudarasa and Selvarasa Tamilchelvam were given permission to visit them in detention;
- urging that they be either released or handed over to the police, if there are sufficient grounds for detention;
- urging that all unauthorized places of detention be closed;
- asking to be informed of the outcome of the investigations into the other "disappearances" recently reported from Vavuniya.

APPEALS TO:

Her Excellency President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga
Presidential Residence
"Temple Trees"
Colombo 3, Sri Lanka
Telegrams: President Kumaratunga, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Faxes: + 94 1 33 37 03
Salutation: Your Excellency

The Hon (General) Anuruddha Ratwatte
Deputy Minister of Defence
Ministry of Defence
15/5 Baladaksha Mawatha
Colombo 3, Sri Lanka
Telegrams: Deputy Defence Minister, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Faxes: + 94 1 54 15 29 / 68 77 68
Salutation: Dear Minister

R K Chandrananda de Silva
Secretary
Ministry of Defence
No 15/5 Baladaksha Mawatha
Colombo 3, Sri Lanka

Telegrams: Secretary Defence Ministry, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Faxes: + 94 1 54 15 29
Salutation: Dear Secretary

Lt-General Sri Lal Weerasooriya
Army Commander
Army Headquarters
Flagstaff Street
Colombo 1, Sri Lanka

Telegrams: Army Commander, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Salutation: Dear Army Commander

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Sri Lanka accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 February 1999.