

4 May 2001

UA 112/01

Fear for**INDONESIA At least 15 people, names unknown**

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At least 15 people are in custody at Manokwari police station (*Police Resort*, Polres) in Papua (formerly known as Irian Jaya). Amnesty International believes they are at serious risk of torture or ill-treatment.

They were detained on 30 April after clashes between police and local people, which followed rumours that the police were about to remove a "Morning Star" flag (a symbol of Papuan independence) flying in the Fanindi district of Manokwari. Members of the Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob) and the local police opened fire to disperse people who had gathered to defend the flag. At least seven people suffered gunshot wounds and required hospital treatment. Several local people reportedly threw stones at the police. According to unconfirmed media reports, some protestors also set fire to vehicles and damaged houses in the area.

An eyewitness who saw the detainees after their arrest reportedly told one detainee's family that they were "bathed in blood". It is not known whether they were injured during the clash or after they were arrested. A lawyer who tried to visit them in Manokwari Polres was reportedly denied access to them by the police.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Tension remains high in Papua after recent moves by the Indonesian authorities to clamp down on any expression of pro-independence sentiment in the province.

The authorities banned people from raising the "Morning Star" flag in December 2000, and the security forces have clashed repeatedly with pro-independence supporters during attempts to enforce the ban. This has led to serious human rights violations, including unlawful killings and arbitrary detentions.

Many of those detained have been tortured and some have died in custody as a result. Most recently, on 30 March 2001, a leading independence supporter from Nabire, Philipus Murib, died after the police beat him during a protest in the provincial capital, Jayapura.

Meanwhile, leading pro-independence activists in Papua have been detained and imprisoned. They include five community leaders from the Papuan town of Wamena, who were jailed on 10 March 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.

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

- urging the authorities to guarantee that those detained in Manokwari Polres on 30 April 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;
- asking what charges they face, and calling for them to be released unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- calling for an immediate and impartial investigation into the shootings of at least seven people by the security forces in Manokwari on 30 April 2001.

**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  
Kapolri  
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI  
Jl. Trunojoyo 3  
Kebayoran Baru  
Jakarta Selatan  
Indonesia

**Salutation:Dear Commissioner-General**

**Fax:+ 62 21 720 1402**

**COPIES TO:**

Baharuddin Lopa  
Minister of Justice and Human Rights  
Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said Kav. 6-7  
Kuningan  
Jakarta Selatan  
Indonesia  
**Fax: + 62 21 525-3095, 310-4149, 522-5036**  
**Telegram:Justice Minister, Jakarta, Indonesia**

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 15 June 2001.