

PUBLIC

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EXTRA 61/01

Fear of torture

4 September 2001

INDONESIA

Amelia Woisiri (f), aged 39

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Amelia Woisiri, whose husband died in police custody in July, has been held at Nabire police station (Police Resort, Polres) since 15 August. Prior to her detention she received death threats from the police and is currently being denied access to a lawyer. She is reportedly about to be transferred into the custody of the Special Forces Command (Kopassus), a military unit which over the years has been responsible for "disappearances", torture and other grave human rights violations.

Amelia Woisiri's husband, Daniel Yairus Ramar, died as a result of being tortured in police custody in Manokwari on 20 July. He was the head of the Council of the Tribal Wondama Community and had been accused of taking part in attacks in Wasior Sub-district, Manokwari District earlier this year. Three employees of a logging company and five members of the Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob) were killed in the attacks.

On 6 August, Amelia Woisiri was questioned by the police in Manokwari about her husband's involvement in the attacks and told that the Brimob would be called in to interrogate her if she did not tell the police the location of her husband's gun. She was also told that if she did not cooperate, she would end up dead like her husband.

Amelia Woisiri, who had been staying with family in Manokwari, was ordered by two members of the police to accompany them to Nabire on 15 August. They wanted her to point out the location of her deceased husband's house and gardens. She initially refused to accompany them as the police did not have an official order. Her family finally agreed she would go, as they feared that the consequences might be worse if she did not accompany the police.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The human rights situation in Papua has deteriorated in recent months as the authorities have returned to an increasingly hardline approach to demands for independence for the province. The police and the military have carried out grave human rights violations including unlawful killings, "disappearances" and torture.

Armed groups have responded with a number of violent attacks on security posts and other targets. Intensive military and police operations have been launched to find those responsible. These operations, which are taking place in a number of districts including Wasior, have resulted in further human rights violations. Human rights monitors have been denied access to the district and have themselves been threatened when trying to investigate or report on violations.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals in Bahasa Indonesia, English or your own language:**

- urging the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Amelia Woisiri unless she is to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- urging the authorities to ensure that she is given immediate access to lawyers, members of her family and medical treatment if necessary;
- calling for guarantees that she will not be tortured or transferred into the custody of Kopassus or any agency which is not authorised to carry out arrests and detentions;
- urging the authorities to investigate allegations that Amelia Woisiri has received death threats from members of the police;
- calling for an investigation into the death in custody of her husband, Daniel Yairus Ramar and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

**CHIEF OF POLICE - KAPOLDA PAPUA**

**Brig. Gen. Made Mangku Pastika**

Head of Regional Police Papua

Jl. Sam Ratulangie No. 8

Jayapura, Irian Jaya

Indonesia

**Telegram: Chief Police, Jayapura, Irian Jaya, Indonesia**

**Fax: + 62 967 531717/967 33763**

**Salutaion: Dear Brigidiar General**

**NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF**

**Commissioner-General Bimantoro**

Kapolri

Markas Besar Kepolisian RI

Jl. Trunojoyo 3

Kebayoran Baru

Jakarta Selatan

Indonesia

**Telegram: National Police Chief, Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia**

**Fax: +62 21 720 1402**

**Salutaion: Dear Commissioner-General**

**COPIES TO:**

MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Prof. Dr. Yusril Ihza Mahendra

Menteri Kehakiman

Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said Kav. 6-7

Kuningan

Jakarta Selatan

Indonesia

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 2 October 2001.