

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 37/26/99

1 November 1999

Further information on EXTRA 129/99 (ASA 37/21/99, 10 September 1999) - Fear of torture

SRI LANKAKandasamy Sri Ram
Anthonipillai Binod Vimalraj
Sivagnanasunderam Sri Kanthan

Amnesty International has received a letter from Kandasamy Sri Ram, who was tortured by police at Mirihana police station after his arrest on 25 August 1999.

In his letter, dated 15 October, he writes that he was given bail on 15 September. He goes on to say, "I wish to thank all of the members of Amnesty International" who wrote letters on his behalf.

He alleges how the police tortured him: "They .. burnt my body with cigarette butts specially I was electrocuted and they have inserted pins into my nails and iron rod was inserted into my anus and so on."

He also alleges that he was only allowed to speak to officers of the International Committee of the Red Cross visiting the police station after he "made a big noise".

Kandasamy Sri Ram is afraid of reprisals if he files a petition for compensation with the Supreme Court. He has made complaints to the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka and the Committee to Inquire into Undue Harassment and Arrest. The results of their investigations are not yet known. He missed his university final year examination while in detention. He is currently receiving medical treatment for physical and psychological trauma.

Anthonipillai Binod Vimalraj was transferred from Kotahena police station to the custody of the Terrorist Investigation Department on 19 October.

Sivagnanasundaram Sri Kanthan was charged with involvement with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the main armed opposition group fighting for an independent Tamil state in the north and east of Sri Lanka. He was transferred to Colombo remand prison on or about 19 October. He says he was tortured in detention at the Crime Detection Bureau. In a petition to the Supreme Court alleging violation of the right not to be tortured, he claims that two Crime Detection Bureau officers took him to a doctor, who did not examine him or give him any medicine, but signed some documents that the police provided.

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

- welcoming the release on bail of Kandasamy Sri Ram who had been tortured by police at Mirihana police station;
- urging the authorities to undertake full and immediate investigations into reports that he was tortured;
- urging that investigations into similar reports about Anthonipillai Binod Vimalraj and Sivagnanasundaram Sri Kanthan, who were allegedly tortured at Kotahena police station and the Crime Detection Bureau, are also conducted and and that those responsible for their torture are brought 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 33 37 03
Salutation: Your Excellency

Inspector General of Police Lakshman Kodituwaka
Police Headquarters, New Secretariat, Colombo 1, SRI LANKA
Telegrams: Inspector General of 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 13 December 1999.