

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 21/14/00

EXTRA 17/00 "Disappearance"/fear for safety

3 March 2000

INDONESIA Zulkifli (village head, aged 58)
 Munir (human rights activist, aged 27)

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Zulkifli and Munir who have "disappeared" in Aceh in recent weeks at the hands of the security forces. Other victims of "disappearance" in the province have turned up dead and those in security force detention are at risk of ill-treatment, torture and "disappearance".

Zulkifli, the head of Rembele village in Bukit Sub-district, Central Aceh, reportedly "disappeared" on 21 February 2000 when members of the military district command 0106/Central Aceh (Kodim 0106\Aceh Tengah) went to his home and accused him of belonging to the armed opposition group *Gerakan Aceh Merdeka* (GAM), Free Aceh Movement and of possessing a gun. The day before the military had conducted a "sweeping operation" aimed at capturing members of GAM. Inquiries made at police headquarters and Bukit sub-district military command have been met with denials that he is detained there.

Munir, a human rights activist "disappeared" on 26 January after he was taken from his home in Blang Dhot village, Tangse Sub-district, Pidie, by members of the police mobile brigade (Brimob) and the *Tentara Nasional Indonesia* (TNI), Indonesian National Army in the early hours of the morning. Brimob and the TNI reportedly turned up at his home in two trucks and a car and beat two young relatives of Munir's, aged 15 and 17, before taking Munir away. Enquiries made about him by his family at the police headquarters and military command in Tangse sub-district have also been met with denials that he is detained there.

On 3 March, Amnesty International learned that the bodies of two men who "disappeared" from Paya Beurandeng village, Tanah Luas Sub-district, North Aceh, in the early hours of 27 February had been found at Lhokseumawe General Hospital. M. Radan, the village head, and Usman Jaban had reportedly been taken from their homes by members of the TNI.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The human rights situation in Aceh continues to deteriorate. There are unconfirmed reports that 179 people have been killed in Aceh since the beginning of 2000 in the context of military and police counter-insurgency operations against GAM. Dozens have also been arrested during the course of "sweeping operations" by the security forces to capture members of GAM.

In recent weeks there have been worrying signs of increased harassment, intimidation, arrests and other violations against human rights defenders and humanitarian workers.

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

- urging the authorities to immediately establish and make public the whereabouts of Zulkifli and Munir, and to provide guarantees for their safety;
- asking the authorities to ensure that all those responsible for serious human rights violations - including extrajudicial execution, torture and "disappearances" - are brought promptly to justice before a civilian court according to international human rights standards;

- asking them to initiate an immediate, full and impartial investigation into the "disappearance" and killings of M. Radan and Usman Jaban in February 2000, for the results to be made public and those responsible brought to justice
- asking them to issue immediate instructions to the security forces to halt all arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture and ill-treatment, "disappearances" and unlawful killings;
- requesting they ensure that all security operations in Aceh are carried out in line with international human rights standards.

APPEALS TO (please note that fax numbers are difficult to obtain and several attempts may be necessary in order to get through):

Dr Juwono Sudarsono
Minister of Defence and Security
(Menteri Pertahanan dan Keamanan)
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No.13-14
Jakarta Pusat 10110
Indonesia

Telegrams: Dr Juwono Sudarsono, Menteri Pertahanan Dan Keamanan, Jakarta, Indonesia

Faxes: + 62 21 381-4535 or 384-5178

Salutation: Dear Minister

Brig. Gen. Bachrum Syah Kasman
Chief of Police for Aceh (Kapolda Aceh)
Jl Cut Nyak Dien
Banda Aceh
Aceh
Indonesia

Telegrams: Kapolda Aceh, Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Salutation: Dear Brigadier General

COPIES TO:

Mr Hasballah M. Saad
State Minister for Human Rights Affairs
Jl Kuningan Timur M 2/5
Jakarta 12950
Indonesia

Faxes: + 62 21 525 0075 / 525 0139

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 31 March 2000.