

PUBLIC

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EXTRA 126/99

Fear of extrajudicial execution/"disappearance" or torture

8 September

**EAST TIMOR**Mau Hodu

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Pro-independence activist Mau Hodu is believed to have been arrested today in the East Timorese capital, Dili, by a joint Indonesian National Army (TNI) and militia team. His whereabouts are unknown, and Amnesty International fears that he is at risk of extrajudicial execution, "disappearance" or torture in custody.

Mau Hodu is a member of the National Council of Timorese Resistance and the Central Committee of the pro-independence political party *Fretilin*, the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor, which also has an armed wing.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The human rights situation in East Timor has become critical in the last five days since the result of the UN ballot on the territory's future status was announced. The East Timorese people voted overwhelmingly in favour of independence from Indonesia.

Armed militias have carried out attacks with impunity on independence supporters, local and international staff of the United Nations Assistance Mission to East Timor (UNAMET), journalists and human rights workers. The TNI and the Indonesian police have been directly involved in many of these attacks and have blatantly failed to offer protection to those at risk of attacks by the militias.

Phone lines to Dili have been cut. UNAMET has announced it is withdrawing, after numerous attacks on its regional offices and after UN staff - under siege in the compound in Dili - were prevented by the TNI from collecting food from the UN warehouse, situated outside their compound.

More than 1500 internally displaced persons (IDPs) also remain under siege at the UN compound in Dili. There are grave fears for their safety.

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

- urging the authorities to clarify the whereabouts of Mau Hodu and the charges under which he is being held;
- urging the authorities to guarantee his security in custody, ensure that he has access to human rights lawyers, his family and medical personnel and that he be immediately and unconditionally released if he is not to be charged with a recognisable criminal offence.

**APPEALS TO:**

**MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND SECURITY / COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES (TNI)**

Gen. Wiranto

Menteri Pertahanan dan Keamanan

Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No.13-14

Jakarta 10110

Indonesia

**Telegrams: Minister of Defence and Security, Jakarta, Indonesia**

**Fax: + 62 21 381 4535/ 384 5178 (Fax numbers in Indonesia can be difficult to get through to. Please keep trying.)**

**Salutation:Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Representatives of your own government's foreign affairs department, 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 October 1999.