

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 21/043/2001

UA 231/01 Fear of torture/Possible "disappearance" 13 September 2001

INDONESIA Abdul Hamid Umar (m), aged 65, farmer
Yusniadi bin M. Diah (m), aged 23, farmer
Abdurrahman bin Ilyas (m), aged 25, farmer
Iswandi M. Daud (m), aged 19, farmer

The four men named above were taken from their homes by the Indonesian security forces during two security operations in Pidie District, Aceh Province. They are at serious risk of torture, "disappearance" or unlawful killing.

Abdul Hamid Umar was watching television when he was seized by members of the Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob) who raided his home in Tiba Raya village, Mutiara Sub-district on 7 September. It is not known where he was taken or why. The Brimob officers are thought to be based at Mutiara Police Sector (Polsek).

The other three men were taken from their homes by a joint police/military team two days later, during security operations in the villages of Balouei and Naroe Timu in Simpang Ulim Sub-district. According to local sources, the security forces accused them of being members of the armed pro-independence group, the Free Aceh Movement (*Gerakan Aceh Merdeka*, GAM). Their current whereabouts are unknown. The police and soldiers involved are thought to be based at Ulim Polsek.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Grave human rights violations are continuing in Aceh during operations by the security forces against the Free Aceh Movement. The human rights situation in the province has been deteriorating for many months, but new military operations, which began in May this year, have led to an intensification of the conflict during which both sides have been responsible for abuses.

Those detained by the military or the police in Aceh are at serious risk of torture, "disappearance" or unlawful killing. On 18 June 2001, three high school students were killed after they were detained by Brimob, together with 13 other students and two teachers. They were beaten and then shot dead.

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

- asking the authorities where the four men named above are held and why they are detained;
- asking them to guarantee that the men will not be tortured or ill-treated, and that they will be given immediate access to their families, lawyers and medical treatment;
- calling on the authorities to release them immediately if they are not charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

APPEALS TO:

CHIEF OF POLICE FOR ACEH
Commissioner General Ramli Darwis
Kapolda Aceh
Markas Polisi Daerah Aceh Pidie
Jl Iskandar, Banda Aceh
Jl Cut Nyak Dien, Banda Aceh
Indonesia
Fax: +62 651-22488
Salutation: Dear Commissioner General

MILITARY COMMANDER FOR ACEH
Major General I Gede Purnawa
Pangdam I/Bukit Barisan
Markas Besar KODAM I

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Medan
Sumatra Utara
Indonesia
Fax:+62 618-451626

Salutation: Dear Major General

COPIES TO:

COORDINATING MINISTER FOR POLITICS AND SECURITY
Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
Menteri Koordinator Bidang Politik dan Keamanan
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No. 15
Jakarta Pusat 10110
Indonesia
Fax: +62 21 345 1064 / 345 0918 / 344 1751

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 24 October 2001.