

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 20/95 Possible prisoners of conscience/medical concern

INDONESIA: Muchtar Pakpahan, Amosi Telaumbanua, labour rights activists

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On 16 January 1995, the High Court in Medan, North Sumatra, increased the jail sentences of trade union leaders Muchtar Pakpahan and Amosi Telaumbanua, from three years to four, and from fifteen months to three years, respectively, following an appeal. Muchtar Pakpahan is National Chairman of the independent labour union, *Serikat Buruh Sejahtera Indonesia* (SBSI) and Amosi Telaumbanua is Chairman of SBSI in Medan. Amnesty International believes the two are prisoners of conscience, detained solely for peacefully promoting workers' rights.

Muchtar Pakpahan is believed to be suffering from a kidney complaint and Amnesty International is concerned that he may not be receiving adequate medical treatment in detention. Both are reportedly being denied visits by lawyers or their families.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Muchtar Pakpahan and Amosi Telaumbanua were among more than 100 workers arrested in Medan in April 1994 when, during a week of strikes and demonstrations. Muchtar Pakpahan and Amosi Telaumbanua were charged under Articles 160 and 161 of Indonesia's Criminal Code, which prohibit public criticism of the government. These articles are often used by the government against alleged political opponents.

Amnesty International is concerned that the authorities used the unrest in Medan as a pretext for a broader crackdown on peaceful labour activism and to silence the advocates of workers' rights.

National leader of the SBSI, Muchtar Pakpahan, was originally sentenced to three years' imprisonment on 7 November 1994. The charge against Muchtar Pakpahan, cited, among other things, the following as "evidence" of incitement - he set up an SBSI branch in Medan in August 1992; held a training course for 100 workers and tried to recruit them into SBSI; and called for a national strike in January 1994. Chairman of the Medan branch of the SBSI, Amosi Telaumbanua, was arrested by the police on 29 April 1994 in Medan. His trial began on 24 August 1994 and on 20 October he was convicted and originally sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment. The prosecution said that he had encouraged workers to make banners for the April labour protest, had posted announcements on trees and telephone poles in the Medan area, and had distributed pamphlets during the demonstration.

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

- expressing concern that the sentences for Muchtar Pakpahan and Amosi Telaumbanua have been increased;
- requesting their immediate and unconditional release and that of other labour activists, whom Amnesty International believes are detained solely for their peaceful political activities;

- urging that Muchtar Pakpahan receive immediate medical attention and that both be given access to their lawyers.

**APPEALS TO:**

Minister of Justice

Haji Utoyo Usman S.H.  
Menteri Kehakiman  
Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said Kav. 6-7  
Kuningan  
Jakarta Selatan  
Indonesia

**Faxes: +62 21 525 3095**

**Telegrams: Minister of Justice, Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia**

**Salutation: Dear Minister Utoyo Usman**

Minister of Health

Prof. Dr. Suyudi  
Menteri Kesehatan  
Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said  
Blok X-5 Kav. No. 4-9  
Jakarta Selatan  
Indonesia

**Telegrams: Minister of Health, Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia**

**Salutation: Dear Minister Suyudi**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Chairman, National Commission on Human Rights

Lt. Gen. (ret.) Ali Said  
Ketua, Komisi Nasional Hak Azasi Manusia  
Departemen Kehakiman RI  
Direktorat Jenderal Pemasarakatan  
Jl. Veteran No. 11  
Jakarta Pusat  
Indonesia

**Fax: +62 21 525 3095 (c/o Ministry of Justice)**

Minister of Manpower

Drs Abdul Latief  
Menteri Tenaga Kerja  
Jalan Jenderal Gatot Subroto  
Jakarta  
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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 8 March 1995.