

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Possible prisoners of conscience

10 March 1995

INDONESIA

Tri Agus Susanto
Syahrul

Two activists from the Pijar Foundation, a non-government organization based in Jakarta, have been arrested. Amnesty International is concerned that the two have been detained because of their activities in relation to the publication of an independent magazine which is critical of the Indonesian authorities, and that their arrests continue the pattern of harassment of government critics.

At about 10pm on 9 March, 15 police officers raided the offices of the Pijar Foundation in south Jakarta. Bringing an arrest warrant, the police arrested Tri Agus Susanto, an activist from Pijar, and confiscated documents and computer diskettes from the office. On 10 March, at around 1pm, Syahrul, also an activist from Pijar, was arrested at the Pijar offices. It is believed the two are being held in police custody at the Police Resort Command in central Jakarta. There is concern that the raid on the Pijar office and the arrests of the two activists are in connection with Pijar's independent publication *Kabar dari Pijar*, which is often critical of the Indonesian authorities.

The two have been charged under Article 154 of Indonesia's Criminal Code, which states that "...the public expression of feelings of hostility, hatred or contempt toward the government..." is punishable by up to seven years' imprisonment. Article 154 is one of the so-called Hate-sowing Articles, introduced by the Dutch colonial government and incorporated into Indonesia's Criminal Code, which are frequently used to suppress peaceful dissent.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There continue to be heavy restrictions on a wide range of internationally recognised civil and political liberties in Indonesia, including freedom of speech, assembly and conscience. In June 1994 three weekly publications were banned and more than 50 people were detained or badly beaten by the security forces during a peaceful protest over the bans in Jakarta. The press bans coincided with a crackdown by the authorities on peaceful political dissidents, including lawyers, academics, trade unionists and human rights defenders.

At a recent seminar in Jakarta, Marzuki Darusman, a member of Indonesia's National Human Rights Commission called on the Indonesian Government not to detain individuals solely for the expression of their peaceful views, stating that "people may be detained only if they express their ideas with physical violence" (*Jakarta Post*, 30 January 1995).

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

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Syahrul and Tri Agus Susanto unless they are to be charged with a recognisably criminal offence;
- calling for Syahrul and Tri Agus Susanto to be granted immediate access to lawyers of their own choice, and seeking assurances that the two men are being treated humanely in accordance with international standards;
- calling on the authorities to put a stop to the harassment and detention of peaceful government critics.

APPEALS TO

MINISTER OF JUSTICE

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

Telephone: +62 21 51 3006

Faxes: +62 21 525 3095

Telexes: 44404 ditjenim ia

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Jakarta, Indonesia

Salutation: Dear Minister Utoyo Usman

CHIEF OF NATIONAL POLICE

Maj. Gen (Pol.) Banurusman Atmosumitro
Kapolri
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI
Jl. Trunojoyo 13
Kebayoran Baru
Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia

Telegrams: National Police Chief, Jakarta, Indonesia

Telephone: +62 21 348 537

Salutation: Dear Maj. Gen. (Pol.) Banurusman Atmosumitro

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Lt. Gen. (ret.) Ali Said
Ketua, Komisi Nasional Hak Azasi Manusia (KOMNAS HAM)
Departemen Kehakiman RI
Direktorat Jenderal Pemasarakatan
Jl. Veteran No. 11
Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia
Faxes: +62 21 525 3095 (c/o Ministry of Justice)

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 27 April 1995.