

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 375/90 (ASA 37/36/90, 18 September, and follow-up ASa 37/38/90, 24 September) - Fear of "disappearance"

SRI LANKA:Raymond PERERA

Amnesty International has learned that Raymond Perera, a 29-year-old shop steward for the Mercantile and Industrial Service Union, was rearrested on 4 October.

Raymond Perera had been detained on 14 September by plainclothes men thought to be members of the security forces. He was released on 21 September and subsequently returned to work at the Associated Battery Manufacturers in Ratmalana. But the police apparently visited the factory on several occasions after his release, asking for Raymond Perera as they had "certain suspicion" against him. Initially, trade union leaders objected to handing him over to the police, and asked for specific reasons why the police wanted him. After having received assurances from the superintendent of police of the area about his safety, Raymond Perera handed himself over at the Mount Lavinia police station in the presence of two trade union leaders on 4 October.

Raymond Perera is presently held at Mount Lavinia police station and is allowed to receive visitors. He was taken before a judge on the evening of 12 October and was reportedly served a 30-day detention order. To date, it is not clear on what grounds Raymond Perera has been detained.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern about the rearrest on 4 October of Raymond Perera;
- asking for information about the reason for his continued detention;
- urging that he be immediately released or, if there are charges against him, that he be brought to trial under ordinary procedures of law.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency President R Premadasa
Presidential Secretariat
Republic Square
Colombo 1
Sri Lanka

Telexes: 22650 PRESEC CE
Faxes: + 94 1 54 6657

The Hon Ranjan Wijeratne
Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Colombo
Sri Lanka

Telexes: 22229 MINDEF CE
Faxes: + 94 1 54 6091

Ernest Perera
Inspector General of Police
Sri Lanka Police Headquarters
New Secretariat
No 349 Galle Road
Colombia 1, Sri Lanka

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Sri Lanka in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 November 1990.