

UA 151/02

Fear of t

**INDONESIARiki Muhammad (m), aged 20, farmer
Two other men**

Soldiers took farmer Riki Muhammad and two other men from their village in the province of Aceh on 12 May. Anyone detained by the police or military in Aceh is at grave risk of torture, ill-treatment or other human rights violations.

Local human rights monitors have been told that all three are held at a military post in Lhok Kuyuen, Sawang Sub-district, North Aceh. When relatives tried to meet them there, soldiers reportedly threatened to shoot them if they asked again, and fired warning shots.

The three men are from the village of Tumpok Blang. They were detained during military operations in Sawang Sub-district, against the armed opposition group Free Aceh Movement, *Gerakan Aceh Merdeka* (GAM), which began on 11 May. Riki Muhammad is said to have been suffering from a fever at the time he was detained.

The army is reportedly maintaining a cordon around Sawang Sub-district, and people living there have to apply for permission to leave the area.

Two other people detained during the military operations have been found dead, according to local media reports. Security conditions are preventing human rights monitors from entering the area to verify these reports.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Grave human rights violations, including unlawful killings, "disappearances", torture and arbitrary arrests, are continuing in Aceh during military and police operations against GAM. Local human rights groups reported that around 1,500 people were killed during military operations in 2001, many of them civilians. GAM has also been responsible for human rights abuses.

Human rights defenders have been extrajudicially executed, or arbitrarily detained and tortured. Others have faced accusations of criminal offences, which are believed to be primarily intended to intimidate them and discourage them from continuing their human rights work.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Bahasa Indonesia, English or your own language:

- urging the authorities to immediately reveal where Riki Muhammad and the two other men taken from Tumpok Blang village, Sawang Sub-district, North Aceh on 12 May are held;
- asking for guarantees that the three men will not be tortured or ill-treated, and that they will be given access to their families, independent legal advisors and medical attention;
- urging the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release the three men unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- urging the authorities to immediately establish an effective and independent investigation into allegations of human rights violations by the Indonesian military during operations in Sawang Sub-district since 11 May 2002.

APPEALS TO:

Commander of the Armed Forces (Panglima TNI)

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Admiral Widodo Adisutjipto
Markas Besar TNI
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Salutation: Dear Admiral

COPIES TO:

Coordinating Minister for Politics and Security
Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
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Salutation: Dear Minister

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.