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## **PUBLIC STATEMENT** **Indonesia**

### **Release of Dita Indah Sari**

Amnesty International welcomed today's release of Dita Indah Sari, a labour rights organizer connected to the Peoples Democratic Party (*Partai Rakyat Demokratik* - PRD) who was serving a five year sentence for her peaceful activities defending workers rights. Her release follows sustained campaigning by international human rights groups, trade unions, womens' rights groups and others.

While welcoming measures taken by the Habibie government to address Indonesia's poor human rights record, Amnesty International urged the Indonesian authorities to take additional steps to implement legislative and institutional reforms to protect freedom of expression and association. Among the steps that should be taken by the Indonesian government are:

- ◆ the unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience. While Dita Indah Sari has been released, other prisoners of conscience, including seven members of the PRD and its affiliated organizations, remain in jail.
- ◆ the review by an independent body, of the convictions against more than a hundred Indonesian and East Timorese political prisoners jailed after unfair political trials.
- ◆ the repeal of all legislation facilitating the arrest and imprisonment of prisoners of conscience, including the so-called "hate-sowing" articles of the Indonesian Criminal Code under which Dita Indah Sari was charged.
- ◆ the establishment in law of an independent judiciary which operates in accordance with international standards on the independence of the judiciary and rights to a fair trial.

Dita Indah Sari's release comes at a time when Amnesty International is investigating recent reports of ill-treatment of PRD members by the police and of threats and attacks against PRD offices by unknown assailants. Dozens of PRD members were shot and beaten by police during a clash which erupted outside the offices of the General Election Commission (KPU) in Jakarta on 1 July when the PRD was prevented from presenting a petition to the KPU. Since then two PRD offices have reportedly been attacked by unknown groups of men and a member of the PRD who has been accused by the authorities of orchestrating the violence during the 1 July demonstration has received anonymous telephone threats that he will be kidnapped.

Amnesty International is urging the Indonesian authorities to ensure that these incidents are impartially and fully investigated and that steps are taken to protect PRD members from possible attacks. ENDS.../