

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 37/16/00

14 June 2000

Further information on UA 152/00 (ASA 37/15/00, 8 June 2000) - Fear of Torture/Medical Concern/Death in Custody

SRI LANKA **Sinnathamby Pradeepan**
Poopalaratnam Arulramesh
Gunasekaran Sathiyaseelan
Samithamby Eswaran
Ganesh Chandrakanthan (killed)

Amnesty International has learned that members of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the National Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka visited the four above detainees held at Kantalai police station on 13 June 2000. The ICRC representatives reportedly provided medical treatment for the wounds sustained by the detainees during interrogation.

Members of their families were also allowed to visit them.

According to reliable sources, Ganesh Chandrakanthan was badly tortured on the day of his arrest, 4 June. He was seen being carried out of the police station and put into a jeep around 3pm on 5 June. His left hand appeared to be broken. On 7 June, police told Ganesh Chandrakanthan's family that he had been killed by a grenade he had set off at the time of his arrest. The police refused to release the body unless his relatives signed a statement confirming that Ganesh Chandrakanthan was a member of the armed opposition group Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The relatives refused. The body was subsequently buried by police in the Kantalai cemetery. His relatives were not present at the time of the burial.

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

- referring to previous appeals sent;
- welcoming reports that the four detainees who were tortured by police at Kantalai police station have been allowed visits by their relatives and were given medical treatment by a representative of the ICRC;
- expressing concern that further evidence gathered by Amnesty International confirms that Ganesh Chandrakanthan may have died as a result of torture and that police have covered up his death claiming he set off a grenade;
- urging the authorities to undertake full and immediate investigations into these reports of torture and death in custody as a result of torture and take all necessary steps to bring those responsible to justice;

APPEALS TO:

President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga
Presidential Residence, "Temple Trees", Colombo 3, SRI LANKA
Telegrams: President Kumaratunga, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Faxes: + 94 1 44 66 57
Salutation: Your Excellency

Inspector General of Police Lakshman Kodituwaka
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 26 July 2000.