

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 448/90 (ASA 37/44/90, 7 November 1990) -
Unacknowledged detention/"Disappearance"

SRI LANKA: E N KARUNAPALA

According to an article on 26 November in Divaina, a Colombo newspaper, police have announced that E N Karunapala, who had been reported "disappeared" after his arrest on 29 October, is in detention at Kuliypitiya police station. Police say he was arrested on suspicion of involvement in the murder of Lionel Jayatilake, the then Minister for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, who was shot dead allegedly by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), People's Liberation Front, as he drove to a meeting in his constituency in September 1988.

Contrary to information received by Amnesty International, police allege that E N Karunapala was only arrested on 25 November, nearly one month later than originally reported.

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

- welcoming the recent police announcement that E N Karunapala is in detention at Kuliypitiya police station, after he had been reported "disappeared" since 29 October when he was detained by a group of armed men in plain clothes from a place near Maharagama;
- noting that police allege that he was arrested on 25 November, nearly one month after his arrest was reported to Amnesty International;
- expressing concern about continuing reports that arrests are carried out by security forces personnel operating in plainclothes, that people are detained in unknown places without being brought before a magistrate and without being given access to relatives and lawyers;
- urging that a prompt and impartial investigation be initiated into the arrest and unacknowledged detention for nearly one month of E N Karunapala.

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
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
Colombo 1, Sri Lanka

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

General Cyril Ranatunga,
Secretary, Ministry of Defence
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Telegrams: General Ranatunga, Defence Ministry, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Telexes: 22229 MINDEF CE
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COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Sri Lanka in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 9 January 1991.