

**INDONESIA**Koes Sofyan (m)

Human rights activist Koes Sofyan was taken from his parents home in Aceh on 14 March, by two men in plain clothes believed to be from the military. He has not been seen since, and there are serious concerns for his safety.

Koes Sofyan is the head of the South Aceh branch of the human rights organization Solidarity for Victims of Human Rights Abuse, *Solidaritas Persaudaraan Korban Pelanggaran Hak Asasi Manusia* (SPKP HAM). He was detained from Blang Pidie Sub-district, South Aceh District by two men who witnesses said they recognized as members of the Special Forces Command (Kopassus). Local human rights organizations have contacted the Blang Pidie Sub-district Military Command (Koramil), but officials have denied that he is being held there.

Koes Sofyan's detention follows that of three members of SPKP who were released on 16 March after being held for four days by police. Although a human rights organization was able to meet the three detainees, they were denied access to their families and lawyers (see UA 79/02, ASA 21/012/2002, 14 March 2002 and follow up). It is believed that Koes Sofyan's detention may be related to the arrest of the three SPKP members.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Serious human rights violations, including unlawful killings, "disappearances", torture and arbitrary arrests, are continuing in Aceh during military and police operations against the armed opposition group, Free Aceh Movement, *Gerakan Aceh Merdeka* (GAM). Local human rights groups have reported that around 1,500 people were killed during military operations in 2001, most of them civilians. GAM has also been responsible for human rights abuses.

Anyone detained by the police or military in Aceh is at grave risk of torture, ill-treatment or other human rights violations. Human rights defenders have been the victims of extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detention and torture. Others have been accused of criminal offences which are believed to be primarily intended to intimidate them and discourage them from continuing their human rights work.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Bahasa Indonesia or English or your own language:**

- urging the authorities to immediately clarify the whereabouts of Koes Sofyan and the reasons for his detention;
- urging the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Koes Sofyan unless he is to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence in which case he should be transferred to police custody;
- urging the authorities to provide guarantees that he will not be subjected to torture, ill-treatment or other human rights violations, and that he be given immediate access to lawyers, their families and medical attention should he require it.

**APPEALS TO:**

Kodam Iskandar Muda (regional Military Command, covers Aceh)  
Maj. Gen. M. Djali Yusuf  
Markas Besar  
Jl. Ahmad Yani

Simpang Lima  
Banda Aceh  
Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam  
Indonesia

**Telegrams:** **Maj. Gen. M. Djali Yusuf, Banda Aceh, Indonesia**

**Fax: + 62 651 31113 (It may be difficult to get through to this number, please keep trying)**

**Salutation: Dear Major General**

Commander of the Armed Forces

Admiral Widodo Adistjipto  
Panglima TNI  
Markas Besar TNI  
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No 13  
Jakarta Pusat  
Indonesia

**Telegrams:** **Admiral Widodo Adisutjipto, Markas Besar TNI, Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia**

**Salutation: Dear General**

**COPIES TO:**

Coordinating Minister of Defence and Security

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono  
Menteri Koordinator Bidang Politik dan Keamanan  
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No. 15  
Jakarta Pusat 10110  
Indonesia

**Telegrams:** **Coordinating Minister Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Jakarta, Indonesia**

**Fax: + 62 21 345 1064/ 62 21 345 0918/ 62 21 344 1751**

**Salutation: Dear Coordinating Minister**

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 30 April 2002.