

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

**AI Index: ASA 37/02/95
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This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 20 per section.

6 March 1995

Further information on UA 04/95 (ASA 37/01/95, 6 January 1995) - Fear of Torture

SRI LANKA Velayutham Varnakulasingham, alias "Yakko", aged 23

According to unconfirmed reports, Velayutham Varnakulasingham is still being held in the custody of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) at a camp near Uppurel, Kunithivu, Trincomalee District. One report, also unconfirmed, says he is suffering from a broken leg. Amnesty International fears that he may have been subjected to torture during interrogation about his activities as a member of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), a Tamil political party.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Velayutham Varnakulasingham who was reportedly abducted by members of the LTTE at Pallikudiruppu, Muttur, Trincomalee District on 19 December 1994;
- requesting the LTTE to reveal his whereabouts and his state of health and allow immediate access to relatives, a doctor and members of the ICRC;
- urging the LTTE to treat all prisoners in their custody in accordance with the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocols I and II thereto, by which it publicly announced it would abide in February 1988;
- pointing out that Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions prohibits the torture and cruel treatment of prisoners at any time and in any place.

APPEALS TO:

1) Lawrence Thilakar
Tamil Coordinating Committee
341 Rue des Pyrenees
75020 Paris, France

Telegrams: Mr Thilakar, TCC, 341 Rue des Pyrenees, Paris, France

Faxes: + 33 1 43 58 1191

Salutation: Dear Mr Thilakar

2) LTTE International Secretariat
United Tamil Organization
211 Katherine Road
London E8 1BU
United Kingdom

Telegrams: LTTE, UTO, 211 Katherine Road, London, UK

Faxes: + 44 81 470 8593 (if voice, ask for fax)

Salutation: Dear Sir or Madam

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO: LTTE offices in your own countries, if any

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 25 April 1995.