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**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**"Disappearance"**

**15 October 1990**

**SRI LANKA:**

**Jude Marcus FERNANDOPULLE**

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On 4 October 1990, at about 1.45am, Jude Marcus Fernandopulle, a 25-year-old labourer from Bambukuliya, Kochchikade, Gampaha District was taken away by three armed men dressed in civilian clothes from the brick kiln at Bambukuliya where he was working. There are eye-witnesses to his arrest who say that he was taken away in a jeep. One of the armed men was recognized as a police officer attached to the Kochchikade police station.

The next day, relatives heard that he had been seen at the Kochchikade police station, but when they went to make inquiries they were told that he was no longer there and had been transferred to Colombo. However, the relatives could not get information on exactly where in Colombo he was detained.

Appeals were made to the Senior Superintendent of Police, Negombo, but to date no reply has been received. Further attempts to establish the whereabouts of Jude Marcus Fernandopulle have not been successful.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Reports of extrajudicial executions and "disappearances" in southern Sri Lanka have continued in the last few months, in the context of intimidation and death threats by government forces. The victims include people suspected of being members or sympathizers of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), People's Liberation Front.

According to information supplied to Amnesty International, the police had come to arrest Jude Marcus Fernandopulle on at least two previous occasions, but had not found him.

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

- expressing concern at reports that Jude Marcus Fernandopulle has "disappeared" after his arrest on 4 October 1990 by three armed men in civilian dress, one of whom was recognized as a police officer attached to the Kochchikade police station;
- urging that a full, independent inquiry be immediately instituted to establish his fate or whereabouts;

- seeking assurances that if he is in detention he is being humanely treated, and that he will be granted immediate and regular access to lawyers and relatives;
  
- urging that he be immediately released or, if there are charges against him, that he be brought to trial under ordinary criminal procedures of law.

**APPEALS TO:**

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 54 6657

The Hon Ranjan Wijeratne  
Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of State for Defence  
Ministry of Defence  
Republic Building  
Colombo  
Sri Lanka

Telegrams: Minister Defence, Colombo, Sri Lanka  
Telexes: 22229 MINDEF CE  
Faxes: + 94 1 54 6091

Ernest Perera  
Inspector General of Police  
Sri Lanka Police Headquarters  
New Secretariat  
No 349 Galle Road  
Colombo 1  
Sri Lanka

Telegrams: Police Inspector General, Police HQ Colombo, Sri Lanka

Senior Superintendent of Police  
Negombo Police Station  
Negombo,  
Gampaha District  
Sri Lanka

Telegrams: Police Senior Superintendent, Negombo, Gampaha, Sri Lanka

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 26 November 1990.