

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 37/28/97

26 November 1997

Further information on UA 210/97 (ASA 37/18/97, 14 July 1997) and follow-up (ASA 37/19/97, 16 July 1997 and ASA 37/26/97, 30 October 1997) - Fear for safety / Fear of torture

SRI LANKAT A D J Thenuwara

L Sunil Perera

M H R Pushpakumara

Mahinda Dias

J A J Jayakody

A W M Mustapha

R Yugathanathan - crew Members from the ship *Misen*

A R Nisam Deen, village headman

Abdul Cader, aged 45

F M Sajith Khan, 19-year-old student

F M Siraj, 16-year-old student

A M Anis (15)

F Rizal (14)

J A Manaff

A H Shafeek

A F Fouzul Ameen

K F Noufeek

R Mufas

F Mujoob Deen

P M Mohamed

A Roufeek

Y Joufeer

M Anvar

F A Ali Khan

E D Dhanapala

E D Siriwardene

R V Prematilleke - villagers of Irakkakandy

Amnesty International has learned that the remaining 20 above-named people from Irakkakandy, taken hostage by members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in early July 1997, were released on 21 November 1997.

The organization understands they were handed over by the LTTE to representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and have since rejoined their families.

Concern remains for the safety of the seven crew members of the *Misen* ship, who have been in the custody of the LTTE since 1 July. To date, their relatives have not received any news concerning them, nor have representatives of the ICRC reportedly gained access to the prisoners.

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

- welcoming the release of the remaining 20 villagers of Irakkakandy who had been held hostage by the LTTE since the beginning of July 1997;
- urging that the seven crew of the *Misen* be given immediate access to the International Committee of the Red Cross, treated humanely and given the opportunity to communicate with their relatives as required under relevant international humanitarian standards.

APPEALS TO:

1. Mr V. Manoharan
Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
International House
Eelam House
202 Long Lane
London SE1 4QB, United Kingdom
Telegrams: LTTE, 202 Long Lane, London, SE1
Faxes: + 44 171 403 1653
Salutation: Mr V. Manoharan

Salutation for addresses listed below: Dear Sir/Madam

2. Tamil Co-ordinating Committee
341, rue des Pyrenees
75020 Paris, France
Telegrams: Tamil Committee, 341 rue des Pyrenees, 75020 Paris, France
Faxes: + 33 1 435 81191 (may get a wait signal, "attendez s'il vous plait")
3. World Tamil Movement
64, Eaton Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M4J 2Z5, Canada
4. World Tamil Coordinating Council
Gold Gasse - 8
7000 Chur, Switzerland
5. Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
P.O. Box 47
7600 Struer, Denmark
6. Tamil Coordinating Committee
P.O. Box 1699 Vika
0110 Oslo 1, Norway
7. Tamil Coordinating Committee
P.O. Box 694, Mulgrave North
Victoria 3170, Australia
8. Tamil Confederation - Germany
P.O. Box 340251
5270 Gummersbach 34, Germany
9. Tamil Coordinating Committee
Groot Hertoginnelaan 106
2517 EL Den Haag, The Netherlands

COPIES TO: other Tamil organizations in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 January 1998.