

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 21/023/2003

UA 150/03

Fear for safety

28 May 2003

INDONESIA

**M. Hassan (m), aged 30
Amir (m), aged 35, farmer
Muhammad Jamal (m), aged 40, employee of TV company
Mulkan (m), aged 50, law consultant
Tarmizi (m), businessman
20 villagers (names unknown)**

Twenty five people have reportedly been arrested in the past few days during military operations against the pro-independence armed opposition group, the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) in the Indonesian province of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD). Some are believed to be held by the military, whilst the whereabouts of the others is unknown.

Those listed above were detained in the course of renewed military operations which followed the declaration by the government of a military emergency in NAD on 19 May 2003. M Hasan is reported to have been arrested on 24 May by members of the Indonesian military at around 9am during a "sweeping operation" to hunt down members of GAM in his home village of Paya Kunyet in Montasik Sub-district, Aceh Besar District. His current whereabouts are unknown. At midday on the same day, 20 villagers from Cot Leupung village in Kuta Cot Glie Sub-district, Aceh Besar District, were also detained by the military and are now believed to be detained at the Lampakuk military post. Amir was detained at 1pm on 24 May as he was on his way to his garden in Lampanah village, Indrapuri Sub-district, Aceh Besar District. His current whereabouts are unknown.

Five days earlier, on 19 May, members of the security forces are reported to have burst into the home of Mulkan, a consultant in law from Punge village in Baiturrahman Sub-district, Banda Aceh town. They threatened to shoot Mulkan's child if he did not surrender. He went with them and has not been seen since. The following day, Muhammad Jamal, an employee in the production department of the state television company, TVRI, was detained by unidentified men at the TVRI office in Banda Aceh town. According to sources in NAD, he was taken by members of the Siliwangi Military Command which are stationed behind TVRI's offices because he was suspected of being a member of GAM. However, TVRI has reported that he was taken by GAM.

The security situation resulting from the military emergency means human rights defenders, including lawyers, are unable to carry out their work, including locating and visiting detainees. In this context the risk of torture and other human rights violations to anyone held in military or police detention, which was already commonplace, is greatly heightened.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A military emergency was declared in NAD on midnight of 19 May 2003, following the breakdown of a five-month-old ceasefire agreement between the government of Indonesian and GAM. Grave human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions of both adults and children, have already been reported in the context of renewed operations by the Indonesian military against GAM in NAD. The military has announced its intention to arrest and detain individuals who it claims support or are connected to GAM. Among those threatened with arrest are members of political organizations which campaign for independence for NAD and members of human rights organizations. The military has itself acknowledged that it has difficulty distinguishing between GAM and civilians.

There have been thousands of civilian casualties in the 26-year-old conflict in NAD. Grave human rights violations, including unlawful killings, "disappearances", torture and unlawful detention have been carried out in the context of operations by the Indonesian security forces against GAM. Local human rights organizations estimate that over 1,300 people were killed in 2002 alone. Anyone detained by the police and military in NAD is at risk of torture, ill-treatment or other human rights violations. GAM has also been responsible for human rights abuses.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Bahasa Indonesia, English or your own language:

- urging the authorities to immediately clarify the whereabouts of all of the individuals referred to above;
- calling upon the authorities to provide guarantees that the detainees will not be subjected to torture or ill-treatment;
- reminding the authorities that despite the declaration of a military emergency, it still has obligation to respect basic human rights, including the right to life and to protection from torture;
- urging the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all of those listed above if they have been detained solely on account of their peacefully held views or activities.

APPEALS TO:

Military Commander, Kodam / Iskandar Muda

Maj.Gen Endang Suwarya
Markas Komando Daerah Militer Iskandar Muda
Jl. Ahmad Yani
Simpang Lima
Banda Aceh
Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam
Indonesia

Telegram: Pangdam Iskandar Muda, Banda Aceh, NAD, Indonesia

Fax: + 62 651 27063/26979 (if someone answers, please ask for the fax: "saya mau kirim fax")

Salutation: Dear Major General

Chief of Police, Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD)

Brigadier General BahrumSyah Kasman
Kapolda Aceh
Jalan Cut Meutia No. 3
Banda Aceh
Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam
Indonesia

Telegram: Kapolda Aceh, Banda Aceh, NAD, Indonesia

Fax: + 62 651 22488/ 23670

Salutation: Dear Brigadier General

COPIES TO:

Coordinating Minister for Political and Security Affairs

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
Menteri Koordinator Bidang Politik dan Keamanan
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No. 15
Jakarta 10110
Indonesia

Salutation: Dear Minister

Fax: + 62 21 345 0198

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 9 July 2003.