

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 37/26/97

30 October 1997

Further information on UA 210/97 (ASA 37/18/97, 14 July 1997) and follow-up (ASA 37/19/97, 16 July 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

New names:

- 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

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Amnesty International has learned that twelve of the remaining 32 people from Irakkakandy, taken hostage by members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in early July 1997, were released on 30 September 1997.

According to those released, the leadership of the LTTE gave assurances that the remaining 20 people still being held by them would be released before the start of *Ramadan*, coinciding with 30/31 December 1997.

Earlier, in response to an appeal by an Amnesty International member for their unconditional release, a member of the Tamil Coordinating Committee in Paris stated, in a letter dated 12 August, that the LTTE "treats detainees in their custody according [to] international rules and that family members of the arrested persons could gain access to the person in charge of the LTTE in Muttur".

According to the relatives of the prisoners abducted by the LTTE no information to date has been received from them. Under the current circumstances it is impossible for relatives from Irakkakandy (north of Trincomalee town) to travel across the bay to Muttur (south of Trincomalee town). This is an area largely controlled by the LTTE and the Sri Lankan army is reportedly denying access to people wanting to cross into these areas.

Amnesty International understands that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), whose representatives do have access to these and other areas controlled by the LTTE, has not to date been given access to the prisoners.

Neither have they gained access to the seven crew of the *Misen* ship, who were among nine civilians taken prisoner by members of the LTTE on 1 July. Two foreign members of the crew were released after a few days.

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

- welcoming the release of the 12 villagers of Irakkakandy on 30 September 1997 and the news that the others will soon be released;
- noting the content of the letter from the Tamil Co-ordinating Committee, sent to various appeal writers, in particular the guarantee that prisoners held by the LTTE are treated according to international humanitarian standards;
- pointing out that international humanitarian standards require that prisoners are given immediate access to the ICRC, treated humanely and given the opportunity to communicate with their relatives;
- urging that the seven crew of the *Misen*, the remaining villagers of Irakkakandy and other prisoners held by the LTTE are treated in accordance with these provisions;
- stressing that international standards unequivocally forbids the taking of hostages;
- calling for the unconditional and immediate release of all those still held hostage by the LTTE.

**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 plaît")**
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| 3. World Tamil Movement<br>64, Eaton Avenue<br>Toronto, Ontario<br>M4J 2Z5, Canada          | 4. World Tamil Coordinating Council<br>Gold Gasse - 8<br>7000 Chur, Switzerland     |
| 5. Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam<br>P.O. Box 47<br>7600 Struer, Denmark                  | 6. Tamil Coordinating Committee<br>P.O. Box 1699 Vika<br>0110 Oslo 1, Norway        |
| 7. Tamil Coordinating Committee<br>P.O. Box 694, Mulgrave North<br>Victoria 3170, Australia | 8. Tamil Confederation - Germany<br>P.O. Box 340251<br>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 11 December 1997.