

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 37/19/95

14 September 1995

Further information on UA 177/95 (ASA 37/16/95, 20 July 1995) - "Disappearance"
/ Fear of Extrajudicial Execution

SRI LANKA

Marsilin Michael Colin
Iyavu Shanmuganathan, aged 26
Krishnapillai Thuruparan, aged 27

In late August 1995, 18 members of the security forces and seven civilian informants suspected of being responsible for the "disappearance", torture and killing of at least 21 people were arrested. Ten of those arrested are members of the Special Task Force (STF), an elite police commando unit. There are also reports that the head of the STF has been suspended by President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga.

Thirteen of the victims found have been identified as Tamils abducted in the capital Colombo in the last few months; their bodies were later found in lakes and rivers in the vicinity of Colombo.

It is not known whether Marsilin Michael Colin, Iyavu Shanmuganathan or Krishnapillai Thuruparan, three young Tamil men detained in Colombo in June 1995, are among the 13 victims identified. Iyavu Shanmuganathan and Krishnapillai Thuruparan's arrests were reportedly carried out by the STF.

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

- welcoming the measures taken against members of the security forces suspected of being responsible for recent "disappearances", torture and killing;
- asking to be informed whether the 13 victims identified as young Tamil men abducted in Colombo include Marsilin Michael Colin, Iyavu Shanmuganathan and Krishnapillai Thuruparan;
- urging that, if the three are not among those identified, full investigations be carried out to establish their whereabouts and fate, and asking to be informed of the results of the investigation.

APPEALS TO:

Her Excellency President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga
Presidential Residence
"Temple Trees"
Colombo 3, Sri Lanka
Faxes: + 94 1 33 37 03
Telegrams: President Kumaratunga, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Salutation: Your Excellency

The Hon (Colonel) Anuruddha Ratwatte
Deputy Minister of Defence and of Irrigation, Power & Energy
Ministry of Irrigation, Power & Energy
No. 500 T B Jayah Mawatha
Colombo 10, Sri Lanka
Telexes: 803 22229
Telegrams: Deputy Defence Minister, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Salutation: Dear Minister

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Lt-General Gerry de Silva
Army Commander
Army Headquarters
Flagstaff Street
Colombo 1, Sri Lanka

Telegrams: Army Commander, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Salutation: Dear Army Commander

COPIES 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 1 November 1995.