

27. Sri Lanka

Standard procedure

116. The Working Group transmitted six cases to the Government under its standard procedure.

117. The first case concerned Mr. **Retnam Retnam Cheran**, who was allegedly last seen on 11 December 1990, at Karaitivu Refugee Camp, Kalmunai. According to the information received, around the time of the alleged disappearance of Mr. Retnam Cheran, the Sri Lankan military reportedly arrested many individuals at the camp.

118. The second case concerned Mr. **Asokkumar Murugaiah**, who was allegedly arrested by an investigative officer of the Sri Lankan Navy on 1 October 2007 at Triconamalai Upvell checkpoint.

119. The third case concerned Mr. **Balakumar Mutthukumar**, a former member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who was allegedly last seen on 14 May 2009, in Vellamullivaikkal village, an area in Mullaitivu district, Northern province, at the time under the control of the Sri Lankan army, which was reportedly taking persons perceived to be affiliated to the LTTE into custody.

120. The fourth case concerned Mr. **Rojan Macvin Joseph Vaz**, previously forcibly recruited by the LTTE, who was allegedly last seen on 17 May 2009, in Omanthai, Vavuniya district, an area under the control of the Sri Lankan army, which was reportedly taking persons perceived to be affiliated to the LTTE into custody.

121. The fifth case concerned Mr. **Kumarathurai Lavakulan**, who was allegedly arrested on 18 May 2009, in Vattuvakal, Mullaitivu district, by members of the Sri Lankan army.

122. The sixth case concerned Mr. **Sivasuthan Krishnasami**, who was allegedly last seen in May 2009, in Mathalan, Mullaitivu district, Northern Province. According to the information received prior to his alleged disappearance, Mr. Krishnasami was reportedly taken to Pulmottai hospital, where the Government allegedly arrested various injured individuals perceived to have fought for the LTTE.

Prompt intervention letter

123. On 10 December 2012, the Working Group transmitted a prompt intervention letter, jointly with three other special procedures mechanisms, concerning the alleged arrest of members of the **Asian Federation against Involuntary Disappearances**.

Information from the Government

124. On 21 January 2013, the Government transmitted a communication containing, inter alia, information on the establishment of an Inter-Agency Working Committee with the participation of the relevant line Ministries/agencies under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence and Urban Development of Sri Lanka to clarify cases on alleged disappearances; and general information on cases, including cases which have reportedly not been formally reported to any law enforcement agency.

125. On 15 February 2013, the Government transmitted a communication concerning a prompt intervention letter sent jointly with three other special procedures mechanisms on 10 December 2012 (see para. 123). The Government reported, inter alia, that not all the information in the prompt intervention letter was accurate; and indicated that, with respect to the content of the communication, there was no allegation of prolonged detention or threat to their physical integrity or safety, or to their lives.

126. On 18 February 2013, the Government transmitted a communication regarding 105 outstanding cases. On the basis of the information provided, the Working Group decided to apply the six-month rule to three cases. The information provided was not considered sufficient to lead to the clarification of the remaining 102 cases.

Information from sources

127. Sources provided information on three outstanding cases.

Clarification

128. On the basis of information provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify one case following the expiration of the period prescribed by the six-month rule.

Observations

129. The Working Group would like to thank the Government of Sri Lanka for its reply dated 15 February 2013 to the communication sent on 10 December 2012. The Working Group would like to point out that the issue was brought to the attention of the Government as a prompt intervention letter concerning alleged cases of intimidation, persecution or reprisal against relatives of disappeared persons, witnesses to disappearances or their families, members of organizations of relatives and other non-governmental organizations, human rights defenders or individuals concerned with disappearances, in accordance with the methods of work of the Working Group.

28. Switzerland

Information from the Government

130. On 1 March 2013, the Government transmitted a communication containing information concerning a case to which the six-month rule had been applied by the Working Group at its ninety-seventh session.

Clarification

131. On the basis of information provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify the outstanding case following the expiration of the period prescribed by the six-month rule.

29. Syrian Arab Republic

Urgent actions

132. On 1 March 2013, the Working Group transmitted four cases to the Government under its urgent action procedure. These cases concerned Messrs. **Youssef al-Ammar Suhaib al-Ammar, Iqbal al-Ammar, and Bilal Koushan**, who were allegedly arrested on 24 November 2012 at an apartment in al-Zohour neighbourhood, Damascus, by a number of armed men believed to be members of Government security forces or Shabiha Government armed militia groups.