

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 21/74/97

18 September 1997

Further information on UA 115/97 (ASA 21/26/97, 25 April 1997) - Death Penalty

INDONESIA Second Lieutenant Sanurip, 37

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Second Lieutenant Sanurip, who was sentenced to death in April 1997 for killing 16 people in 1996, has lost an appeal to the Surabaya Military High Court. The appeal decision appears to have been made on 18 June 1997 but was only reported in the Indonesian media on 9 September. Sanurip is now lodging an appeal to the Indonesian Supreme Court. He has also been discharged from the Indonesian Armed Forces and ordered to pay a nominal court fee.

Sanurip, a member of Indonesia's Special Forces Command, *Kopassus*, was convicted of the murder of 11 soldiers and five civilians in Timika, Irian Jaya, in April 1996. The Military Tribunal's decision was handed down on 23 April 1997. Sanurip was in Irian Jaya as part of the military operation to secure the release of 11 hostages being held by the *Organisasi Papua Merdeka* (OPM), Free Papua Movement. The shootings occurred at Timika Airport around 5 am on 15 April 1996, after two members of ABRI (Indonesia's armed forces) were killed during an attempt to release the hostages. Some media reports suggested that Sanurip became angry when he realised that one of the soldiers killed by the OPM was a friend. Members of the armed forces killed during the shooting spree included a lieutenant colonel, a major and a captain. At least 10 others were wounded.

Amnesty International was concerned that during the first military tribunal, evidence of the suspect's state of mental health at the time of the killings was rejected by the tribunal. Immediately after the shootings, the ABRI Chief of General Affairs, Lt-Gen Soeyono, stated that Sanurip was suffering from depression. Soeyono was quoted as saying that, based on a preliminary military investigation into the shootings, "...the suspect had a mental problem when he went on this shooting spree". (*Jakarta Post*, 16 April 1996). Other military spokespersons claimed at the time that Sanurip had been suffering from malaria and that this was the cause of his mental state at the time of the shooting.

Amnesty International continues to monitor proceedings, but for the time being no further action by the UA Network is requested. If, at a later stage, execution appears imminent, the network may once again be asked to take action on this case. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.