

PUBLIC

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Fear for safety

28 May 2003

INDONESIA

M. Riza Falevi Kirani (m) aged 22]
Fuadi (m) aged 21]
Yudi Feriza (m) aged 22]
Taurisman (m) aged 20]
Jakfaruddin (m) aged 23]
Fayasar (m) aged 20] students at IAIN Ar-Raniry University
Zainal Abidin (m) aged 22]
Iskandar (m) aged 23]
Jakiyatuddin (m) aged 22]
Yusran (m) aged 26]
T. Bahrum (m) aged 23]
Fakhruzazi (m) aged 22]

Mulyadi Rusydi (m) aged 27, alumini from IAIN Ar-Raniry University

Pak Harun (m) aged 48]
Muliadi (m) aged 24] Internally displaced person (IDP)
Adam (m) aged 26]
One other person name unknown]

On 24 May, twelve students and one alumini from IAIN Ar-Raniry University in Banda Aceh, the capital of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD) Province were arrested, together with four internally displaced persons (IDPs). There is grave concern for their safety as their whereabouts are unknown.

The students and IDPs were arrested by members of the Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob) during a two hour raid on a student activities centre in the early hours of the morning. The military had accused the students of belonging to the pro-independence armed opposition group, the Free Aceh Movement (GAM). Other students however, have denied this claim and have stated that three of the students were volunteers with the Indonesian Red Cross, whilst five were activists in an environmental group.

According to media, witnesses have reported that the Brimob assaulted students during the raid. A reporter with the British newspaper, *the Guardian*, who visited the student facility the following day, stated that it had been vandalised.

The arrests follow the declaration by the government of Indonesia of a "military emergency" on 19 May and renewed military operations against GAM. The resulting security situation means that human rights defenders, including lawyers, are unable to carry out their work, which includes locating and visiting detainees. In this context the risk of torture and other human rights violations to anyone held in military or police detention, which was already commonplace, is greatly heightened.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A military emergency was declared in NAD on midnight of 19 May 2003, following the breakdown of a five-month-old ceasefire agreement between the government of Indonesian and GAM. Grave human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions of both adults and children, have already been reported in the context of renewed operations by the Indonesian military against GAM in NAD. The military has announced its intention to arrest and detain individuals who it claims support or are connected to GAM. Among those threatened with arrest are members of political organizations which campaign for independence for NAD and members of human rights organizations. The military has itself acknowledged that it has difficulty distinguishing between GAM and civilians.

There have been thousands of civilian casualties in the 26-year-old conflict in NAD. Grave human rights violations, including unlawful killings, "disappearances", torture and unlawful detention have been carried out in the context of operations by the Indonesian security forces against GAM. Local human rights organizations estimate that over 1,300 people were killed in 2002 alone. Anyone detained by the police and military in NAD is at risk of torture, ill-treatment or other human rights violations. GAM has also been responsible for human rights abuses.

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

- urging the authorities to immediately clarify the whereabouts of the students and IDPs arrested by Brimob on 24 May 2003;
- calling upon the authorities to provide guarantees that the detainees will not be subjected to torture or ill-treatment;
- reminding the authorities that despite the declaration of a military emergency, it still has obligation to respect basic human rights, including the right to life and to protection from torture;
- urging the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all of those named above, if they have been detained solely on account of their peacefully held views or activities.

APPEALS TO:

Military Commander, Kodam / Iskandar Muda

Maj.Gen Endang Suwarya
Markas Komando Daerah Militer Iskandar Muda
Jl. Ahmad Yani
Simpang Lima
Banda Aceh
Nanggoroe Aceh Darussalam
Indonesia

Telegram: Pangdam Iskandar Muda, Banda Aceh, NAD, Indonesia

Fax: + 62 651 270 63 / 269 79 (if someone answers, please ask for the fax: "saya mau kirim fax")

Salutation: Dear Major General

Chief of Police, Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD)

Brigadier General Bahrumsyah Kasman
Kapolda Aceh
Jalan Cut Meutia No. 3
Banda Aceh
Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam
Indonesia

Telegram: Kapolda Aceh, Banda Aceh, NAD, Indonesia

Fax: + 62 651 22488/ 23670

Salutation: Dear Brigadier General

COPIES TO:

Coordinating Minister for Political and Security Affairs

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono

Menteri Koordinator Bidang Politik dan Keamanan

Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No. 15

Jakarta 10110

Indonesia

Salutation: Dear Minister

Fax: + 62 21 345 0198

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 9 July 2003.