

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 21/49/95

13 October 1995

Further information on UA 216/95 (ASA 21/44/95, 11 September 1995) and follow-up (ASA 21/45/95, 14 September 1995) - Fear of torture

EAST TIMORUp to 120 detained after new riots in Dili

Up to 120 people are alleged to have been detained by the security forces in East Timor since renewed rioting broke out in the capital, Dili, on 10 October 1995. Amnesty International fears that all those held may face torture and ill-treatment.

The precise number of individuals detained is uncertain. On 11 October, East Timor Police Chief Andreas Sugianto stated that six had been arrested. On 13 October, Major-General Abdul Rivai, the military commander of Udayana, the region covering East Timor, announced that the security forces had arrested 120 people. It is not clear when the arrests took place, and the authorities have not provided any information about the identities and whereabouts of the 120.

Despite repeated claims by the authorities in East Timor that the security forces do not torture detainees, Amnesty International believes that the torture of political detainees there is routine. The organization is aware of individuals detained after riots broke out in Dili on 8 September who were severely beaten despite being visited by representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The fact that those in detention do not have access to independent lawyers or to their families increases the risk of torture and ill-treatment.

Since 10 October, there have been unconfirmed reports of up to a dozen individuals being wounded as a result of the latest clashes, including those alleged to have been beaten by the security forces. A 16-year-old youth is in hospital after reportedly being shot in the face by Police Mobile Brigades on 11 October.

Of those detained after the rioting in September, up to 20 people, whose identities are unclear, are believed to remain in detention and to be facing trial for their alleged role in these earlier riots. It is not clear if they have had full access to their families and lawyers, and they are still believed to be at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

FURTHER BACKGROUND

The recent disturbances in East Timor began on 6 September in Maliana, some 120 kilometres west of Dili, following local anger about government inaction in regard to a statement made by a prison official in Maliana which was deemed to be insulting to the Catholic faith. On 7 September trading stores belonging to Indonesian migrants were burnt down in Viqueque and on 8 September, demonstrations broke out in six different locations of Dili. On 9 September, the Comoro Market in Dili was burnt down. Unrest flared again in Dili on 10 October, with clashes between those opposing and those supporting East Timor's integration with Indonesia. Groups of youths are also believed to have blockaded off sections of Dili. Independent sources allege that the military provoked the unrest in September and the subsequent rioting in Dili in October through the use of *agents provocateurs*.

The findings of investigations into the September riots by Indonesia's National Commission on Human Rights (*Komisi Nasional Hak Asasi Manusia - Komnas HAM*) has disappointed many observers. The Commission's report stated that violations were committed by "one group in the community against another", rather than commenting on violations committed by the security forces, including cases of arbitrary arrests and torture.

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

- urging the Indonesian authorities to provide details of the identity and whereabouts of all those detained in Dili since 10 October, as well as any specific charges that are to be brought against them;
- calling for all possible measures to be taken to ensure the safety of all the detainees, including those held since the earlier disturbances in September;
- calling on the authorities to allow continued access for all those in detention to the International Committee of the Red Cross, lawyers of their own choice and their families.

APPEALS TO:

CHIEF OF POLICE FOR EAST TIMOR
 Lt. Col. Andreas Sugianto
 Kapolda Timor Timur
 Dili, East Timor (Indonesia)

Telegrams: Kapolda Timor Timur, Dili, East Timor
Salutation: Dear Lieutenant-Colonel

MILITARY COMMANDER REGION IX/UDAYANA
 (covers Bali, Lombok, Nusa Tenggara and East Timor)
 Maj. Gen. Abdul Rivai
 Pangdam IX/Udayana
 Markas Besar KODAM IX Udayana
 Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

Telegrams: Pangdam IX/Udayana, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
Salutations: Dear Major-General

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Ali Alatas SH
 Menteri Luar Negeri
 Jl Medan Taman Pejambon No 6
 Jakarta, Indonesia

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and to diplomatic representatives of East Timor accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 November 1995.