



FILE ON TORTURE

No. 10 October 1985

amnesty international

Sri Lanka

Allegations of torture of young Tamil detainees both men and women, and of Sinhalese prisoners belonging to opposition parties have been received for over five years and the AI concludes that the practice of torture is widespread and persistent. Some of the details appear on the File on Torture published in the AI News Letter, October 1985.

(Copies of the File on Torture are available at TIC, London)

The following types of torture have been reported to AI:

prolonged hanging upside down while being beaten all over the body, sometimes for the duration of one night and sometimes with the head tied in a bag in which chillies were burning, making the victim feel close to suffocating.

prolonged beatings, especially on the soles of the feet while lying stretched out on a bench or while hanging by the knees

from a pole; beatings on the genitals and other parts of the body with sticks, batons and sand-filled plastic pipes.

insertion of chilli powder in the nostrils, mouth and eyes and on the genitals.

electric shocks.

insertion of pins under fingernails and toenails and in the heels.

insertion of iron rods in the anus.

burning with cigarettes.

mock or threatened executions.

D E M O C R A C Y I N P E R I L



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SRI LANKA : A COUNTRY IN CRISIS

Report to the LAWASIA Human Rights Standing Committee

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The 483 page publication covers the problems of ESCALATING VIOLENCE AND THE EROSION OF DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW.

A comprehensive human rights report on recent developments in Sri Lanka is the result of an investigation made in Sri Lanka by PATRICIA HYNDMAN, in 1983 and again in February 1985.

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