

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 26/04/99

23 November 1999

Further information on UA 289/99 (ASA 26/02/99, 5 November 1999) - Possible prisoners of conscience/Fear of ill-treatment

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Thongpaseuth Keuakoun

New names: Kamphouvieng Sisaath, Seng-Aloun Phengphanh,
Bouavanh Chanhmanivong, Keochay,
Khamnoy Khamphilavong (aged 70)
Up to 100 others

Amnesty International has obtained the names of five more men arrested following an attempted pro-democracy demonstration in Vientiane on 26 October 1999. The organization believes those detained are possible prisoners of conscience and fears they may be ill-treated in custody.

Two students from Vientiane, Kamphouvieng Sisaath and Seng-Aloun Phengphanh, were arrested about a week after the attempted demonstration, which was organised by the "Lao Students Movement for Democracy of 26 October 1999". Bouavanh Chanhmanivong and Keochay are also believed to be under arrest.

Seventy-year-old Khamnoy Khamphilavong, who suffers from severe asthma, is the father of one of the leaders of the Lao Students Movement for Democracy of 26 October 1999. He was arrested on 9 November, apparently because the Lao authorities have been unable to locate the leader of the student group.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express/airmail letters in Lao, English, French or your own language:

- expressing concern at the arrest of Kamphouvieng Sisaath, Seng-Aloun Phengphanh, Khamnoy Khamphilavong and as many as 100 others in the past month;
- urging the authorities to make public the names of all those arrested in connection with the protest organized by the Lao Students Movement for Democracy of 26 October 1999, where they are detained and any charges against them;
- urging that they be treated in accordance with international standards, and in particular are allowed immediate access to their families, lawyers and medical treatment;
- expressing concern that they may be prisoners of conscience detained solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression and association.

APPEALS TO:

Sisavath Keobounphanh

Prime Minister

Office of the Prime Minister

Vientiane

Laos

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Vientiane, Laos

Salutation: Your Excellency

Major General Asang Laoli

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Minister of Interior
Ministry of Interior
Vientiane
Laos

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Vientiane, Laos

Salutation: Dear Major General

COPIES TO:

Somsavat Lengsavat
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Vientiane
Laos

and to diplomatic representatives of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 4 January 2000.