

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 37/09/00

28 April 2000

Further information on EXTRA 18/00 (ASA 37/06/00, 6 March 2000) - Fear of "disappearance"/Medical concern

SRI LANKA **Vyramuttu Jeyakili**

Despite evidence from people arrested with him, Naval authorities still deny having Vyramuttu Jeyakili in custody. Plainclothes naval officers have reportedly threatened his relatives, and the two people arrested with him, to say nothing about him and file no court action on his behalf. Fears for his life are mounting.

Vyramuttu Jeyakili was arrested by the Navy on 25 February and taken to the Nilaveli navy camp, according to others arrested with him. Officers at the camp have privately given conflicting accounts to his family, including claims that he will be released, and that he was never arrested.

The President of Sri Lanka has ordered an internal inquiry into damage caused by naval personnel to civilian property at Salli, Nilaveli in the night of 24 February. This was apparently in retaliation for an earlier Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam attack on navy personnel. It is not known whether the inquiry will look into the "disappearance" of Vyramuttu Jeyakili.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Vyramuttu Jeyakili who has not been seen since he was arrested by officers from Nilaveli navy camp on 25 February 2000;
- urging the authorities to immediately investigate his "disappearance" and bring those responsible to justice;
- urging the authorities to provide the necessary protection to his relatives and witnesses to his arrest.

APPEALS TO:

President

Her Excellency President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga
Presidential Residence
"Temple Trees"
Colombo 3, Sri Lanka

Telegrams: President Kumaratunga, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faxes: + 94 1 33 37 03

Salutation: Your Excellency

Navy Commander

Cecil Tissera
Navy Headquarters
Flagstaff Street
Colombo 1
Sri Lanka

Telegrams: Navy Commander, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Salutation: Dear Commander

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COPIES TO:

R K Chandrananda de Silva
Secretary
Ministry of Defence
No 15/5 Baladaksha Mawatha
Colombo 3
Sri Lanka

Faxes: + 94 1 541 529

Salutation: Dear Secretary

and to diplomatic representatives of Sri Lanka accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 May 2000.