

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 21/45/96

UA 187/96

Fear of ill-treatment / Possible  
prisoner of conscience

25 July 1996

INDONESIA Oka Dwi Chandra, aged 23, student activist

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Student activist Oka Dwi Chandra, taken into police custody during a demonstration on 22 July 1996, has been transferred to military detention - a move which Amnesty International fears places him at greater risk of torture or ill-treatment. This fear is heightened by the fact that lawyers attempting to act on Oka Dwi Chandra's behalf have been denied access to him.

Oka Dwi Chandra was arrested in the West Javanese town of Bandung during a demonstration held in support of Megawati Sukarnoputri, the leader of Indonesia's Democratic Party (PDI) currently facing a government-orchestrated challenge to her leadership of the party. The demonstrators were also protesting against the ill-treatment and arrest of 11 activists during a similar demonstration in Bandung the previous day. All 11 were subsequently released.

Around 500 activists took part in the 22 July demonstration, which began at the University Pajajaran in Bandung. After leaving the university campus, the demonstrators were confronted by members of the security forces who are believed to have attempted to break-up the demonstration by force. Thirteen demonstrators were believed to have been taken into police custody, although all except Oka Dwi Chandra were released. It is believed that he is currently being held and questioned at the West Java regional office of the military intelligence agency, *Bakorstanas* (Coordinating Agency for the Maintenance of National Stability). It is not known when he was transferred to military custody.

Oka Dwi Chandra, who is an activist with PIJAR, a student non-government organization which campaigns for human rights, is now facing charges under Article 212 and 351 of the Indonesian Criminal Code. Article 212 states that individuals who violently or with the threat of violence resist officials in their duties can face a maximum imprisonment of one year and four months, while Article 351 relates to maltreatment. Amnesty International is concerned that the real reason for his detention may be his non-violent political activities.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In June 1996, a congress of dissident PDI members was held in Medan, North Sumatra, in direct challenge to the PDI leadership of Megawati Sukarnoputri who was elected leader of the party for a five year term in 1993. Demonstrations by PDI members in support of Megawati were held during the congress and dozens of demonstrators were injured in clashes with police. It is believed that up to 22 were arrested and five remain in police detention facing charges (see EXTRA 95/96, ASA 21/36/96, 21 June and updates). At the end of the Medan Congress, Suryadi, deputy speaker of Indonesia's Parliament, was elected leader of the PDI.

Megawati has announced a legal challenge to the government-orchestrated election of Suryadi as the PDI leader. Her supporters are continuing to occupy the PDI headquarters in Jakarta and to hold daily forums around the office. On 23 July, the Police Resort in Central Jakarta issued a letter to Megawati which stated that the daily forums were against Indonesian laws and regulations because they were discrediting government officials and disturbing the peace.

The Indonesian authorities are keen to have Megawati's supporters removed from the PDI office in Central Jakarta. The recent ASEAN meetings in Jakarta have ensured that there has been considerable coverage of the occupation. Amnesty International is concerned that, if the authorities attempt to forcibly remove the supporters, there may be ill-treatment or excessive use of force by the security forces.

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

- urging the authorities to allow Oka Dwi Chandra immediate access to lawyers of his choice;
- seeking assurances that he is being treated humanely in accordance with international standards for detention;
- expressing concern that he may be being detained for his non-violent exercise of his right to freedom of expression and association, and urging that, if this is the case, all charges against him be dropped and that he be immediately and unconditionally released.

**APPEALS TO:**

COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES (ABRI)

General Feisal Tanjung

Panglima ABRI

Markas Besar ABRI

Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No 13

Jakarta Timur, Indonesia

**Telegrams: Panglima ABRI, Jakarta, Indonesia**

**Salutation: Dear General Tanjung**

MILITARY COMMANDER REGION III/SILIWANGI

(covers West Java)

Maj. Gen. Tarmadi

Pangdam III/Siliwangi

Markas Besar KODAM III

Siliwangi

Bandung, Jawa Barat, Indonesia

**Telegrams: Pangdam III, Siliwangi, Bandung, Indonesia**

**Salutation: Dear Maj. Gen. Tarmadi**

**COPIES TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ali Alatas SH

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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 12 September 1996.