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Health Concern/Fear of Torture

INDONESIA/EAST TIMOR: Xanana Gusmão, 45, leader of East Timor's  
independence movement

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Amnesty International is concerned at reports that Xanana Gusmão, leader of East Timor's independence movement, is in poor health after being on hunger-strike for about a week. These reports have been difficult to confirm because neither representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) nor family members have been permitted to visit him since his plan to begin a hunger-strike became known. In view of concerns that Xanana Gusmão's health may be at risk, Amnesty International believes that it is essential for ICRC representatives, physicians and relatives to be granted immediate and regular access to him.

Xanana Gusmão had planned to announce that he was going to go on hunger-strike in his defence plea before the Regional Trial Court in Dili on 17 May 1993. However, after he had read only two pages of his statement the presiding judge ordered him to stop, claiming that his remarks were "irrelevant". As a result, his intention to begin a hunger-strike did not become known internationally until 21 May when his defence plea - which was smuggled out of prison - became available.

Xanana Gusmão was last seen by his family when he was taken out of court on 21 May 1993. However, to Amnesty International's knowledge, he has not received visits from anyone except his court-appointed lawyer since his trial began on 1 February 1993.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International regards Xanana Gusmão's trial - at which he was found guilty of rebellion and illegal possession of firearms - as blatantly unfair. Like all political trials in East Timor and Indonesia, his trial failed to meet international standards of fairness, or even to comply with Indonesia's own Code of Criminal Procedure. In addition to procedural concerns, Amnesty International believes that the general political atmosphere within which the trial took place - one of undisguised official hostility to the defendant, and reported interference in the judicial proceedings by military and executive authorities - made a fair trial virtually impossible.

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

- expressing concern that Xanana Gusmão is reported to have been on hunger-strike for about a week and that he may be in ill-health;

- noting that he is reported to have begun his hunger-strike in protest at the life sentence imposed upon him after a manifestly unfair trial;
- urging the government to allow the ICRC and relatives immediate, and thereafter frequent and regular, access to him in detention;
- urging that physicians be given immediate and regular access to Xanana Gusmão to assess his medical condition and to provide proper medical care in accordance with agreed international standards.

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**APPEALS TO:**

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**Salutation: Dear Minister Alatas**

2. Major General Theo Syafei  
Commander, KODAM IX/Udayana  
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Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia  
**Telegrams: Major General Syafei, Kodam IX, Denpasar, Bali**

**Salutation: Dear Major General Syafei**

3. Haji Utoyo Usman S.H.  
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**Salutation: Dear Minister Usman**

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and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia/East Timor accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 8 July 1993.