

URGENT ACTION

REMAINS OF SRI LANKAN DEFENDER EXHUMED

Remains thought to be of Sri Lankan human rights defender Pattani Razeek were exhumed in Valaichchenai, Eastern Sri Lanka on 28 July. His family have tentatively identified his remains, pending a post mortem due to be carried out on 2 August.

Pattani Razeek, human rights defender and head of the Sri Lankan NGO the Community Trust Fund, has been missing since 11 February 2010, after disappearing in the town of Polonnaruwa in Sri Lanka's North Central Province. After more than a year of inaction, Shahabeen Noushadh, a man identified as a prime suspect in Razeek's disappearance by Puttalam police in June 2010, was arrested on 8 July and remains in custody.

Since 2006 there have been numerous reports of people being subjected to enforced disappearance after being abducted by the security forces or armed groups. Some victims have been held for ransom; others have been detained "for questioning" by the authorities and held incommunicado. Anyone held this way is in clear danger of torture and other ill treatment. Many people reported missing in Sri Lanka have never been located and are presumed dead. The vast majority of cases have not been adequately investigated or prosecuted.

Amnesty International will continue to monitor the situation.

Many thanks to those who sent appeals. No further action is required from the UA network.

This is the first update of UA 40/10 Index: ASA 37/004/2010. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA37/004/2010/en>

Name: Pattani Razeek

Gender m/f: male

Further information on UA: 40/10 Index: ASA 37/010/2011 Issue Date: 29 July 2011

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