

31 August 2001

Further information on UA 165/01 (ASA 21/026/2001, 3 July 2001) and follow-up (ASA 21/028/2001, 6 July 2001) - Possible "disappearance"

INDONESIA Hubertus Wresman

New nameGaspar Wespar (also known as Charles Guefar)

Hubertus Wresman's uncle Gaspar Wespar (also known as Charles Guefar) has gone missing following his inquiries into his nephew's "disappearance".

The Military Commander of Papua has threatened to prosecute him for accusing members of the Special Forces Command, Kopassus, of involvement in Hubertus Wresman's "disappearance". Gaspar Wespar could be in hiding, but there are fears that he might have been taken into police or military custody. If so, he would be at risk of torture, "disappearance" or unlawful killing.

In late June, Gaspar Wespar made several visits to the local Kopassus base in Betaf, the main town in Pantai Timur Sub-district, Jayapura District. He was looking for information about his nephew, who was taken from his home by five armed, masked men in June. Gaspar Wespar claimed that on one of these visits the Kopassus commander told him that Kopassus officers had kidnapped Hubertus Wresman in order to provoke armed pro-independence supporters in the district. Gaspar Wespar was given no further information, though he claimed to have been kicked and beaten by other Kopassus personnel in Betaf.

There are reports that Gaspar Wespar has since gone missing. Amnesty International's concerns for his safety have been heightened by comments made by the Military Commander for Papua, Major General Mahidin Simbolon, in replies to several AI members who had written to him about this case. In his letter, Maj Gen Simbolon accused Gaspar Wespar of being the real culprit behind Hubertus Wresman's abduction and says that he will be prosecuted for slandering the military and "spreading false news".

Maj Gen Simbolon also referred to a military-led investigation to the area in July, which, he says, found that Kopassus was not involved in the kidnapping. A local non-governmental organization (NGO) has confirmed that the military led two investigations to Pantai Timur. Having taken part in the first investigation, the NGO refused to cooperate with the second, due to concerns that it was not independent. Amnesty International has received no further information on Hubertus Wresman's whereabouts.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals in Bahasa Indonesia or your own language:

- urging the authorities to clarify whether Gaspar Wespar (Charles Guefar) is in detention. If so, he should be released immediately unless he is charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- urging the authorities to ensure that if he is in detention he has full and regular access to a lawyer of his own choosing, his family and medical treatment;
- making renewed calls on the authorities to conduct an immediate, impartial and independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding Hubertus Wresman's "disappearance".

APPEALS TO:

COMMANDER, KODAM VIII / XVII TRIKORA

Maj.Gen.Mahidin Simbolon
Pangdam VIII/Trikora
Jl. Polimak Atas Jayapura
Irian Jaya
Indonesia

Fax: +62 967 31642

Salutation: Dear Major General

CHIEF OF POLICE FOR PAPUA

Brig. Gen. Made Mangku Pastika
Head of Regional Police Papua
Jl. Sam Ratulangie No. 8
Jayapura, Irian Jaya
Indonesia

Fax: +62 967 531717

Salutation: Dear Police Chief

COPIES TO:

MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Prof. Dr. Yusril Ihza Mahendra
Menteri Kehakiman
Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said Kav. 6-7
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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 12 October 2001