

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 21/84/99

This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 15 per section.

EXTRA 100/99

Fear for safety / Incommunicado detention

3 August

INDONESIA Yusuf Haria, 50, fish trader

Ridwan, 25, fish trader

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the two men named above, who are at risk of torture or ill-treatment in incommunicado detention.

M Yusuf Haria, from Bintang Hu, Baktiya Sub-district, North Aceh, and Ridwan, from Alue le Mirah, Tanah Jambu Aye Sub-district, North Aceh, were arrested selling fish at the Pantan Labu Market in Tanah Jambu Aye by the Indonesian National Army (TNI) on 31 July 1999 during a security check in the area. Amnesty International believes they were arrested on suspicion of having links with the armed separatist group, *Gerakan Aceh Merdeka* (GAM), Free Aceh Movement.

The two men were placed in a military truck and taken to the headquarters of the Baktiya Sub-district Military Command (Koramil) in Alue le Puteh where they are believed to be still detained.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since late 1998, serious human rights violations in Aceh have increased in the course of TNI counter-insurgency operations against the armed separatist group, GAM. Dozens of people have been arrested in recent months on suspicion of links to GAM. Suspects detained by the TNI and by a riot control police unit, the PPRM (*Petugas Penindak Rusuh Massa*), are often denied access to lawyers of their choice, and are at risk of torture or ill-treatment. Many of those taken into custody have "disappeared" or been unlawfully killed by the security forces.

Large numbers of people have been unlawfully killed by the security forces in Aceh since late 1998. In February 1999 at least seven people were unlawfully killed when the TNI fired on a march in Idi Cut, East Aceh. On 3 May, human rights monitors claimed that at least 41 people were killed in Krueng Geukueh, Dewantara Sub-District, Aceh, when the TNI fired on a demonstration. On 23 July, at least 45 people and possibly as many as 70 were unlawfully killed by the TNI during counter-insurgency operations in Beutong Sub-district, West Aceh. The TNI claimed that those killed were members of GAM, but eyewitnesses and human rights groups deny this and claim that those killed were unarmed and were executed by the TNI.

GAM have also been accused of committing human rights abuses.

On 30 July 1999, President Habibie announced that he had established an Independent Investigation Commission on Violence in Aceh (*Komisi Independen Pengusutan Tindak Kekerasan di Aceh*) which is expected to conduct investigations into human rights violations which have occurred since August 1998, and to submit a report within six months, including recommendations on legal measures, rehabilitation and reconciliation. The commission is apparently made up of 27 people, including members of Indonesia's National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academics and government representatives.

However, the commission has not been given a mandate to investigate human rights violations which occurred during TNI counter-insurgency operations between 1989 and 1998. Amnesty International believes that the commission can only be effective if it is given unrestricted access to all areas of Aceh to conduct full and independent investigations into all human rights violations including those since 1989, if its findings are made public and if its report leads to the prosecution of those found responsible.

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

- urging the authorities to ensure that M Yusuf Haria and Ridwan have immediate and regular access to human rights lawyers, their family and to medical professionals, and that they are immediately released if they are not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- urging the authorities to ensure that while in custody they are not tortured or ill-treated.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Defence and Security
Gen. Wiranto
Menteri Pertahanan dan Keamanan
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No.13-14
Jakarta 10110
Indonesia

Telegrams:General Wiranto, Jakarta, Indonesia

Faxes:+ 62 21 381 4535 / 384 5178 (if you are unable to obtain a fax tone please try later)

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Military Commander Region I/Bukit Barisan
(covers North & West Sumatra and Aceh)
Major General Abdul Rahman Gaffar
Pangdam I/Bukit Barisan
Markas Besar KODAM I
Medan
Sumatra Utara
Indonesia

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 August 1999.