

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 21/004/2003

UA 39/03

Fear for safety / Fear of torture

10 February 2003

INDONESIA

Abdullah (m), aged 22

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On 6 February 2003, Abdullah was detained by the police in Kuala Batee Sub-district, Aceh Barat Daya District, Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD) Province. There are concerns for his safety, as torture is commonplace in the province.

Abdullah is an activist with *Sentral Informasi Referendum Aceh*, (SIRA), Aceh Information Referendum Center, which campaigns peacefully for a referendum for independence in NAD. He was detained when the public minibus in which he was travelling was stopped and searched by members of the Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob) stationed at Kuala Batee Police Sector (Polsek). Abdullah was reportedly detained after members of Brimob found documents belonging to SIRA in his possession. Those detained in NAD often do not have access to lawyers.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Grave human rights violations, including unlawful killings, "disappearances", torture and detention without charge have been carried out in the context of operations by the Indonesian security forces against the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD) Province. Local human rights organizations estimate that over 1,300 people were killed in 2002 alone. Anyone detained by the police and military in NAD is at risk of torture, ill-treatment or other human rights violations.

Members of SIRA, are among those who have been subjected to human rights violations. In January 2002, Junaidi, the head of the Aceh Besar District Branch of SIRA, "disappeared" after being detained by members of the Army Strategic Reserve Command (Kostrad) (see UA 51/02, ASA 21/007/2002, 14 February 2002). Another SIRA member, Musliadi, was extrajudicially executed in November 2002 after being detained by unknown armed men at the office of the West Aceh Youth and Student Action Coalition (*Koalisi Aksi Gerakan Mahasiswa dan Pemuda Aceh Barat*, KAGEMPAR) which he also headed. There are concerns that he may have been killed because of his activities against human rights violations and violence in NAD (see UA 349/02, ASA 21/049/2002, 2 December 2002 and follow up ASA 21/051/2002, 4 December 2002). In September 2000, two SIRA members were detained by police in Banda Aceh and tortured. Two other SIRA activists have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment in the last two years. They have since been released after serving their sentences. Amnesty International considered them to be prisoners of conscience.

In a recent development, on 9 December 2002, the Indonesian government and GAM signed a ceasefire agreement, known as the Cessation of Hostilities (COH) Agreement. Since the coming into effect of the COH Agreement, local observers have reported a significant fall in the level of violence and in the number of reports of human rights abuses. However, local human rights activists are concerned that, in spite of the fact that the COH Agreement requires both sides to allow civil society to express their democratic rights, the right to freedom of expression remains limited.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Bahasa Indonesia, English or your own language:**

- urging the authorities to ensure that Abdullah who was detained in Kuala Batee Sub-district, Aceh Barat Daya District, NAD Province on 6 February 2003 is released immediately and unconditionally unless he is to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- urging the authorities to provide guarantees that he will not be subjected to torture, ill-treatment or other human rights violations;

- urging that he is given immediate access to lawyers, his family and medical attention should he require it.

**APPEALS TO: (It may be difficult to get through, but please keep trying)**

Resort Police Chief, Aceh Selatan

Lt. Col. Ali Husein  
Markas Polisi Resort Aceh Selantan  
Jl. T. Cut Ali  
Tapaktuan  
Aceh Selatan  
Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam  
Indonesia

**Salutation: Dear Lieutenant Colonel**

Chief of Police for Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam

Insp. Gen. Yusuf Mangga Barani  
Markas Polres Daerah Aceh  
Jalan Cut Meutia No. 3  
Banda Aceh  
Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam  
Indonesia

**Fax: +62 651 22488**

**Salutation: Dear Inspector General**

**COPIES TO:**

National Police Chief

Com. Gen. D'ai Bachtiar  
Kapolri  
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI  
Jl. Trunojoyo 3  
Kebayoran Baru  
Jakarta Selatan  
Indonesia

**Fax: +62 217 201402**

**Salutation: Dear Commander General**

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 24 March 2003.