

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 398/92 (ASA 37/12/92, 17 December 1992) and follow-ups ASA 37/05/93 of 5 March 1993 - Fear of "disappearance"/unacknowledged detention

SRI LANKA: Vishwanathan Pathmanathan, aged 38, shop owner

Amnesty International has established that the person it reported as being named Vishwanathan Pathmanathan is in fact named Vishvalingam Pathmanathan and was released to his relatives in the presence of officials from the International Committee of the Red Cross on 10 December 1992.

On learning from Justice Soza of the Human Rights Task Force in Colombo that Vishvalingam Pathmanathan had been released, Amnesty International checked back with its source to establish whether this person might be the same as Vishwanathan Pathmanathan. A close relative informed this contact that he had not been released. Following the renewal of Amnesty International's appeal, Justice Soza visited Pathmanathan's home village of Morakottanchenai to try and establish his whereabouts. After inquiries Justice Soza established that the person named Vishvalingam Pathmanathan must be the same person as the one Amnesty International had reported as Vishwanathan Pathmanathan, and that he had been released on 10 December 1992.

Amnesty International received this information today from Justice Soza and checked again with the source on this case, who had since learned that the relative suffers from psychological disturbance, and that in a disturbed state of mind this relative had given the wrong information about the release. The contact had not been aware of the relative's condition at the time.

Amnesty International welcomes the final confirmation that Vishvalingam Pathmanathan has indeed been released.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send airmail letters in English or your own language:

- thanking Justice Soza for his efforts to establish the fate and whereabouts of Vishvalingam Pathmanathan and welcoming the fact that it has now been finally confirmed that this person was released on 10 December 1992.

APPEALS TO:

Justice Soza
Chairman
Human Rights Task Force

75 Norris Canal Road
Colombo 10
Sri Lanka

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 May 1993.