

02/06/00 Island

Rights plea by Eppawela residents

Judgement on Friday

by Chitra Weeraratne

The Supreme Court on Friday will deliver the judgement in respect of the Fundamental Rights violation plea filed by a group of resi-

dents of Eppawela area, against the possibility of the Government of Sri Lanka entering into a contract with an American firm, to lease out land at Eppawela to mine phosphate deposits.

The first respondent cited in the petition is the Secretary to the Ministry of Industries and Scientific Affairs.

The petitioners who had said in their petition that they were cultivators, had alleged arbitrary treatment and the denial of the right to livelihood by the State in consequence of the State seeking to grant the phosphate mining to an American firm, without seeking the opinion of the residents of Eppawela.

The Fundamental Rights violation plea was argued before Justice Dr. A. R. B. Amerasinghe, Justice S. W. B. Wadugodapitiya and Justice D. P. S. Gunasekera.