

UA 75/01

Fear of torture or ill-treatment/Death in**INDONESIA Detained: 13 unnamed individuals****Killed: Philipus Murib (m), aged 30**

One detainee has died after reportedly being beaten by the police in Papua (formerly known as Irian Jaya). Thirteen others are currently being detained at the police headquarters (Police Resort, Polres) in Jayapura, and are at grave risk of being tortured or ill-treated.

Philipus Murib and 13 others were detained on 28 March following a clash between local people, including student activists, and the security forces. An eyewitness reported that a police officer beat Philipus Murib upon arrest. He died from internal bleeding later the same day. The other detainees continue to be held in police custody at Jayapura Polres. It is not known whether they have had access to lawyers, medical treatment or their families.

The clash occurred outside Cenderawasih University Stadium in Jayapura, where a government seminar was being held on a proposed "special autonomy" package for Papua. Participants at the seminar included representatives from various parts of the province. A number of participants, including Philipus Murib, a delegate from the town of Nabire, walked out of the meeting in protest at the government's autonomy proposal.

According to media reports, the security forces, who were deployed in large numbers outside the building, fired shots in an attempt break up the protest. Several protestors reportedly threw stones at the security forces. Nine police officers and dozens of demonstrators were reportedly injured during the clash.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Tension remains high in Papua after recent moves by the Indonesian authorities to push ahead with the introduction of "special autonomy" for the region, while at the same time clamping down on any expression of pro-independence sentiment in the province.

On 10 March 2001, five leading political activists in the Papuan town of Wamena were jailed after being found guilty of "conspiring to commit separatism". Amnesty International considers them to be prisoners of conscience and has called for their immediate and unconditional release.

The enforcement of a ban on raising the "Morning Star" (a flag symbolising Papuan independence) imposed in December 2000 led to a number of clashes between pro-independence supporters and the security forces late last year. These resulted in serious human rights violations, including unlawful killings, torture and arbitrary detentions.

Around 35 students were severely beaten by the police in Jayapura Polres in December 2000. Two students died as a result of the beatings. They had been detained following a police raid on student hostels in Jayapura on 7 December in apparent retaliation for the killing of two police officers and a security guard by pro-independence supporters. None of those arrested are thought to have been involved in the attack.

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

- urging the authorities to guarantee that the 13 people detained in Jayapura on 28 March will not be tortured or ill-treated;
- urging the authorities to ensure that they are given immediate access to lawyers, their families and medical treatment;
- calling for them to be released immediately and unconditionally if they are not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- calling for an immediate, impartial and independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death in custody of Philipus Murib

APPEALS TO:

Chief of Police for Papua

Brig. Gen. Made Mangku Pastika
Jl. Sam Ratulangie No. 8
Jayapura
Papua (Irian Jaya)
Indonesia

Salutation:Dear Brigadier General

Fax:+ 62 967 33763 / 967 531717

National Police Chief

Commissioner-General Bimantoro
(Acting Police Chief)
Kapolri
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI
Jl. Trunojoyo 3
Kebayoran Baru
Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia

Salutation:Dear Commissioner-General

Fax:+ 62 21 720 7277

COPIES TO:

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Dr Alwi Abdurrahman Shihab
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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 11 May 2001.