

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 166/93 Fear of Torture

20 May 1993

**INDONESIA/EAST TIMOR: Rui "Los Palos"
and two other students**

Three East Timorese university students have reportedly been arrested by Indonesian security forces in Dili, East Timor, for their alleged political activities. Their current whereabouts are unknown and Amnesty International fears that they may be subjected to torture or ill-treatment while under interrogation by their captors. Based on past experience, the organization is also concerned that further political arrests may soon follow, and that those arrested may themselves be subjected to torture and ill-treatment.

Rui "Los Palos", a student in Singaraja, Bali, and two others who study at an academy (APDN) in Jakarta were reportedly arrested by the military on 14 May 1993, shortly after returning home to Dili. The precise reasons for their arrest are not known but it is thought that they were detained on suspicion of supporting the movement for East Timor's independence from Indonesia.

Political detainees in East Timor are commonly held incommunicado and subjected to torture and ill-treatment in order to extract confessions and political intelligence. During the period of interrogation, military and police authorities routinely deny lawyers and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross access to political detainees. The information extracted from one detainee often becomes the basis for further arrests. Under these circumstances, the relatives and friends of a political detainee are particularly vulnerable to intimidation and arrest.

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 documented a pattern of gross and persistent human rights violations by Indonesian security forces in the territory. These have included extrajudicial execution, torture and ill-treatment, "disappearance", political imprisonment and unfair trial. In recent months, international attention has focused on the blatantly unfair political trial of East Timorese resistance leader, Xanana Gusmão, who was arrested in November 1992 and held incommunicado for 17 days. A verdict in the case is expected on 21 May 1993.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Rui "Los Palos", and two other students reportedly arrested by Indonesian security forces in Dili, East Timor, on 14 May 1993;

- urging the Indonesian authorities to clarify their whereabouts and to ensure that they are given immediate access to legal counsel of their own choice and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross;
- urging the authorities to clarify the precise reasons for their arrest, and to release them immediately if they have not been charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- seeking guarantees that they have been and will be humanely treated while in custody.

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APPEALS TO

1) Ali Alatas
Minister of Foreign Affairs
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Jakarta
Indonesia
Telegrams: Minister Foreign Affairs, Jakarta, Indonesia
Faxes: + 62 21 36 7781
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Salutation: Dear Minister Alatas

2) Major General Theo Syafei
Commander, KODAM IX/Udayana
Markas Besar KODAM IX/Udayana
Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
Telegrams: Major Gen Syafei, KODAM IX, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

Salutation: Dear Major General Syafei

3) Col. Suntoro
Commander KOREM 164/Wiradharma
Markas KOREM 164/Wiradharma
Dili, East Timor
Telegrams: Col Suntoro, KOREM 164, Dili, East Timor

Salutation: Dear Colonel Suntoro

4) Lt. General Faisal Tanjung
Commander of the Armed Forces
Markas Besar ABRI
Cilangkap, East Jakarta
Indonesia
Telegrams: Lt. General Tanjung, Markas Besar ABRI, Jakarta, Indonesia
Faxes: + 62 21 36 1471 (Armed Forces HQ)
+ 62 21 37 8144 (Army HQ)
+ 62 21 35 6404

Salutation: Dear Lt. General Tanjung

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Haji Utoyo Usman S.H.

Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Jl. Rasuna Said Kav. 6-7
Kuningan
Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia
Faxes: + 62 21 32 1625

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 1 July 1993.