

ESRI LANKA

@Unresolved "disappearances" in the period 1987 - 1990: The case of Sevana Army Camp

Tens of thousands of people have reportedly "disappeared" in Sri Lanka after being detained by the security forces in recent years, yet the government has taken few steps to acknowledge responsibility publicly, to investigate the fate or whereabouts of the "disappeared", or to bring those responsible for "disappearances" to justice. Amnesty International believes that the government's lack of action over the years to curb "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions committed by the security forces has contributed to a sense of impunity among security forces personnel confronting armed opposition, and has given the impression that the government condones these gross violations of human rights in certain situations. This impression was reinforced when the Indemnity (Amendment) Act was passed in December 1988, providing immunity from prosecution for acts done "in good faith" between 1 August 1977 and 16 December 1988 by government and security forces personnel and others involved in enforcing law and order. It was further reinforced in January 1991, when a Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Involuntary Removal of Persons was created with powers to investigate only new cases of "disappearance": that is, only "disappearances" reported to have taken place between 11 January 1991 and 11 January 1992. The Commission is not empowered to investigate the tens of thousands of reported "disappearances" which occurred before January 1991. It thus appears that the government does not intend to provide proper redress for the relatives of those who "disappeared" in earlier years.

This paper contains details of a group of at least 46 young men who "disappeared" in one community in southern Sri Lanka in late 1989 and early 1990. All of them were believed to be detained at Sevana army camp, Embilipitiya, Ratnapura District, at the time they "disappeared". In several cases relatives had received information from witnesses or military officers that the missing person was indeed detained there. At the time these youths were detained, the Sixth Artillery Unit was stationed at Sevana camp. According to the relatives, when the Sixth Artillery Unit moved out of this camp in late January 1990, these and other prisoners held there simply vanished. No prisoners remained at the camp, and the relatives have been unable to trace them elsewhere. The relatives do not know the fate of the youths. They fear they may have been extra judicially killed and their bodies secretly disposed of in the hours before the camp was handed over to soldiers belonging to the

Fourth Gemunu Regiment. Many continue to hope that their sons or brothers may be alive somewhere, held in unacknowledged detention.

Amnesty International does not know the total number of prisoners who "disappeared" from Sevana camp. The cases included in this paper exemplify aspects of the pattern of "disappearances" during this period, and demonstrate the continuing plight of relatives of the "disappeared" who have so far had no clarification from the authorities of the fate of the youths, and have no means of redress through official channels.

For the two years since the young men "disappeared" from Sevana camp, their relatives have persisted in a determined but unsuccessful search for them. They have petitioned numerous government and security forces authorities, requesting information on the whereabouts or fate of their sons. They have contacted members of parliament as well as local and national human rights organizations. They, like the relatives of many thousands more who have "disappeared", live with the anguish of not knowing whether their children are alive or dead. In the words of one parent, "For so long, we parents of the 'disappeared' have survived only on our tears".

The "disappeared" listed in the second part of this document are mostly young men, who attended schools in the Embilipitiya area. Like many others of their age, they "disappeared" between August 1989 and January 1990, at the height of the government campaign to eradicate the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, People's Liberation Front), which had been waging a violent campaign to overthrow the government since mid-1987. Reports of "disappearances" in southern Sri Lanka reached a peak in this period, but became less frequent in the months after the leadership of the JVP had been captured and killed in disputed circumstances. "Disappearances" have continued to be reported from the south since, but at a considerably lower rate.

Despite the reduction in "disappearances" in the south, government forces continue to be cited as responsible for large numbers of "disappearances" in northeastern Sri Lanka, where Tamil separatists are fighting for a separate state. Over 3,000 people are believed to have "disappeared" in the northeast since June 1990, when fighting resumed between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and Sri Lanka government forces.¹ These more recent "disappearances" in the northeast have taken place in circumstances similar to those in the south described in this paper, and in some cases involved the same military units earlier deployed in the anti-JVP campaign in the south. This has reinforced Amnesty International's

¹ See *Sri Lanka - The Northeast: Human rights violations in a context of armed conflict*, (AI Index: ASA 37/14/91), September 1991. Earlier, between 1984 and mid-1987, Amnesty International recorded over 680 "disappearances" in the northeast for which Sri Lanka government forces are believed responsible. From mid-1987 to 1990, when the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) was responsible for the security of the northeast, Amnesty International recorded 43 "disappearances" attributed to the IPKF.

belief that when government forces undertake large-scale counterinsurgency operations against armed opposition, the Sri Lanka government appears to be prepared to tolerate gross human rights violations committed by its forces.

The cases summarized in the table below all concern people who were reportedly detained by the army and illustrate several features of the widespread pattern of "disappearances" which prevailed at the time. Many of the "disappeared" were detained in the middle of the night, taken from their homes by groups of men in plain clothes who threatened and abused the occupants of the house. With widespread violence also being committed by the JVP, confusion could be sown by security forces personnel operating in plain clothes, attempting to evade recognition and their legal responsibilities. They often used unmarked vehicles without numberplates so that they could not be traced; and sometimes soldiers claimed to be police. In some instances, however, witnesses to the arrests recognized those who had come to the house as soldiers. A witness to the detention of G W Ruwan Ratnaweera, for example, reportedly recognized the men who had come to the house as being members of the army, despite the fact that they said they were police officers. In other cases, circumstantial evidence pointed to the responsibility of security forces personnel for abductions carried out by men in plain clothes. Thus, S P Prasantha Handuwala was abducted by men driving a yellow Lancer car which had been seen a little earlier that day at Sevana army camp. Handuwala had just been to the camp to sign in, as he was required by the army to do weekly.

The security forces frequently denied that they had arrested a person who had been abducted. Yet sometimes relatives learned the truth from a prisoner who was released and who had seen the person concerned in detention. For example, although K P Prabath Kumara was seen in detention at Sevana camp by a former prisoner, his relatives have not received official acknowledgement of the fact that he had been arrested. Some prisoners were seen to have injuries, apparently from beatings or other forms of torture. Ruwan Ratnaweera was reportedly seen at Sevana camp in early December 1989, with swellings apparently sustained from beatings. On 21 October 1989, K D Aloysius Stephen was seen to have burns down the right side of his back, and on his right buttock.

Torture and ill-treatment appear to have been commonplace at Sevana camp. One prisoner who was released from the camp told Amnesty International that he had been kept for about a month in a communal bathroom, where he got wet from the showers, and that he had been blindfolded for several weeks. He had also been subjected to several forms of torture: he had been beaten with bottles, rubber hosing and cricket stumps; he had been suspended from a bar, and burnt with cigarettes. Loops had been tightened around his ankles causing great pain, and electric shocks had twice been applied to his genitals. Marks remain visible on his body which are consistent with the forms of torture he described. This young man had been abducted by men in plain clothes, and the security forces had denied for some time that they held him. In his account, which is supported by the account of

another prisoner released from Sevana camp who Amnesty International has interviewed, torture and ill-treatment were widespread at the camp. He once claimed to hear a prisoner being beaten to death.

Relatives of some of the "disappeared" believe that their children may have been detained for arbitrary reasons, such as private animosities. At the time these detentions took place, accounts indicate that many people were being taken in as JVP suspects by the security forces on the basis of lists drawn up by politicians and other influential people, as well as on the basis of information supplied by other individuals. These people are suspected of having used the opportunity of a counter-terror campaign by the security forces to include personal opponents in their lists. One person interviewed by Amnesty International described being instructed by a local official to supply names of young people who would be taken in systematically by the security forces. When this person queried this and refused to cooperate, he was told, "What do you know? We will go in the middle of the night and take one from here, one from there, and who will know?"

The parents of over 30 school boys from the Embilipitiya area who have "disappeared" have collectively appealed to the authorities on numerous occasions to account for their missing sons. They have been unsuccessful so far. Among others, they have appealed to the President of Sri Lanka, the Prime Minister, the Minister of State for Defence, the Commander of the Army, the Commissioner General for Rehabilitation, the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, the Presidential Adviser on International Affairs, and the police authorities. They have sought help from the leader of the parliamentary opposition party, from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and from the local government administration. On 14 October 1990 an opposition member of parliament asked a parliamentary question about the fate of their children. On 24 October 1990 the Minister of State for Defence denied that they had been taken into custody by the armed forces. In November 1990 the Superintendent of Police, Ratnapura, appeared to be starting investigations when he took statements from some of the parents about the circumstances of the arrests and "disappearances". Since then, however, they have heard no more about the investigation.

The parents of these school boys have also appealed to the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Involuntary Removal of Persons, but their cases have been rejected by the Commission because, like many thousands more, they fall outside its terms of reference.

Amnesty International has urged the Government of Sri Lanka to extend the terms of reference of the Commission of Inquiry into Involuntary Removal of Persons so that it is not restricted to investigating only those cases which occur between 11 January 1991 and 11 January 1992. It has also recommended that the Commission be made more accessible to those who wish to submit cases.²

² See: *Sri Lanka - the Northeast: Human rights violations in a context of armed conflict*,

"Disappearances" have regularly taken place in Sri Lanka since 1984. From 1988 to 1990 they were reported in the south in numbers that constitute, in global terms, historic proportions. From June 1990 "disappearances" have continued at alarming levels in the northeast according to a similar pattern. These tens of thousands of "disappearances" still need to be investigated so that the relatives of the "disappeared" and any surviving victims can be given a proper means of redress, and so that the government can demonstrate conclusively that it will not permit members of the security forces and other officials to continue to commit grave human rights violations with impunity.

(AI Index: ASA 37\14\91), September 1991, pages 39-40.

Sri Lanka - Commission of Inquiry Announced to Investigate New Cases of "Disappearance",

(AI Index: ASA 37\04\91) of February 1991.

Sri Lanka - Update on Commission of Inquiry to Investigate New Cases of "Disappearance",

(AI Index: ASA 37\12\91) of April 1991

Reported cases of "disappearance" from Sevana army camp, Embilipitiya, Ratnapura District
Listed in order of date of arrest.

Personal details	Reported date and place of arrest	Reported agent of arrest	Other information, including additional remedies taken
K Rupasena, age 18, of Embilipitiya. Student at Konkatuwa School.	2 August 1989 at about 10pm.	About six soldiers from the army camp at the fourth mile post, Embilipitiya. Where a sub-unit of the Sixth Artillery Unit was stationed.	K Rupasena was reportedly held at the fourth mile post camp until it was closed about four months after his arrest.
G A Rohana, age 18, of Embilipitiya. Student at Embilipitiya Central College.	2 August 1989 at about 10pm.	Army	G A Rohan was reportedly held by the Artillery unit for about four months after his arrest. Since then, relatives have no knowledge of his whereabouts.
Hettikankanamalage Alfred Palitha Gamage (date of birth 7 October 1971)	3 August 1989 at about 10.30pm from his home.	Three armed soldiers in uniform	Relatives were told by the headmaster of Embilipitiya Central College and by a military officer that H K Palitha Alfred Gamage was detained at Sevana camp. The latter told them

of 51 Mile Post, Ratnapura Road, Embilipitiya. Student at Udagama High School, Embilipitiya.			that he would be released in about a week's time, but this did not happen. They were told by a medical orderly that he was at the camp until it was closed. Since then they have heard nothing more about him. Relatives reported the arrest on 4 August 1989 to a member of parliament and to the cadet trainer at his school, as H K Palitha Alfred Gamage was a cadet. After about 10 days they reported it to the headmaster of Embilipitiya Central College. They also contacted a military officer and informed the ICRC.
S B Sanath Priyantha (age 17) of Embilipitiya. Student at Udagama High School, Embilipitiya.	3 August 1989 at about 10pm from his home.	Armed soldiers in uniform. There were witnesses to the arrest.	Relatives have searched for S B Sanath Priyantha without result.
N A Wijesinghe (age 19) of Tunkama. Student at Tunkama High School.	3 August 1989		
Malepathirana	14 August 1989 at	Army personnel in civil clothes.	According to unofficial sources he was held at

Sirisena (age 27) of Embilipitiya. A trader.	6.30pm from his home.	They were travelling in an unofficial vehicle (registration number not known)	the Sevana Army Camp.
W A Somapala of Embilipitiya. Student at Konkatuwa school.	18 August 1989 at 10am while he was travelling on a vegetable tractor near the second mile post, Panamura Road, Embilipitiya.	Soldiers from the fourth mile post army camp.	Relatives learned that W A Somapala was held at the fourth mile post camp until it was closed about four months later. Since then, they have heard no more about him.
Ihala Kodippilige Premaratna (age unknown) of Kariyamaditta. Worker at the State Paper Corporation, Embilipitiya.	4 October 1989 at about 9am on his way to work near the factory.	Soldiers from the Sevana army camp travelling in official vehicles. There were witnesses to the arrest.	Upon inquiry at the Sevana army camp, officials denied that he had been detained there.
Kekulukotuwege Don Aloysius Stephen (age 18) of Embilipitiya. Student at Embilipitiya Central College.	8 October 1989 between 3 and 4am.	Soldiers from the Artillery regiment stationed at Sevana camp.	A relative of K D Aloysius Stephen was detained at Sevana camp from 15 October 1989 until 1 January 1990. He saw K D Aloysius Stephen at the camp twice: once on 17 October 1989 and again on 21 October 1989. He heard mention of

			KD Aloysius Stephen on 19 October. On 21 October, K D Aloysius Stephen was seen to have burn marks on the right side of his back, and on his right buttock.
Rev. Embilipitiya Sumangala Thero (age 31) of Sri Ananda Bodhi temple at Gangeyaya, Embilipitiya. Student at University of Jayawardanapura.	9 October 1989 at 1am from his room at the temple. There were several witnesses to the arrest.	Soldiers in uniform accompanied by police.	Relatives obtained unofficial information that he had been taken to Sevana army camp. Appeals were made to the Minister of State for Defence, Minister of Higher Education, the Minister of Buddhist Affairs and the Chief Minister of Sabaragamuwa province but no information was received.
Dayananda Ekanayaka (age 17) of Embilipitiya. Student at Modarawana School.	11 October 1989		
Jagath Chamindakumara Dissanayaka (age 17) of Embilipitiya. Student at Halmillaketiya High School.	19 October 1989		

Jayasiri Hettigama (age 18) of Embilipitiya. Student at Udagama High School, Embilipitiya.	21 October 1989 at 9.30am at Embilipitiya public library.	Uniformed soldiers from Sevana camp.	
D D Rasika Kumara Wijetunga (age 17) of Embilipitiya. Student at Embilipitiya Central College.	6 November 1989 at about 11.30pm from his home.	A group of unknown armed men in civilian dress, believed by witnesses to be soldiers although they claimed to be police, and driving a Hiace van. They said they would bring D D Rasika Kumara Wijetunga back in half an hour, but did not do so.	Relatives were told by a member of parliament that D D Rasika Kumara Wijetunga was being held at Sevana camp along with several other people, and that he would be released after other suspects sought by the security forces had been arrested. Relatives complained to a member of parliament and military officers at Sevana camp. After the camp closed, relatives inquired at Mount Lavinia camp, where the officer in charge of Sevana had been transferred. They also lodged a complaint at Embilipitiya police station.
Abeywarnage Sugathadasa (age 38) of Talawa, Kariyamaditha, Tangalle District. Clerk at the postal department.	19 November 1989 at 9am from his home.	A group of soldiers from the Sevana army camp, who identified themselves as such. There were witnesses to the arrest.	Upon inquiry at the Sevana army camp relatives were told he would be released after questioning.

Yatiyana Vidana Arachchige Susil Kumara (age 16) of Tunkama. Student at Embilipitiya Central College.	11 November 1989		
Nammuni Arachchige Chamara Sudarsana Jayantha (age 16) of Embilipitiya. Student at Embilipitiya Central College.	11 November 1989 around 10.30pm together with his uncle N A Jayatillaka (see below).	A group of army officers dressed in civil clothes travelling in a white van who said that they belonged to the People's Revolutionary Red Army (PRRA), a death squad linked to the security forces. They forced their way into the house. There were witnesses to the arrest.	Relatives appealed to military officers at Sevana army camp and to a member of parliament, all of whom confirmed the arrest of his uncle N A Jayatillaka.
Nammuni Arachchige Jayatillaka (age 27) of Embilipitiya. Selected as a teacher	11 November 1989 at about 10.30pm together with his nephew N A Chamara Jayantha (see above).	A group of army officers dressed in civil clothes travelling in a white van who said that they belonged to PRRA. They forced their way into the house. There were witnesses to the arrest	Relatives appealed to military officers at Sevana army camp and to a member of parliament, all of whom confirmed that N A Jayatillaka was held at the camp.

<p>G Waduge Ruwan Ratnaweera (age 16) of Ratnavilla, New Town, Embilipitiya. Student at Embilipitiya Central College.</p>	<p>16 November 1989 between 10.30 and 11.15pm from his home.</p>	<p>Men who claimed to be members of the JVP, but who were identified by a witness as being soldiers. They threatened the occupants of the house and beat some of them.</p>	<p>On 14 November 1989 G W Ruwan Ratnaweera was warned by the principal of Embilipitiya Central College that he might be arrested, and said that he would help free him. In early December 1989 Ruwan Ratnaweera was seen at Sevana camp. He was injured, apparently from beatings. Relatives learned that Ruwan Ratnaweera was at Sevana camp until the end of January 1990, when it was handed over to another army unit. They appealed for help to the principal of Embilipitiya Central College, the Commissioner General for Rehabilitation and the ICRC but have received no news about his whereabouts.</p>
<p>K P Prabath Kumara (age 16) of Tunkama. Student at Udagama High School, Embilipitiya.</p>	<p>17 November 1989 at 3.20am from the home of a friend in Tunkama.</p>	<p>Two soldiers in uniform together with a group of men wearing civilian dress, driving a white Elf vehicle without numberplates.</p>	<p>K P Prabath Kumara was seen at Sevana camp by another prisoner who was later released. Relatives believe he was held at Sevana until the camp was closed in late January 1990. They later heard that K P Prabath Kumara may have been seen at Punani camp in September 1990, but this has not been confirmed. Relatives wrote to the President of Sri Lanka, the Minister of</p>

			Defence, the ICRC and a member of parliament.
H H Pradeep Wijesinghe (age 17) of Tunkama. Student at Udagama High School, Embilipitiya.	17 November 1989		
Dammika Kumara Beragama Arachchi (age 16) of Kuttigala. Student at Udagama High School, Embilipitiya.	17 November 1989 at about midnight, from his home.	About seven armed men, some of whom wore army uniform and some who wore civilian dress, who broke into the house and threatened the residents. They drove away in an army van towards Embilipitiya.	Relatives were told on 20 November 1989 by an officer at the Kuttigala army camp that D K Beragama Aarachchi was in detention at Sevana camp. The principal of Embilipitiya Central College told them on 21 November 1989 that he was held at Sevana camp, but on 25 December 1989 said that he was no longer at that camp, and must now be elsewhere. Relatives complained to Kuttigala police, Kuttigala army camp, the head of Udagama High School, the principal of Embilipitiya Central College, the District Education Officer, Ratnapura, the military coordinating officer, Embilipitiya, the Ministry of Defence, the President of Sri Lanka and the Embilipitiya police. Relatives were refused access to Sevana camp on three occasions when they

			tried to see the Coordinating Officer there.
Pradeep Indika Malwatta (age 16) of Udagama, Embilipitiya. Student at Udagama High School, Embilipitiya.	20 November 1989 at about 2am from his home.	An unknown group of armed men.	Pradeep Indika Malwatta was seen at Sevana camp by another prisoner who was later released.
Peduru Hewa Dewage Nihal (age 17) of Hingura Ara, Embilipitiya. Student at Udagama High School, Embilipitiya.	20 November 1989 at about midnight, from his home at Hingura Ara, Embilipitiya.	Men wearing civilian clothes, believed by witnesses to be army personnel.	Relatives received unofficial information that Peduru Hewa Dewage Nihal was held at Sevana camp.
Sidirikku Hennadige Nilan Manelka de Silva (age 17) of Embilipitiya. Student at Embilipitiya Central College.	1 December 1989 at mid-day. S H Nilan Manelka de Silva was playing cricket at the Embilipitiya Central College playground when he was arrested.	Two soldiers from the Sixth Artillery, Sevana camp, who drove him to Sevana camp in a vehicle carrying registration number 38 Sri 350.	Relatives complained to Embilipitiya police on 27 February 1990, and in August 1990 appealed to the President of Sri Lanka.
Rawindra Indunil	1 December 1989 at	A group of people who	Rawindra Indunil Rukman Paranawithana had

Rukman Paranawithana (age 16) of Embilipitiya. Student at Embilipitiya Central College.	about 11.30pm from his home.	surrounded the house, broke in, threatened and beat the occupants. They claimed to be from the police, but witnesses believe they were from the army. One was seen to be in army uniform, carrying a T56 weapon. Another was recognised by a witness the next day at Sevana army camp. They said they would bring R I R Paranawithana back in 15 minutes, but did not do so.	witnessed the arrest of S H Nilan Manelka de Silva at Embilipitiya Central College earlier that day. He had asked why S H Nilan Manelka de Silva was being taken, and was warned by the arresting officers to expect them in the night. They had then kicked him and chased him away.
Kalanchige Karunasena (age 19) of Tunkama. Student at Tunkama High School.	1 December 1989		
Jatunge Gunasena (age 23) of Embilipitiya. Employed in the gemming industry.	11 December 1989 at 10.30am near his home while talking to a friend	Several officers of the Sevana army camp travelling in a van with numberplate 34 SRI 5308. They were accompanied by a villager. There were witnesses to the	Relatives made inquiries at the army camp but were given no information. They also approached a local human rights organisation.

		arrest.	
<p>Sujeewa Pushpakumara Prasantha Handuwala (age 17) of Tunkama. Student at Embilipitiya Central College.</p>	<p>17 December 1989 at about 10.15am, close to the "Tyre Centre", Embilipitiya.</p>	<p>Abducted by men, believed to be soldiers, driving a yellow Lancer car while S P P Handuwala and his father were taking their motorbike to have its tyre repaired. There were witnesses to the abduction. S P P Handuwala and his father had seen the yellow Lancer at the army Coordinating office earlier, when they had gone there for S P P Handuwala to make his weekly report. The motorbike tyre had been let down while they were in the office. Later on the day of the abduction, the family house was broken into by a group of men who beat and threatened the occupants and ransacked the house, saying they were searching for weapons.</p>	<p>S P P Handuwala had been detained by the army at Sevana camp from 28 August to 7 October 1989. He had been released to his parents for three days from 6 September 1989 because he required medical treatment, apparently because he had been forced to swallow 2 bicycle keys, 3 nuts and bolts and several pieces of glass. He is believed to have been tortured. He was released on 7 October requiring further medical treatment, and was then required to report weekly at the Coordinating Office, Embilipitiya. On 17 December, they reported his arrest to one of the officers at Sevana camp and made a complaint at Embilipitiya police station. On 25 December they complained to the Coordinating Officer at Sevana Camp, who accepted letters from them to give to S P P Handuwala, saying he had been taken to Colombo. Relatives also complained to the Commissioner General for Rehabilitation, the Sri Lanka Red Cross and others.</p>

Palitha Laxman Guruge (age 16) of Embilipitiya. Student at Embilipitiya Central College.	17 December 1989 at about 7pm from his home.	A group of unknown men who said they were from the police, but who are believed to have been soldiers. They took Palith Laxman Guruge away together with his father's van, a cream coloured Delika carrying registration number 34 Sri 3610.	The father's vehicle was last seen being transported from Sevana camp on a lorry at the time the camp was closed. Relatives complained to the police and to the principal of Embilipitiya Central College.
Janaka Prasanna Jayawarna (age 17) of Embilipitiya. Student at Modarawana School.	18 December 1989 at 3.30pm, near Chandrika reservoir.	Four men wearing civilian dress, who said they were taking him away for questioning. They were recognised as soldiers by a witness. They were travelling in a Hiace van.	Relatives learned that J P Jayawarna was detained at Sevana camp, but do not know what has happened to him since the camp was closed. They also appealed to the ICRC.
Yatiyana Vidana Arachchige Susantha (age 19) of Tunkama.	18 December 1989 at about 1am, from Peragaslanda estate, Kuruwilla. Two other people were arrested along with Y V A Susantha: Pathiranage Anil	Armed soldiers wearing civilian dress, believed to be from Kuruwita army camp.	Relatives learned that Y V A Susantha was transferred to Sevana camp from Kuruwita army camp and detained there until it the Artillery Unit moved out in late January 1990. They do not know what has happened to him since then. Relatives have complained to the ICRC, the Minister of State for Defence, the President of Sri Lanka, the Commissioner General for

	Perera (below) and K K Piyasena.		Rehabilitation, members of parliament, local human rights organizations and the army.
Pathiranage Anil Perera (age 25) of Tunkama.	18 December 1989 at about 1am from Peragaslanda estate, Kuruwita, together with Y V A Susantha (above) and K K Piyasena.	As above.	As above.
Podi Appuhamy Wickramage (age 49) of Embilipitiya. Cultivator.	19 December 1989 at 7.30am while walking along the road to the centre of Embilipitiya town.	Two soldiers in uniform who threatened him. They took him with them by foot and later put him into a vehicle. There was a witness to the arrest.	Relatives obtained unofficial information that he had been detained at Sevana army camp. Earlier in August 1989, soldiers from the same army camp had come to his home and made inquiries about him. One of them who had been in uniform was later seen inside Sevana army camp.
H U Chandra Lal (age 24) of Embilipitiya.	24 December 1989 at about 11pm from his home.	Armed soldiers wearing uniform, who threatened the occupants of the house and took H U Chandra Lal and his brother (below) away.	Relatives learned from the principal of Embilipitiya Central College, where H U Chaminda Rohan (below) studies, that the two brothers were in the custody of the army and would soon be released. They were not released, and no more news about them has

			been forthcoming.
H U Chaminda Rohan (age 18) of Embilipitiya. Student at Embilipitiya Central College.	As above.	As above.	As above.
Nalin Kumara Gunaratne (age 17) of Embilipitiya. Student at Embilipitiya Central College.	26 December 1989	Soldiers from the Artillery Unit stationed at Sevana camp.	
N Karunadasa (age 22) of Owalpe. Student at Owalpe High School.	26 December 1989 at about 5pm, at a tea shop about 15 yards from Sevana army camp.	Men in civilian dress, believed to be soldiers.	Relatives believe that N Karunadasa was taken to Sevana camp and that he was held there until 18 January 1990. His whereabouts since then are unknown. An official at Sevana camp told a relative that N Karunadasa was being held as a JVP suspect because he was staying in Embilipitiya but did not ordinarily live there. The relative explained that Karunadasa had come to take his advanced level exams, and was told that Karunadasa would be released in about two days time. Since then, relatives have not been able to trace him.

Wijesekera Pathiranage Nandasena (age 32) of Habaraluwewa, Embilipitiya. Driver.	26 December 1989 shortly after midnight from his home.	Armed men in civilian dress, believed to be soldiers. They called Wijesekera Pathiranage Nandasena out from his house, saying that they wanted him to drive a patient somewhere. They then took him away saying they wanted to record a statement.	Relatives learned unofficially that he was detained at Sevana camp.
Heenatimullage Don Senani Ajith Somaratne (age 17) of Sevanagala, Embilipitiya. Student at Moraketiya High School.	27 December 1989 at midnight, from his home.		
Udesh Kavindra Sellahewa (age 16) of Kuttigala. Student at Embilipitiya Central College.	30 December 1989		

Wanniarachchi Kankanamge Mahindapala Wickramasinghe (age 18) of Pallegama, Embilipitiya. Student at Embilipitiya Central College.	4 January 1990 at 10.30pm from his home.	Armed men who said they would send W K Mahindapala Wickramasinghe back in about 4 days time, after he had been questioned.	Relatives complained to the principal of Embilipitiya Central College who informed them that W K Mahindapala Wickramasinghe was in custody, but did not specify where he was being held. They tried to make a complaint at the local police station but the police refused to take down their complaint.
H P B Palitha (age 19) of Embilipitiya. Student at Embilipitiya Central College.	4 January 1990		
P L Wasantha Priyasamantha (age 16) of Pallegama, Embilipitiya. Student at Embilipitiya Central College.	4 January 1990 at about midnight, together with his brother (below).	Soldiers from Sevana camp.	Relatives believe the two brothers were held at Sevana camp.
P L Aruna Priyasamantha (age 18) of Pallegama,	As above.	As above.	As above.

Embilipitiya. Student at Embilipitiya Central College.			
Weeratunga Samaraweera (age 30) of Visamithura Weeraswana, Omalpe	7 January 1990 at 5pm while going for a bath at Hulandawa, Panamure.	Army officers from the Sevana army camp.	Weeratunga Samaraweera's vehicle had been taken away by the police approximately one month before his arrest. Relatives made appeals to the President of Sri Lanka and the Inspector General of Police.