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Sri Lanka: Amnesty International welcomes news that reports of commissions will be made public

Amnesty International applauds the decision announced in a press release from the Presidential Secretariat received today that both the final and the interim reports of the three Presidential commissions of inquiry into past "disappearances" will be made public.

"This is a crucial junction for Sri Lanka. By making public these reports and taking firm action against the violators, an extremely significant contribution is being made to the protection of human rights in the country," Amnesty International said today.

The three commissions handed over their final reports to President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga yesterday as Amnesty International appealed to the President for them to be made public.

"We are also delighted at some of the follow-up measures announced by the President, including the prosecution of those against whom the commissions found *prima facie* evidence and the establishment of a new commission to examine the complaints which the three commissions were not able to inquire into before their term ended," Amnesty International said.

The human rights organization repeated its call made yesterday for the government to also take decisive action to follow-up on the investigations currently under way into 760 complaints of "disappearances" in the Jaffna peninsula last year.
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