EXTERNAL AI Index: ASA 21/41/96

18 July 1996

Further information on EXTRA 84/96 (ASA 21/32/96, 6 June 1996) - Health concern / Possible prisoner of conscience and new concern: Ill-treatment

INDONESIAAmin Baharuddin, student activist

Amnesty International remains seriously concerned for the health of Amin Baharuddin, who is still in police detention at Police Resort, Central Jakarta. He is facing charges under Article 213 of Indonesia's Criminal Code which states that the obstruction or opposition of officials from carrying out their duty, which results in injury to the officials, is punishable with a maximum of five years' imprisonment.

Baharuddin was arrested during a demonstration in Jakarta on 4 June 1996. The demonstration concerned the excessive use of force by members of the Indonesian Security Forces against student demonstrators in the south Sulawesi town of Ujung Pandang in April 1996. The demonstration in Jakarta did result in a confrontation with police at the office of the Indonesian Legal Aid Institute, during which stones appear to have been thrown by the demonstrators. Baharuddin however claims that his involvement in the demonstration was entirely peaceful and that he was not involved in throwing stones. He is the only individual still in police custody as a result of the demonstration.

Baharuddin was badly beaten as he was arrested. Eyewitnesses also claim that he was dragged by police for about 100 metres. Amnesty International has also been informed that on the second and third day of his detention, Bahar was apparently hit and kicked repeatedly by police, resulting in nausea, headaches and low blood pressure. Baharuddin was taken to a military hospital at 4am the day following his arrest after the intervention of lawyers. However, since then it appears that he has been denied access to medical treatment.

Amnesty International remains concerned that Baharuddin, an activist with PIJAR, a student non-governmental organization, may have been arrested for his peaceful political activities. If the charges against him remain and his case does proceed to a trial, Amnesty International is also concerned that he would be denied the opportunity of a fair trial.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Bahasa Indonesia, English or your own language:

- urging the authorities to allow Amin Baharuddin immediate access to medical attention;
- calling for a thorough and impartial investigation into reports that he was subjected to ill-treatment during and after arrest and for anyone found responsible to be brought to justice;
- expressing concern that Amin Baharuddin may be being detained for his non-violent exercise of his right to freedom of expression and association, and that if this is the case, urging that all charges against him be dropped and that he be immediately and unconditionally released.

APPEALS TO:

CHIEF OF POLICE FOR JAKARTA Brig. Gen. Hamami Nata Kapolda Jakarta Raya Markas Besar Kepolisian Jaya Jakarta Indonesia

Telegrams: Kapolda Jakarta Raya, Indonesia Salutation: Dear Brig. Gen. Hamami Nata

MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Haji Utoyo Usman S.H.
Menteri Kehakiman
Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said Kav. 6-7
Kuningan
Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia

Faxes: +62 21 525 3095 Telexes: 44404 ditjenim ia

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Jakarta, Indonesia

Salutation: Dear Minister Utoyo Usman

COPIES TO:

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Ali Alatas S.H.
Menteri Luar Negeri
Jl. Medan Taman Pejambon No.6
Jakarta
Indonesia

Fax: +62 21360 517/380 5511/345 7782/360 541

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 20 August 1996.