

Dear Ronny Lihawa,

On 29 June 2007, police arrested Johan Teterissa and 21 other men for raising the Maluku Province pro-independence flag. Police punched some of the men, beat them with rifle butts, whipped them with electric cables and forced them to crawl on hot asphalt.

Police then forced some of the men to confess to the crime of "rebellion".

Twenty-one of them are now serving prison sentences of between seven and 20 years. Johan Teterissa was sentenced to life imprisonment, reduced to 15 years on appeal, for leading the protest.

I urge the National Police Commission (Kompolnas) to:

- Investigate reports of torture and other ill-treatment of the 22 peaceful activists and bring those responsible to justice.
- Ensure that all police arrests, interrogation and detention procedures are in line with the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and other international standards.
- Set up an independent police complaints mechanism to strengthen police accountability and legitimacy.

Yours sincerely,

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Ronny Lihawa

Secretary of National Police Commission (Kompolnas)

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Image: Indonesian police anniversary display, Monas Square, Jakarta, July 2008. © Amnesty International

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