

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 21/20/93

Distr: UA/SC

UA 306/93 Arbitrary Detention/Fear of Torture

6 September 1993

INDONESIA/EAST TIMOR:

Fausto da Silva	Olimpio Castro	Danociano dos Mártires
Gil Lemos	Januário de Jesus	José Manuel
Julio X da Silva	José de Jesus	Francisco Atanásio
Sebastião Pedro da Silva	Carlos Augusto	Octaviano dos Santos
Cristiano Araujo	Pedro Patima	Aleixo de Jesus Tilman
Augusto Pachão Monteiro	Januário alias Aleixo	Gelito Freitas da Silva
Tinoco	Afonso Maria	Ambrósio da Costa
Bento Pereira	Casimiro Andrade	Sarmento
José Maria	Jovito das Dores	Domingos Dontel Faria
Isac da Costa	Rosalino Pereira	Constâncio Manuel Alves
Francisco da Silva	Gustavo Sarmento	Narcisio Madeira Neves
Benjamin Madeira	Jánio Lobato	Leónio Maria das Dores
Alberto Carvalho	Simplicio Madeira	Eufrásio G Nieves
Hermenegildo Carvalho	António Baptista	Atanasio P Gaspar
Tiago de Jesus	Fernando Tilman	Celestino Morato da Cunha
Alberto Alves	José S Bento	Claudio Cortinhal
Virgilio Augusto	Lito da Costa	
Tomás da Costa	Joaquim Sarmento	
Julito	Anibal Magno	

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the above 53 students, and possibly many others, who were arrested by Indonesian security forces in East Timor in advance of a visit to the territory by members of the United States Congress on 1 and 2 September 1993. The current whereabouts of the 53 are unknown. Amnesty International believes that they may be prisoners of conscience, detained solely because of their non-violent political activities. It fears that they may be subjected to torture or ill-treatment while in the custody of the Indonesian security forces.

Reports indicate that the arrests were carried out in an effort to prevent any pro-independence demonstrations from taking place while the congressional delegates were in East Timor. Indonesian military officials have denied that the arrests had taken place. Instead a military spokesman in Dili stated that about fifty youths had been sent on a "guidance course" in Dili in advance of the congressional visit. Individuals who are sent on such "courses" are in some instances obliged to stay in military quarters and are required to attend ideological training courses in the state ideology, Pancasila. In other instances Amnesty International is aware of such "guidance" taking the form of detainees being held at remote military posts where they are obliged to act as labourers and servants of the military and are subjected to various forms of abuse. Amnesty International regards this as a form of arbitrary, unacknowledged detention.

Amnesty International has also received reports that dozens of other people were picked up for interrogation prior to, and following, the congressional visit. The situation in Dili, as well as in Baucau, Los Palos and Manatuto, is reported to remain very tense, with the towns being kept under strict surveillance by the military. A Swedish

parliamentary delegation is due to arrive in to East Timor on 13 September for a three day visit and Amnesty International believes that further arrests and arbitrary detentions are likely to follow in the coming days as a consequence.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since Indonesia's invasion of East Timor in 1975 Amnesty International has documented a pattern of gross and persistent human rights violations by Indonesian security forces in East Timor. These have included extrajudicial 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. All those detained must be considered at serious risk. The use of unacknowledged, arbitrary and often incommunicado detention 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 in English or in your own language:

- expressing concern for the 53 people named above arrested in East Timor and seeking clarification of their whereabouts;
- urging that representatives of the ICRC, lawyers, relatives and doctors be granted immediate and unconditional access to their place of detention;
- 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 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

Salutation: Dear Minister Alatas

2) General Feisal Tanjung
Commander of the Armed Forces (ABRI)
Jl. Merdeka Barat 13
Cilangkap, East Jakarta, Indonesia

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

Faxes: +62 21 36 1471/+62 21 37 8144/+62 21 35 6404

Salutation: Dear General Tanjung

3) Maj. Gen. Theo Syafei
Military Commander for Region IX
Pangdam IX/Udayana
Markas Besar KODAM IX Udayana
Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

Telegrams: Maj. Gen. Theo Syafei, Kodam IX, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Major General Syafei

4) Colonel Suntoro
Commander Resort Military Command (KOREM) 164
Dili, Timor Timur

Telegrams: Col. Suntoro, KOREM 164, Dili, Timor Timur
Salutation: Dear Colonel Suntoro

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 18 October 1993.