

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Possible "Disappearance"

4 July 1991

INDONESIA/EAST TIMOR:

Jose Quinto (also known as Jose Dias Quintas Monteiro)
Francisco da Cunha

Jose Quinto and Francisco da Cunha, both East Timorese aged 18-20, were reportedly detained by plainclothes police on 22 June in the Indonesian city of Bandung. Prior to their detention, the son of an Indonesian military officer had reportedly threatened to kidnap them and kill them. There has been no further news of the two men since 22 June. Amnesty International is concerned that they may have "disappeared" and is seriously concerned for their safety.

Jose Quinto and Francisco da Cunha came to Java in early 1991 as part of a work training program. They were located first in Semarang, Central Java but, dissatisfied with conditions there, they left with 16 other East Timorese and moved to Jakarta and then to Bandung. In Bandung, the two men began training at a textile plant and lived in a hostel with ten others from East Timor. According to reports, local people in Bandung expressed resentment toward the East Timorese who, they claimed, were receiving special treatment in the form of jobs, scholarships and other benefits.

In the context of this tension, the son of an Indonesian Army Colonel reportedly threatened to kidnap the East Timorese and kill them. There were also unconfirmed reports that fighting had broken out between some of the East Timorese and local people. On 21 June, Jose Quinto and Francisco da Cunha were briefly detained by unidentified men. The following day at about 9am they were reportedly arrested again and held in custody until about 6pm. Later that night, a group of four men in civilian clothing visited them at their hostel and then left. At about 12 midnight, plainclothes police came to the hostel and arrested the two men. According to reports they were taken to a prison in Bandung but more than one week later their precise whereabouts were not known.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Indonesian forces invaded East Timor in 1975 in the aftermath of Portugal's withdrawal from its former colony. Since that time Amnesty International has documented serious human rights violations by Indonesian security forces in the territory, including hundreds of cases of torture, extra-judicial execution, "disappearance" and political imprisonment. In the past year Amnesty International has learned the names of more than 300 East Timorese detained on suspicion of advocating East Timor's independence. Many of those detained have been ill-treated and tortured.

In recent years, students and young people have played an increasingly active role in the resistance to Indonesian rule in the territory. The work training program for East Timorese is described by the authorities as part of an effort to integrate young East Timorese more fully into Indonesian economic and social life. However, critics believe that it is intended to weaken the major focal point of political opposition. Under the program, East Timorese

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and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 August 1991.