

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

EXTRA 105/99

Fear for safety / Possible "disappearance" / Fear of

INDONESIAM Husin, 50

Amnesty International fears for the safety of M Husin who is missing apparently after being arrested by the PPRM (*Petugas Penindak Rusuh Massa*), a riot control police unit, on 1 August 1999 in the province of Aceh, northern Sumatra. Those detained by the PPRM are at risk of torture, ill-treatment, "disappearance" or unlawful killing.

M Husin, from Beurandang Village, Peureulak District, East Aceh District, had been staying at a temporary refugee camp in Peureulak. Many thousands of Acehnese have sought refuge in such camps recently, fearing armed confrontation between the Indonesian security forces and the armed opposition group, *Gerakan Aceh Merdeka* (GAM), Free Aceh Movement.

On the day of his arrest M Husin reportedly left the camp to go to Geudong, Samudra Sub-district, North Aceh District. It is believed he was arrested while the PPRM were conducting a security check in Geudong.

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, GAM. 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 reportedly taken into PPRM custody were later released apparently bearing marks of ill-treatment.

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 M Husin and to provide guarantees for his safety;
- urging the authorities to ensure that, if he is found to be in custody, he has regular access to human rights lawyers, his family and to medical professionals, and that he is 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

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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.