

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 01/92 (ASA 37/02/92, 2 January 1992) -
"Disappearance"/Unacknowledged detention

SRI LANKA:Markandu Mahadevan Kumar (alias Shankar)

Amnesty International has learned that the mother of Markandu Mahadevan Kumar (alias Shankar) was allowed to visit her son at the Special Task Force (STF) camp at Tirukkivil, Amparai district around 20 January 1992.

Shankar was arrested on 18 December 1991 from his residence in Colombo by a group of armed men in civilian clothes apparently travelling in a jeep without numberplates. His mother had been making inquiries with national and local authorities since his "disappearance", all of whom initially denied that he was in detention.

He is said to be in good health.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- noting that Markandu Mahadevan Kumar, alias Shankar, who was arrested on 18 December 1991 has been found to be in detention at Tirukkivil STF Camp and that his relatives have been given permission to visit him;

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

APPEALS TO:

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

Telegrams: President Premadasa, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Telexes: 22650 PRESEC CE

Faxes: + 94 1 44 6657

Salutation: Dear President

2) The Hon D B Wijetunga

Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Republic Square
Colombo 2, Sri Lanka
Telegrams: Prime Minister, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Telexes: 22229 MINDEF CE
Faxes: + 94 1 44 6091

Salutation: Dear Minister

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3) Justice J F A Soza
Chairman
Human Rights Task Force
75 Norris Canal Road
Colombo 10, Sri Lanka

Salutation: Dear Justice Soza

4) Justice H A G de Silva
Chairperson
Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Involuntary
Removal of Persons
Room No. 2-115, BMICH
Buddhaloka Mawatha
Colombo 7, Sri Lanka

Salutation: Dear Justice de Silva

COPIES 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 5 March 1992.