

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 21/38/96

3 July 1996

Further information on EXTRA 95/96 (ASA 21/36/96, 21 June 1996) and follow-up (ASA 21/37/96, 21 June 1996) - Use of excessive force / Fear for safety / Fear of ill-treatment

INDONESIA Indonesian Democratic Party demonstrators in Jakarta

new names: Rajin
Suryono
Nanang Praesetyo
Heman Susilo
Edi Suwito

Five (named above) of those arrested during the march in Jakarta on 20 June 1996 by members of the opposition Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) remain in detention in Jakarta's police headquarters. The five are reported to have access to lawyers, but have not yet been charged.

The exact number of protestors originally detained on 20 June remains unclear, but is thought to have been 22, most of whom were released within 24 hours.

Reports that one person was killed by security forces during the demonstration remain unconfirmed. Reports also state that more than 100 demonstrators were injured.

At the congress of dissident PDI members in Medan, North Sumatra, which sparked off the demonstrations, a new party chairperson was selected. Megawati Sukarnoputri, the ousted chairperson, and her supporters have not accepted this decision, and last week, after the Medan Congress had ended, PDI protests spread to other Indonesian towns and cities across the country. Army generals have warned that firm measures will be taken against PDI activists staging further demonstrations, and the Chief of the Jakarta Regional Military Command, Major General Sutiyoso, has warned the PDI to cease their protests in the capital, stating that "We'll take firm actions against any criminal and brutal activities which might disrupt the national stability."

These warnings reinforce Amnesty International's concerns about the Indonesian security forces' tendency to use excessive force when seeking to control both violent and peaceful protests. In the past individuals engaged in protests and demonstrations have been subjected to beatings, and in some cases shot and killed by members of the armed forces. Those who have been detained following their alleged involvement in protests have reported beatings and torture in detention.

Amnesty International is monitoring the situation of the five people still in detention and continues to seek information about the reported death of one demonstrator in Jakarta and the injuries to scores of others. The organization also continues to urge the authorities to ensure that the security forces will exercise restraint in their handling of any future protests.

No further action by the Urgent Action Network is requested at this stage. Thank you to all who sent appeals on this action.