

UA 159/01

Fear of t

INDONESIA Saiful Bahri (24), student
Mauli Iskandar (23), student
Maimun (21), student
Jafaruddin Fajar (19), student
Abdullah Abra (27), barber
Zikri (26), businessperson
Syukriadi Syahputra (26), driver

Seven people, including four students, were taken from their homes by members of the military in Aceh Province on 26 June. It is not known where they were taken. Amnesty International is concerned that they are at risk of torture, "disappearance" or even death.

The seven were reportedly taken from their homes in Beurawe village, Kuta Alam Sub-district, Banda Aceh, by a group of around 60 soldiers during the early hours of 26 June. The soldiers are believed to belong to the Siliwangi unit of the Indonesian armed forces (*Tentara Nasional Indonesia*, TNI) which is based in West Java. The soldiers also reportedly ransacked and destroyed their homes.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Serious human rights violations, including unlawful killing, torture and arbitrary detention, are continuing in Aceh during military and police operations against the Free Aceh Movement (*Gerakan Aceh Merdeka*, GAM), an armed opposition group. New military operations began in May 2001 and hundreds of extra troops have been sent to the province over recent weeks. It is estimated that over 600 people have been killed in the first six months of this year - many of them civilians.

Those arrested or abducted by the military or the police in Aceh are at serious risk of torture, ill-treatment, "disappearance" or extrajudicial execution. On 18 June 2001, three high school students were shot dead after they, 13 other school children, a teacher and the school head were detained and beaten by members of the Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob). The children had been attending a graduation ceremony when Brimob raided the school in Caleng, West Aceh, after a Brimob member was killed in a clash with GAM.

Peace talks between the Indonesian government and GAM are due to resume next week. Previous efforts at dialogue have failed to have an impact on the level of human rights violations in the province.

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

- calling on the authorities to clarify the whereabouts of the seven people listed above and urging them to guarantee that they will not be subjected to torture or other human rights violations;
- asking for them to be released immediately and unconditionally unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence, in which case they should be transferred immediately into the custody of the police;
- urging the authorities to ensure that, if they are not to be released, they are given immediate access to lawyers, their families and medical treatment.

APPEALS TO:

MILITARY COMMANDER REGION I/BUKIT BARISAN
(covers North & West Sumatra and Aceh)
Major General I Gede Purnawa
Pangdam I/Bukit Barisan
Markas Besar KODAM I
Medan
Sumatra Utara
Indonesia
Fax: +62 21 522439/+62 61 8451626
Salutation: Dear Major General

CHIEF OF POLICE FOR ACEH
Senior Commissioner Ramli Darwis
Kapolda Aceh
Cut Meutia No.3
Banda Aceh
Aceh
Indonesia
Fax: + 62 651 26689/22488/46864
Salutation: Dear Senior Commissioner

COPIES TO:

Coordinating Minister for Politics and Security
Lt.Gen. Agum Gumelar
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No.15
Jakarta Pusat 10110
Indonesia
Fax: +62 345 1064/345 0918/344 1751

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 8 August 2001.