

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 21/63/96

UA 217/96

Fear of torture and ill-treatment

5 September 1996

INDONESIA Suwigno

Amnesty International fears for the safety of Suwigno, who was arrested in Jakarta on 3 September 1996 and whose whereabouts remain unknown.

Suwigno was seen being arrested outside the Megaria Cinema in Menteng, Jakarta after he had visited the Indonesian Legal Aid Institute in Jalan Diponegoro. He is believed to have been arrested for his alleged connections with the unofficial political group *Partai Rakyat Demokratik* (PRD). Amnesty International does not know whether he was arrested by police or military officers, but fears that he is being held in military custody. It is assumed that he does not have access to lawyers, placing him at serious risk of ill-treatment or torture, as is frequent in political cases in Indonesia.

At least 163 individuals have been called in for questioning or arrested since the raid on the headquarters of the Democratic Party of Indonesia (PDI) on 27 July. Many of those arrested, in particular student activists alleged to be involved with the PRD or its affiliated organizations, have been arrested by unidentified officers and detained in military custody where they have been denied access to lawyers and family members, before being surrendered to the police. Some of those who have been held in both military and police custody have been beaten and tortured.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Riots broke out in Jakarta on 27 and 28 July 1996 after the security forces raided the headquarters of the PDI. As many as 241 people were arrested as a direct result of the raid and subsequent riots. At least five and possibly seven people are believed to have died and up to 149 are thought to have been wounded.

Since then, the Indonesian Government has issued threats against individuals and non-governmental organizations which it alleges played a role in the riots. The PRD, in particular, has been singled out for its alleged role in orchestrating the riots and has been accused by the authorities of having communist links. (For further information see *Indonesia: Raid on PDI Office*, ASA 21/46/96, 28 July 1996; *Indonesia: PDI Raid: Update*, ASA 21/48/96, 30 July, and *PDI Raid: Reprisals Continue*, ASA 21/56/96, 9 August).

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

- appealing to the authorities to release information about the exact whereabouts of Suwigno, arrested in Jakarta on 3 September 1996, and the charges against him;
- urging that he be allowed immediate and continuing access to a lawyer of his choice and to his family;
- requesting guarantees that he not be subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment in detention;
- urging that, if he is being held for his non-violent political activities, he be immediately and unconditionally released.

APPEALS TO:

ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF

Maj. Gen R. Hartono
Kasad TNI AD
Markas Besar TNI AD
Jl. Medan Merdeka Utara 2
Jakarta Pusat
Indonesia

Telegrams: Army Chief of Staff Hartono, Jakarta, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Maj. Gen. Hartono

MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Uahi Utoyo Usman S.H.
Menteri Kehkiman
Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said Kav. 6-7
Kuningan
Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia

Faxes: + 62 21 525 3095

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Jakarta, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Minister Usman

COPIES TO:

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Ali Alatas SH
Menteri Luar Negeri
Jl Medan Taman Pejambon No 6
Jakarta, Indonesia

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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 10 October 1996.