

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**5 March 1993**

**Further information on UA 398/92 (37/12/92, 17 December 1992) - Fear of "disappearance"/unacknowledged detention**

**Sri Lanka: Vishwanathan Pathmanathan, aged 38, shop owner**

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Vishwanathan Pathmanathan's whereabouts remain unknown and, according to relatives, he has not been released.

Vishwanathan Pathmanathan was arrested on 24 November 1992 but his detention was not acknowledged by the authorities. Justice Soza of the Human Rights Task Force in Colombo, Sri Lanka has written to a number of UA participants informing them that Vishwanathan Pathmanathan may have been released on 10 December 1992 in the presence of officials from the International Committee of the Red Cross. According to Justice Soza, the person released was called Vishvalingam Pathmanathan. Justice Soza believed him to be the same person as Vishwanathan Pathmanathan as they were both arrested on the same day. Justice Soza also said that the army had not acknowledged that they had arrested a person by the name of Vishwanathan Pathmanathan.

Amnesty International has established that Vishwanathan Pathmanathan has not been released and that his whereabouts remain unknown.

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

- acknowledging that Amnesty International has been informed that the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Involuntary Removal of Persons is conducting an inquiry into the arrest and subsequent "disappearance" of Vishwanathan Pathmanathan and asking that the findings be made public;

- seeking assurances that if Vishwanathan Pathmanathan is found to be in custody, he be humanely treated and granted immediate and regular access to relatives and a lawyer.

**APPEALS TO**

1) His Excellency President Ranasinghe Premadasa  
Presidential Secretariat  
Republic Square  
Colombo 1, Sri Lanka

**Telegrams: President Premadasa, Colombo, Sri Lanka**

**Telexes: 22650 PRESEC CE**

**Faxes: + 94 1 44 6657**

**Salutation: Dear President**

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2) The Hon D B Wijetunga  
Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence  
Ministry of Defence  
Republic Square  
Colombo 2, Sri Lanka  
**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Colombo, Sri Lanka**  
**Telexes: 22229 MINDEF CE**  
**Faxes: + 94 1 44 6091**

**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Justice J F A Soza  
Human Rights Task Force  
75, Norris Canal Road  
Colombo 10, Sri Lanka

and 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 16 April 1993.