

PUBLIC

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EXTRA 19/98

Possible arbitrary arrest/Fear of torture or
ill-treatment

4 March 1998

EAST TIMORRui Campus

Amnesty International has just been informed that Rui Campus, a 20-year-old East Timorese student, who was arrested in late January (precise date unknown), remains in incommunicado detention in Los Palos. It is not known if any charges have been brought against him. His family have been refused access to him and he has not yet seen a lawyer heightening concerns that he may be at risk of torture or ill-treatment, a common occurrence in East Timor.

Rui Campus was arrested in Asalainu village, where he lives, by members of Kopassus, Indonesia's special forces command. According to reports he was hit in the mouth during his arrest. He was then taken to the Kopassus head quarters in Los Palos where he is still believed to be. The precise reason for his arrest is not known though it is thought to be linked to an incident in the village two or three days earlier in which Rui Campus tried to defend the village head from being hit by Kopassus troops present in the village.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Arbitrary arrests of individuals suspected of opposing Indonesia's occupation of East Timor are common. East Timorese taken into both police and military custody face the risk of being tortured and ill-treated, particularly during interrogation. Safeguards against the use of torture and other violations of detainees rights, provided for under Indonesia's Code of Criminal Procedure, are frequently ignored by the military and the police. Detainees are routinely denied access to legal counsel and to their families, thereby increasing the risk of ill-treatment or torture.

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

- urging the authorities to provide information on the exact charges against Rui Campus or, if he is not to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence, to release him;
- seeking assurances that Rui Campus will not be subjected to torture or ill-treatment while in detention;
- urging the authorities to ensure that Rui Campus is permitted access to members of his family, to independent legal counsel and to medical professionals while in detention.

APPEALS TO:

Military Commander Region IX/Udayana

(covers East Timor)

General Syahrir M.S.

Pangdam IX/Udayana

Markas Besar KODAM IX/Udayana

Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

Telegrams: General Syahrir, Markas Besar, Bali, Indonesia

Salutation: Dear General Syahrir

Commander of Special Forces Command (Kopassus)

Maj. Gen Muchdi P.R.

Panglima Kopassus

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Markas Besar ABRI
Cilangkap
Jakarta Timur
Indonesia

Telegrams: Major General Muchdi, Jakarta, Indonesia

Salutation: Dear Major General

COPIES TO:

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Ali Alatas SH
Menteri Luar Negeri
JL Medan Taman Pejambon No 6
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 1 April 1998.