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Call to Sri Lanka to Resolve the Abduction of Selvarasa Pathmanathan

The United States Tamil Political Action Council vehemently condemns the illegal act of the Sri Lanka government and its military outfits for the abduction and deportation of Mr. Selvarasa Pathmanathan, the newly appointed Secretary General of the post-conflict LTTE.

We join human rights activists all over the world who have voiced their protest at the high handed actions of the Sri Lanka government, perhaps with collusion from security agencies from Malaysia.

Amnesty International's Asia Pacific Director Sam Zarifi told BBC Sinhala service that if any country arrests LTTE members, the detainee should face charges in the country in which they had been arrested.

"We want to see proper justice with proper due process for KP, for any of the LTTE members detained, for Karuna as well as for any member of the government accused of human rights violations," Zarifi told BBCSinhala.com. "International law prohibits sending someone, including a criminal suspect, back to a country where they face the real possibility of torture and ill-treatment, and Sri Lanka does have a poor track record of torturing and poorly treating detainees," Mr. Zarifi said.

Mr. Pathmanathan has in recent times tried to steer a politico-diplomatic course to advance the struggle for self-determination of the Tamil people of Eelam. While making public proclamations for reconciliation with the Tamils, the Sri Lankan Government has acted in bad faith by extending state terrorism beyond its borders.

We express our grave concern for the safety and security of Mr. Pathmanathan. Even in this eleventh hour, we appeal to the Sri Lankan Government to:

- produce Mr. Pathmanathan immediately in a court of law to ascertain that he is alive
- give him access to legal representation according to international laws
- allow ICRC access to Mr Pathmanathan immediately, following Article 3 of Convention against Torture.

We appeal to the governments of the civilized world to use their moderating influence on the Sri Lankan government to accede to these demands that in the long run can open avenues for reconciliation and a negotiated end to the political conflict.

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