

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 37/015/2002

18 September 2002

Further information on UA 281/02 (ASA 37/014/2002, 10 September 2002) - Fear for safety

SRI LANKA **Nandini Herat (f)**
 Her father and other family members (names unknown)
 Nishantha Kumara (m), human rights defender
 Priyantha Gamage (m), lawyer

Nandini Herat was released on bail on 13 September. However, the police officers from Wariyapola police station who have been charged with torturing her have not been transferred or suspended, and there are still fears that they may attempt to intimidate her and those involved with her case. Nandini Herat's father testified in court about the threats he had received from the Wariyapola police.

Since issuing the Urgent Action, Amnesty International has learnt that Nandini Herat was arrested in connection with a robbery of some religious artefacts from a local Buddhist temple. Nandini Herat was reportedly not informed of the charges against her until after she had been tortured and forced to sign a statement. She denies any involvement in the robbery.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals in English or your own language:
-welcoming Nandini Herat's release on bail, and the fact that her lawyer and father were able to appear in court on 13 September;
-expressing concern that the police officers who have been charged with the torture of Nandini Herat are still in their posts at Wariyapola police station and therefore could still be in a position to intimidate Nandini Herat, her family, her lawyer and others who are assisting with her case;
-calling for members of the police charged with serious crimes such as torture are suspended from duty while they are under investigation.

APPEALS TO:

President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga
Presidential Secretariat
Colombo 1
Sri Lanka

Telegrams: President Kumaratunga, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faxes: + 94 1 33 37 03

Salutation: Your Excellency

Inspector General of Police T. Anandarajah
Police Headquarters
New Secretariat
Colombo 1
Sri Lanka

Telegrams: Inspector General Police, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faxes: + 94 1 43 89 15

Salutation: Dear Inspector General

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 30 October 2002.