

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 37/010/2002

3 May 2002

Further information on UA 131/02 (ASA 37/007/2002, 29 April 2002) - Fear for Safety/Hostage-Taking

**SRI LANKAK V Sithamparapillai (m), aged 82**

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Amid considerable publicity about his abduction for ransom, K V Sithamparapillai was allowed to return home by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) at around noon on 1 May.

K V Sithamparapillai had been taken captive by the LTTE on 26 April and held hostage after he had refused to pay a large sum of money demanded from him.

Amnesty International understands that since he returned home, K V Sithamparapillai has received messages urging him to pay. However, under pressure from the police, his bank manager is reportedly refusing to release the money from his account.

On 2 May, the head of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission, which was set up to monitor a cease-fire between the LTTE and the government of Sri Lanka, reportedly met the leader of the political wing of the LTTE in the district of Batticaloa. It is not known whether K V Sithamparapillai's case was raised as a violation of the cease-fire agreement, in which amongst other things, both sides agreed to "...abstain from hostile acts against the civilian population, including...intimidation, abduction, extortion and harassment".

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:**

- welcoming the fact that K V Sithamparapillai has been allowed to return home;
- expressing concern that he continues to be harassed and intimidated into paying money to the LTTE;
- expressing concern at other reports of hostage-taking by the LTTE;
- urging the LTTE leadership to issue a public statement clarifying its position and urging its cadres to take all necessary steps to bring an immediate halt to the taking of hostages.

**APPEALS TO:**

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c/o Tamil Coordinating Committee - France  
341 Rue de Pyrenees  
75020 Paris, France

**Telegram: Dr Anton Balasingam, Paris, France**

**Fax: + 33 1 43 58 11 91**

**Salutation: Dear Dr Balasingam**

World Tamil Movement  
64 Eaton Avenue  
Toronto,  
Ontario  
M4J 2Z5,  
Canada

**Telegram: World Tamil Movement, Toronto, Ontario**

**Salutation: Dear Sir or Madam**

Tamil Co-ordinating Committee Norway

2

Det tamilske\_Samordningsutvalget  
Pb. 1699 Vika  
0110 Oslo, Norway

**Telegram: Tamil Co-ordinating Committee Norway, Oslo, Norway**

**Fax: + 47 22 38 10 40**

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**Salutation: Dear Sir or Madam**

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 14 June 2002.