

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Arbitrary detention

16 January 1995

INDONESIA AND EAST TIMOR "Rui" Celso Oliveira, 23, human rights activist

East Timorese Celso Oliveira has been arrested in Jakarta after sending information overseas about the situation in East Timor. Celso was reportedly arrested without a warrant, and Amnesty International is concerned that he may be being held solely because of his peaceful activities in opposition to Indonesian rule of East Timor, and in particular, the dissemination of information concerning human rights. The organization urges that Celso be provided with immediate access to lawyers of his own choice.

Celso Oliveira was arrested around 11am on 13 January 1995 after a security guard in a bookshop handed him over to police. It is believed that Celso was then transferred from police custody to Jakarta's regional military intelligence headquarters, *Bakorstanasda*. At the time of his arrest Celso Oliveira was carrying a document describing the current atmosphere in East Timor which he had distributed to human rights organizations in Indonesia and overseas.

It is believed that lawyers from the Indonesian Legal Aid Institute (*Lembaga Bantuan Hukum*), LBH, are currently negotiating with the authorities to visit Celso Oliveira in military custody. Just prior to his arrest Celso Oliveira stated that he had been visited twice by the military at his home in Dili, East Timor, although the reason for their inquiries was not clear.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The arrest of Celso Oliveira is consistent with a pattern of short-term and arbitrary detention of real or alleged opponents to Indonesian rule of East Timor. Thousands of East Timorese have been held without charge or trial for periods ranging from a few days to several months, since late 1991. Many have been denied access to their relatives and lawyers and some are known to have been ill-treated and tortured. Others have been tried and sentenced for their peaceful activities. Jose Antonio Neves (see UA 198/94, 23 May 1994, and follow-ups ASA 21/15/94, 2 June; ASA 21/23/94, 20 June; ASA 21/26/94, 27 June) is currently being tried on charges of anti-government activities, in part because of attempts to send information about human rights violations in East Timor to foreign organizations. A verdict for Neves is expected this month.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express and airmail letters either in English, Bahasa Indonesia or in your own language:

- expressing concern that Celso Oliveira was arrested on 13 January 1995 without an arrest warrant, and that he may have been detained solely for his peaceful activities in opposition to the Indonesian Government;
- urging that he be immediately and unconditionally released, unless he is to be charged with a recognisably criminal offence under existing laws;
- urging the authorities to ensure that Celso Oliveira has immediate access to lawyers of his own choice.

APPEALS TO

MINISTER OF JUSTICE
Haji Utoyo Usman SH
Menteri Kehakiman

Jl Rasuna Said Kav 6-7
Kuningan
Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia

Faxes: (62 21) 314 1625

Telegrams: Menteri Kehakiman, Jakarta, Indonesia

Salutation: Dear Minister Utoyo Usman

MILITARY COMMANDER FOR REGION X/JAKARTA RAYA

(covers Greater Jakarta)

Maj. Gen. Wiranto

Pangdam X/Jakarta Raya

Markas Besar KODAM X/Jaya

Jl. Mayjen Sutoyo

Jakarta

Indonesia

Telegrams: Pangdam X/Jakarta Raya, Jakarta Indonesia

Salutation: Dear Maj. Gen. Wiranto

COPIES TO

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ali Alatas SH

Menteri Luar Negeri

Jl Medan Taman Pejambon No 6

Jakarta Indonesia

Faxes: (62 21) 36 0517

Chair of the National Commission on Human Rights

Ali Said SH

Ketua Komisi Nasional Hak Azasi Manusia

Jalan Veteran No 11

Jakarta Indonesia

Faxes: (C/- Ministry of Justice) (62 21) 314 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 3 March 1995.