

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: ASA 37/15/93**

**Distr: UA/SC**

*This is a limited appeal. Please organize up to five appeals per section.*

**9 August 1993**

**Further information on UA 109/93 (ASA 37/08/93, 13 April 1993) - Unacknowledged Arrests/Fear of "Disappearance"**

**SRI LANKA:Velupillai Jayakumar**

**Arrested 17 February 1993**

**Kandiah Murugamoorthy**

**Visvanathan Rajakumar**

**Ponnuthurai Samithamby**

**Nagamany Thangavadivel**

**Nagamany Sivamoorthy**

**Nagamany Panchadcharam**

**Mylipody Umaranjan**

**Kanthakutty Chitravel**

**Samithambi Yogarajah**

**Kandapody Puvanasingham**

**Kandapody Palan**

**Chellappa Udayakumar**

**Chelliah Balakrishnam**

**Nagamany Punniamoorthy**

**Nagamany Mahendran**

**Kannapathipillai Selvarajah**

**Arrested: 27 December 1992**

**Muthukutty Pushparajah**

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The whereabouts of sixteen Tamil men named above who were arrested on 17 February 1993 and whose detention has not been acknowledged by the authorities, remain unknown. Justice Soza of the Human Rights Task Force has written to a number of UA participants to inform them that the Army Commander in Batticaloa District has appointed a committee of three high-ranking army officials to inquire into these arrests and a police investigation is also underway. Justice Soza himself is continuing to make inquiries.

The whereabouts of Kanapathipillai Selvarajah and Muthukutty Pushparajah, who were arrested on 27 December 1992 and whose detention was not acknowledged by the authorities, also remain unknown. Amnesty International has been informed that Kannapathipillai Selvarajah has not returned home. Justice Soza of the Human Rights Task Force in Colombo has replied to a number of UA participants giving details of several people with the name of Kannapathipillai Selvarajah who are presently detained. Since none of the detainees whose details have been forwarded by Justice Soza have the same home address as Kannapathipillai Selvarajah, or were arrested on 27 December 1992, the organization concludes that none of those listed can be the same person.

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

- acknowledging Justice Soza's efforts to establish the whereabouts of the sixteen men detained at Vannathi Aru on 17 February 1993, and noting that a committee of army officials are making inquiries and that a police investigation is underway and asking to be kept informed of the outcome;
- acknowledging Justice Soza's efforts to establish the fate and whereabouts of Kanapathipillai Selvarajah and Muthukutty Pushparajah, but pointing out that none of the detainees with the name of Kanapathipillai Selvarajah whose details have been forwarded to Amnesty International were arrested on 27 December 1992 or appear to come from Marapalam in Batticaloa District; saying that you have been informed that Kannapathipillai Selvarajah has not returned home;
- requesting that a full, impartial investigation be held to establish the fate and whereabouts of Kannapathipillai Selvarajah and Muthukutty Pushparajah and the 16 men arrested at Vannathi Aru on 17 February 1993;
- seeking assurances that if they are found to be in custody, they be humanely treated and given regular access to relatives and a lawyer;

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President D B Wijetunga  
Presidential Secretariat  
Republic Square  
Colombo 1  
SRI LANKA

**Telegrams: President Wijetunga, Colombo, Sri Lanka**  
**Telexes: 22650 PRESEC CE**  
**Faxes: + 94 1 446657**  
**Salutation: Dear President**

2) Justice J F A Soza  
Chairperson  
Human Rights Task Force  
75 Norris Canal Road  
Colombo 10  
SRI LANKA

**Salutation: Dear Justice Soza**

3) Justice H A G de Silva  
Chairperson  
Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Involuntary  
Removal of Persons  
Room No 2-115, BMICH  
Bauddhaloka Mawatha

Colombo 7

SRI LANKA

**Salutation: Dear Justice de Silva**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS 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 20 September 1993.