

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 21/87/99

This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 20 per section.

EXTRA 104/99

Fear for safety / possible "disappearance" / Fear of

INDONESIA Mulyadi Ibrahim, 18

Husin Idris, 19

Amnesty International fears for the safety of the two men named above who have not been seen since they were arrested by the PPRM (*Petugas Penindak Rusuh Massa*), a riot control police unit, on 30 July 1999 in the province of Aceh, northern Sumatra. They could be at risk of torture, ill-treatment, "disappearance" or unlawful killing.

Mulyadi Ibrahim and Husin Idris, both from Sampo Jagat Village, Jeunib Sub-district, North Aceh District, are believed to have been arrested and taken into PPRM custody during the course of a PPRM security check in front of the police headquarters in Peudada Sub-district, North Aceh.

Their families have reportedly not been able to find out where they are being held.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since late 1998, serious human rights violations in Aceh have increased in the course of Indonesian National Army (TNI) counter-insurgency operations against the armed opposition group, *Gerakan Aceh Merdeka* (GAM), Free Aceh Movement. Dozens of people have been arrested in recent months on suspicion of links to GAM. Suspects detained by the TNI and the PPRM are often denied access to lawyers of their choice, and are at risk of torture or ill-treatment. Many of those taken into custody have "disappeared" or been unlawfully killed by the security forces.

Large numbers of people have been unlawfully killed by the security forces in Aceh since late 1998. On 23 July, at least 45 people and possibly as many as 70 were unlawfully killed by the TNI during counter-insurgency operations in Beutong Sub-district, West Aceh. The TNI claimed that those killed were members of GAM, but eyewitnesses and human rights groups deny this and claim that those killed were unarmed and were executed by the TNI.

Human rights workers claim that at least four civilians were killed when the PPRM attacked a camp site in Bintang Kala village, Nisam Sub-district, North Aceh, on 7 August. The PPRM, who were reportedly searching the area for GAM members, came across a camp of civilians who were in the area searching for wood and suspected that they were members of GAM. Three others who were reportedly taken into PPRM custody at the time were later released apparently showing signs of having been ill-treated.

GAM have also been accused of committing human rights abuses.

On 30 July 1999, President Habibie announced that he had established an Independent Investigation Commission on Violence in Aceh (*Komisi Independen Pengusutan Tindak Kekerasan di Aceh*) which is expected to conduct investigations into human rights violations which have occurred since August 1998, and to submit a report within six months, including recommendations on legal measures, rehabilitation and reconciliation. The commission is apparently made up of 27 people, including members of Indonesia's National Commission on Human Rights

(Komnas HAM), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academics and government representatives.

However, the commission has not been given a mandate to investigate human rights violations which occurred during TNI counter-insurgency operations between 1989 and 1998. Amnesty International believes that the commission can only be effective if it is given unrestricted access to all areas of Aceh to conduct full and independent investigations into all human rights violations including those since 1989, if its findings are made public and if its report leads to the prosecution of those found responsible.

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

- urging the authorities to immediately establish and make public the whereabouts of Mulyadi Ibrahim and Husin Idris and to provide guarantees for their safety;
- urging the authorities to ensure that, if they are found to be in custody, they have regular access to human rights lawyers, to their families and to medical professionals, and that they are immediately released if not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

APPEALS TO:

Coordinating Minister for Political/Security Affairs

Jend. Purn. Feisal Tanjung

Menteri Koordinator Bidang Politik dan Keamanan

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Salutation:Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

President

President Jusuf Habibie

Presiden RI

Istana Negara

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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 6 September 1999.