

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 37/016/2002

15 October 2002

Further information on UA 281/02 (ASA 37/014/2002, 10 September 2002) and follow-up (ASA 37/015/2002, 18 September 2002) - Fear for safety/Torture

SRI LANKANandini Herat (f)

Her father and other family members (names unknown)

Nishantha Kumara (m), human rights defender

Priyantha Gamage (m), lawyer

Five police officers implicated in the torture of Nandini Herat were recently transferred out of Wariyapola police station, reportedly on the orders of the Sri Lankan Inspector General of Police. It is not known whether they have been suspended from duty.

The Attorney General has instructed the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to take over the investigation of the alleged torture of Nandini Herat. The investigation had previously been conducted by the Assistant Superintendent of Police in the northwestern region of Sri Lanka.

The Attorney General has also directed the CID to arrange for Nandini Herat to be examined by the Judicial Medical Officer. Earlier medical examinations had been conducted by the District Medical Officer.

The CID has also been directed to conduct a criminal investigation into alleged threats by Wariyapola Police against Priyantha Gamage, the lawyer representing Nandini Herat and human rights defender Nishantha Kumara.

Amnesty International will continue to monitor the case closely. No further appeals from the network are required at present. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.