

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 21/07/98

UA 46/98

Fear of incommunicado detention

11 February 1998

INDONESIA Pius Lustrilanang, aged 29

Amnesty International is concerned about the whereabouts of Pius Lustrilanang, a student activist and the Secretary General of a pro-democracy organization, the People's Democratic Alliance, (Aliansi Demokrasi Rakyat - Aldera), who has been missing since 4 February 1998. There are fears that he has been arrested and is being held in incommunicado detention.

Pius Lustrilanang was last seen on the afternoon of 4 February in Jakarta. His friends attempted to contact him at his residence and at his parents' house after he failed to keep an appointment. To date they have not been able to locate him. On 10 February his friends reported to the police in Central Jakarta that Pius was missing. They have also requested assistance from Indonesia's National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM). Human rights lawyers in Jakarta are also attempting to trace Pius.

Political activists are frequently at risk of arrest in Indonesia and several, including members of Aldera, have been arrested unlawfully by the Indonesian Armed Forces, and held incommunicado before either being released uncharged, or being charged and their detention formally acknowledged by the authorities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The news that Pius Lustrilanang is missing comes amid heightened political tension in Indonesia in the face of a severe economic crisis and presidential elections next month. Rioting throughout Indonesia over price increases for basic commodities has dramatically increased in recent weeks, as have peaceful demonstrations against the government, calling for Indonesia's President Suharto not to stand for a seventh term as president, and to allow for other presidential candidates.

On 7 February, 10 members of Aldera were arrested in the city of Bogor outside the main Mosque in Bogor, where they were distributing stickers and copies of a speech made by Megawati Sukarnoputri, ousted Indonesian Democratic Party leader. Megawati Sukarnoputri had stated her willingness in the speech to stand as a candidate for Indonesia's presidential elections. All 10 members of Aldera were released the following evening, but it is believed that eight of them are now required to report to the police. It is not clear whether they will face charges.

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

- urging the police to investigate the report that Pius Lustrilanang is missing;
- urging that if he has been arrested, he be given immediate and regular access to lawyers of his choice and that any charges against him be clarified;
- urging that if he is being detained for his peaceful political beliefs he be released immediately and unconditionally.

APPEALS TO:

CHIEF OF NATIONAL POLICE

Lt. Gen. Diby Widodo
Kapolri
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI
Jl. Trunojoyo 13
Kebayoran Baru

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Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia

Telegrams: Lt. Widodo, Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta, Indonesia

Fax: +62 21 726 0306

Salutation: Dear Lt.Gen. Diby Widodo

COPIES TO:

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Agung Singgih S.H.

Jaksa Agung

Jl. Sultan Hasanuddin No.1

Kebayoran Baru

Jakarta Selatan

Indonesia

Tel/fax: +62 21 720 8557

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 25 March 1998.