

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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**Further information on Extra 109/93 (ASA 37/28/93, 30 December 1993) -
Fear of execution**

SRI LANKA:Gopalaswamy Mahendrarajah and 120 others

According to a Sri Lanka radio report, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has confirmed that its former leader Gopalaswamy Mahendrarajah, alias Mahattaya, has been sentenced to death. The likely date of execution is 16 January 1994.

The fate of Mahattaya's supporters, apparently detained with him in Jaffna, is unclear. Newspapers and radio continue to report that up to 120 of Mahattaya's followers arrested in August 1993, are also under sentence of death.

However, Amnesty International understands that Lawrence Thilakar, LTTE spokesperson based in Paris, has said that the LTTE are holding only three people in connection with the death of Kittu, a LTTE leader. They are Mahattaya, his bodyguard and a third, unnamed person. He did not reveal what would happen to these three men.

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

- continuing to express concern at the reports that Gopalaswamy Mahendrarajah is due to be executed on 16 January 1994;
- asking the LTTE to confirm the number of Gopalaswamy Mahendrarajah's followers in their custody and whether they are also going to be executed;
- urging that these executions are not carried out;
- urging that the International Committee of the Red Cross be granted immediate and regular access to Gopalaswamy Mahendrarajah, his followers, and any other political prisoners held by the LTTE.

APPEALS TO:

1) Lawrence Thilakar
Tamil Coordinating Committee
341 Rue des Pyrenees
75020 Paris, France

Telegrams: Mr Thilakar, TCC, 341 Rue des Pyrenees, Paris, France

Faxes: + 33 1 43 58 11 91

Salutation: Dear Mr Thilakar

2) LTTE International Secretariat
United Tamil Organization
211 Katherine Road
London E8 1BU
United Kingdom

Telegrams: LTTE, UTO, 211 Katherine Road, London, UK

Faxes: + 44 81 470 8593

Salutation: Dear Sir or Madam

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO: LTTE offices in your own countries, if any.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.