

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 21/19/93

Distr: UA/SC

UA 264/93

Arbitrary Detention/Fear of Torture:

9 August 1993

INDONESIA/EAST TIMOR: Martinho Rodrigues Pereira and two others

Three East Timorese have been arrested by Indonesian intelligence forces in Jakarta apparently because of their alleged political and human rights activities and are being held incommunicado. Amnesty International fears that they may be subjected to torture or ill-treatment while under interrogation by their captors. Based on past information, Amnesty International is also concerned that further political arrests may soon follow, and that those arrested may themselves be subjected to torture and ill-treatment. The families and friends of those detained may also be at risk of intimidation, harassment or arrest.

Martinho Rodrigues Pereira, a former political prisoner who is married with five children, was apparently arrested because of his non-violent political and human rights activities. He went missing from his home in Jakarta on 5 July 1993 and it was initially thought that he had gone into hiding because he feared arrest. However, Amnesty International learned today that he and two others, whose identities are not yet known to the organization, were in fact arrested by military intelligence forces on 5 July.

It is not known whether Martinho Rodrigues Pereira has been formally charged. However, he is understood to have been accused by military intelligence of assisting politically active East Timorese living in Indonesia. In particular he is thought to have been accused of orchestrating a recent asylum bid by seven young East Timorese. The seven, most of whom had suffered human rights violations at the hands of the Indonesian authorities over a period of years, entered the Embassies of Finland and Sweden in Jakarta on 23 June 1993 and asked to be granted political asylum. They are still waiting to leave the country and Amnesty International has urged that they be permitted to do so.

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 a pattern of gross and persistent human rights violations by Indonesian security forces in the territory. These have included extra-judicial execution, torture and ill-treatment, "disappearance", political imprisonment and unfair trial.

Political detainees in East Timor are commonly held incommunicado and subjected to torture and ill-treatment in order to extract confessions and political intelligence. During the period of interrogation, military and police authorities routinely deny lawyers and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) access to political detainees. The information extracted from one detainee often becomes the basis for further arrests. In the last twelve months alone Amnesty International has learned of the arrest of more than 400 people who have been detained in East Timor either because of their alleged links to pro-independence groups, or because they are relatives or friends of individuals suspected of having such links. The true figure, however, is probably much higher. All

those detained must be considered at serious risk. The use of unacknowledged, arbitrary and often incommunicado detention for interrogation facilitates and even invites torture and other ill-treatment, as a mounting volume of evidence from former detainees makes clear.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express and airmail letters either English in or in your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Martinho Rodrigues Pereira, and two others reportedly arrested by Indonesian intelligence forces in Jakarta on 5 July 1993;
- urging the Indonesian authorities to clarify their whereabouts and to ensure that they are given immediate and regular access to legal counsel of their own choice and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross;
- urging the authorities to clarify the precise reasons for their arrest, and to release them immediately if they have not been charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- seeking guarantees that they have been and will be humanely treated while in custody and that their relatives and friends will not face intimidation, harassment and other violations of their rights.

APPEALS TO

1) Ali Alatas
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Kementerian Luar Negeri
Jl. Taman Pejambon 6
Jakarta
Indonesia

Telegrams: Minister Foreign Affairs, Jakarta, Indonesia

Faxes: +62 21 36 7781

+62 21 36 7782

Salutation: Dear Minister Alatas

2) Maj. Gen. A. M. Hendro Priyono
Military Commander for Region X
Pangdam X/Jakarta Raya
Markas Besar KODAM X Jaya
Jl. Mayjen Sutoyo
Jakarta
Indonesia

Faxes: +62 21 36 1471 (Armed Forces HQ)

Salutation: Dear Maj. Gen. Priyono

3) Lt. General Faisal Tanjung
Commander of the Armed Forces
Markas Besar ABRI
Cilangkap, East Jakarta
Indonesia

Telegrams: Lt. Gen. Tanjung, Markas Besar ABRI, Jakarta, Indonesia

Faxes: +62 21 36 1471 (Armed Forces HQ)/+ 62 21 37 8144 (Army HQ)/

+62 21 35 6404

Salutation: Dear Lt. General Tanjung

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Heikki Haavisto
Foreign Minister
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Merikasarmi
00160 Helsinki
Finland
Faxes: +358 0 1341 5009

Margaretha af Ugglas
Foreign Minister
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Gustav Adolfs Torg 1
S-10323 Stockholm
Sweden
Faxes: + 46 8723 1176

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 20 September 1993.