PUBLIC AI Index: ASA 37/08/99

12 April 1999

Further information on UA 320/98 (ASA 37/28/98, 23 December 1998) and follow-ups (ASA 37/02/99, 11 January 1999, ASA 37/03/99, 15 January 1999 and ASA 37/04/99, 27 January 1999) - Fear of Disappearance

SRI LANKAPakiyaratnam Yogeswaran Subramaniam Atpudarasa Selvarasa Tamilchelvam Lakshman Ketheeswaran Nadarasa Rajaratnam Veeraiah Udayakumar Ponnathurai Ravindran (alias Ravi)

Amnesty International has learned that Selvarasa Tamilchelvam and Subramaniam Atpudarasa were released from the "Lucky House" PLOTE camp in late March 1999.

The whereabouts of the five other people reported to have "disappeared" is still unknown.

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

- welcoming the news that Subramaniam Atpudarasa and Selvarasa Tamilchelvam have been released but expressing concern for the safety of Pakiyaratnam Yogeswaran, Lakshman Ketheeswaran, Nadarasa Rajaratnam, Veeraiah Udayakumar and Ponnathurai Ravindran (alias Ravi);
- urging that those held in unauthorized places are transferred to regular places of detention or released;
- asking to be informed of the outcome of the investigations into the "disappearances" recently reported from Vavuniya;
- urging that those responsible for these "disappearances" be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Her Excellency President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga Presidential Residence "Temple Trees"

Colombo 3, Sri Lanka

Telegrams: President Kumaratunga, Colombo, Sri Lanka

+ 94 1 33 37 03 E-mails:for min@sri.lanka.net Salutation: Your Excellency

The Hon (General) Anuruddha Ratwatte Deputy Minister of Defence Ministry of Defence 15/5 Baladaksha Mawatha Colombo 3, Sri Lanka

Telegrams: Deputy Defence Minister, Colombo, Sri Lanka

+ 94 1 54 15 29 / 68 77 68

Salutation: Dear Minister

R K Chandrananda de Silva Secretary Ministry of Defence No 15/5 Baladaksha Mawatha Colombo 3, Sri Lanka

Telegrams: Secretary Defence Ministry, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faxes: + 94 1 54 15 29 Salutation: Dear Secretary

Lt-General Sri Lal Weerasooriya 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 24 May 1999.