

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 21/023/2002

UA 193/02 Fear for safety/  
Possible "Disappearance"

25 June 2002

INDONESIA Thalib (m) aged 41 - market trader

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M Thalib, a fish seller, was arrested by the military at Peunteut market in Blang Mangat Sub-district, North Aceh on 21 June. He is being held at an unknown location. It is feared that he is at risk of torture, and may even be at risk of death.

On 20 and 21 June, the military conducted operations in the market to remove graffiti in support of a referendum on Aceh's political future. Local people had reportedly been warned that if the graffiti was not removed the market-place would be burnt down.

M Thalib was allegedly arrested as members of the Special Forces Command (Kopassus) and Army Strategic Reserve Command (Kostrad) were checking the identity cards of people in the market. It is not known why he was arrested, though he has previously been accused of writing pro-referendum slogans, and may therefore have been suspected of being responsible for writing graffiti in the market.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Grave human rights violations, including unlawful killings, "disappearances", torture and detention without charge, are continuing in Aceh during military and police operations against the armed opposition group, Free Aceh Movement, *Gerakan Aceh Merdeka* (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.

Anyone detained by the police or military in Aceh is at grave risk of torture, ill-treatment or other human rights violations. Human rights defenders are among those who have been the victims of extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detention and torture. Others have been accused 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 clarify M Thalib's whereabouts and the reasons for his detention;
- calling on the authorities to provide guarantees that he will not be subjected to torture, ill-treatment or other human rights violations while in custody;
- requesting that M Thalib is released unless he is to be charged with a recognized criminal offence, in which case he should be immediately transferred to police custody in accordance with provisions in Indonesia's Code of Criminal Procedure.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

##### **Commander of the Armed Forces**

General Endriartono Sutarto  
Panglima TNI  
Markas Besar TNI  
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No 13  
Jakarta Pusat

Indonesia

**Telegrams: Panglima TNI, Markas Besar TNI, Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia**

**Fax:+ 62 21 4584 6165 /+ 62 21 520 1636 (If someone answers, please ask for a fax line)**

**Salutation:Dear General**

**Commander Kodam/ Iskander Muda (military command covering Aceh)**

Maj. Gen. M Djali Yusuf

Pangdam Iskander Muda

Markas Besar, Jl. Ahmad Yani

Simpang Lima, Banda Aceh

Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam

Indonesia

**Telegrams:Pangdam Iskander Muda, Banda Aceh, Aceh, Indonesia**

**Fax:+ 62 651 31113 (It may be difficult to get through to this number, but please keep trying)**

**Salutation:Dear Major General**

**COPIES TO:**

Coordinating Minister for Politics and Security

Lt Gen (rtd) Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono

Menteri Koordinator Bidang Politik dan Keamanan

Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No. 15

Jakarta Pusat 10110

Indonesia

**Fax:+ 62 21 345 0918/ + 62 21 344 1751**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

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 August 2002.