

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 21/02/98

19 January 1998

Further information on EXTRA 155/97 (ASA 21/86/97, 14 November 1997) and follow-up ASA 21/88/97, 26 November 1997

EAST TIMOR
Bernadino Simao, 27, student
Silverio Batista Ximenes, student
Juvenal dos Santos, 23, student
Vicente Marcos da Cruz, student
Francisco de Deus, student
Domingos da Silva, student

Amnesty International has received confirmation that there are six students remaining in police custody who, it is understood, are facing charges in connection with the disturbance at the University of East Timor in Dili, on 14 November 1997.

The six in police custody are Bernadino Simao, Silverio Batista Ximenes, Juvenal dos Santos, Vicente Marcos da Cruz, Francisco de Deus and Domingos da Silva.

It is believed that their cases are still under investigation and that charges have not yet been brought against them.

Reports have been received that the six are being assisted by government appointed lawyers, although the families have requested representation by independent council. It is not clear whether or not this will be accepted by the authorities.

Amnesty International is checking on the remaining five students who were wounded in the disturbances - Antonio Vegas, Albino Bareto, Natalina de Araujo and at least two others whose names are unknown. It is believed that they have been released, although this has not been confirmed.

Thank you to all those who sent appeals on this case. Amnesty International is seeking no further action.