

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on 37/91 (ASA 37/06/91, 5 February 1991) - Unacknowledged Detention/Fear of "Disappearance"

SRI LANKA:Lakana Rasala PIERIS

An Amnesty International member has received a letter dated 21 February 1991 from Bradman Weerakoon, Adviser to the President on International Relations and Chairperson of the "Special Task Force", established in November 1989 "to monitor and deal effectively with all violations of human rights". The letter informed Amnesty International that *"the Human Rights Task Force was immediately activated to trace Mr Pieris"*. It continues by stating that *"it has been ascertained that Mr Pieris is under detention on a duly served Detention Order in terms of the Emergency Regulations, and is now in the Counter Subversive Unit at Kohuwela. He is being humanely treated and will be granted regular access to his relatives and a lawyer."*

Amnesty International welcomes the promptness with which the Sri Lankan authorities have looked into the "disappearance" of Lakana Rasala Pieris. It has been able to confirm that Lakana Rasala Pieris is in the custody of the Counter Subversive Unit at Kohuwela.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- welcoming the prompt investigation into the "disappearance" of Lakana Rasala Pieris and the assurances that he will be granted regular access to his relatives and lawyer;

- urging that Lakana Rasala Pieris either be charged within a reasonable period of time, if there is any evidence against him of criminal activities, or that he otherwise be released.

PLEASE SEND UP TO 10 APPEALS PER SECTION.

APPEALS TO:

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

Telexes: 22650 PRESEC CE

Faxes: + 94 1 54 6657

The Hon D B Wijetunga
Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Colombo
Sri Lanka

Telexes: 22229 MINDEF CE

Faxes: + 94 1 54 6091

Bradman Weerakoon
Presidential Adviser on International Relations
Presidential Secretariat
Colombo 1, Sri Lanka

Telexes: 22650 PRESEC CE

Faxes: + 94 1 54 6657

COPIES TO:

Ernest Perera
Inspector General of Police
Police Headquarters
Colombia 1, Sri Lanka

Mr H A G de Silva
Chairman
Commission of Inquiry into "Disappearances"
Presidential Secretariat
Colombo 1, Sri Lanka

and to diplomatic representatives of Sri Lanka in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 April 1991.