

UA 99/91

Fear of Illtreatment/Incommunicado Detention

13 March 1991

INDONESIA/EAST TIMOR: Alejandre Corte Real, aged 27
 Manuel Sarmiento, aged 25
 Boaventura da Silva, aged 27
 Jose Celestino, aged 26
 Lorenco, aged 26
 Miguel Ximenes, aged 27

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of dozens of university students arrested during an apparently peaceful demonstration at Udayana University in Bali on 13 March 1991. Among those arrested were six East Timorese students, named above, who the authorities alleged organized the demonstration and who are therefore believed to be particularly at risk. Four are students in the Faculty of Agriculture, and two in the Faculty of Law.

According to eyewitness reports, a force of some 100 military and police arrested the students at the campus of Udayana University at about 4:30pm. The students were said to have been punched and kicked at the time of their arrest and then taken away in three waiting military vehicles to an unknown location.

The demonstration, which began on 12 March, had been organized to protest aspects of the university's financial policy. However, government and military authorities reportedly alleged that the purpose of the demonstration was political and accused the East Timorese students of being the organizers; these allegations were denied by the students and their colleagues.

In view of past evidence and persistent reports that suspected political opponents of Indonesian rule in East Timor have been seriously ill-treated or tortured while in police or military custody, Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of those recently detained.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Indonesian forces invaded East Timor in 1975 in the aftermath of Portugal's withdrawal from its former colony. Since that time Amnesty International has continued to document serious human rights violations by Indonesian security forces in the territory, including extrajudicial execution, torture and ill-treatment, "disappearance", and political imprisonment.

In the past six months Amnesty International has learned the names of more than 100 East Timorese detained for their alleged involvement in apparently peaceful demonstrations advocating independence for East Timor. Many of those detained have reportedly been ill-treated or tortured in custody. The forms of torture inflicted include beatings with iron bars, batons and fists, burning with lighted cigarettes, slashing with razor blades and immersion for long periods in fetid water.

East Timorese living in Indonesia, especially those who have been politically active, have also been detained and ill-treated by police and military authorities in recent years. In April 1990 three East Timorese university students living in Bali were arrested and badly beaten in custody by police and military authorities.

Fellow students who tried to intervene with the authorities on their behalf were reportedly threatened with death by a military officer of the District Military Command (KODIM).

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern for the safety of the students detained by security forces during a demonstration at Udayana University on 13 March 1991;
- urging the authorities to ensure that the detainees have access to relatives, legal counsel and medical attention;
- appealing to the authorities to ensure that the physical and mental well-being of the detainees is fully protected;
- asking to be informed of the current situation of those detained and the precise reason for their arrest;
- urging the authorities to release immediately and unconditionally those held solely for their non-violent political activities.

APPEALS TO:**Minister of Justice:**

Let. Ismail Saleh
 Jalan Rasuna Said, Kav 6-7
 Kuningan
 Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Jakarta, Indonesia

Telexes: 44205; 44469; 45611 DEPLU IA (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Commander-in-Chief, Armed Forces:

General Try Sutrisno
 Pangab
 Markas Besar Abri
 Cilangkap
 Jakarta Timur, Indonesia

Telegrams: Gen. Sutrisno, Markas Besar Abri, Jakarta, Indonesia

Telexes: 46116 MENHUB IA; 44310 DEPHUB IA

Regional Military Commander, Region IX:

Major General Sintong Panjaitan
 Markas Besar KODAM IX/Udayana
 Denpasar
 Bali, Indonesia

Telegrams: Maj-Gen Panjaitan, Markas Besar KODAM IX, Indonesia

Governor of Bali:

Prof. Dr. Ida Bagus Oka
 Gubernur KDH Tk. 1 Bali
 Jl. Civic Centre Renon
 Denpasar
 Bali, Indonesia

Telegrams: Gubernur Bali, Denpasar, Indonesia

COPIES TO:

Minister of Education and Culture
 Prof. Dr. Fuad Hassan
 Jl. Jend. Sudirman
 Senayan

Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 April 1991.