

To: Medical professionals  
From: Medical office / Asia Program  
Date: 24 April 1997

**MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION**

**Pudjo PRASETIO  
INDONESIA**

**Keywords**

Theme: Prisoner of conscience/unfair trial/ill-health/ medical care

**Summary**

Please see the attached information on a 71-year-old prisoner of conscience adopted by Amnesty International who has now been imprisoned in Indonesia for over 30 years. He is in need of care, having suffered the effects of stroke and, now, Parkinson's disease. AI continues to appeal for his release, but is particularly concerned that he should urgently be granted transfer to an old people's home as he has requested where he can receive the care unavailable to him in prison.

**Recommended Actions**

Letters are requested to the addresses below:

- raising Pudjo Prasetio's case, noting that he has been imprisoned since the events of the mid-1960s, first in Bali and now in Central Java
- noting that he is one of a very few men still imprisoned since the mid-1960s and that Amnesty International has adopted him as a prisoner of conscience, believing him to have had no involvement in the advocacy of violence
- expressing concern that he continues to be held despite his advancing age and state of health
- noting that he has asked to be transferred to an old people's home and urging that this is arranged as soon as possible
- asking for the reason for the refusal to grant him clemency when there was no evidence to suggest his involvement in violent activity
- urging that clemency be granted.

Head of Semarang Prison  
Kepala Lembaga Pemasyarakatan  
Semarang.  
LP Kelas I Semarang  
Jawa Tengah  
Indonesia

**Salutation: Dear Kepala LP Semarang**

President Suharto  
Presiden RI  
Istana Negara  
Jalan Veteran  
Jakarta Pusat  
Indonesia

**Salutation: Dear President Suharto**

**N.B. Please send some letters directly to the Indonesian diplomatic representative in your own country.**

**Copies can then be sent to the following address:**

Secretary General,  
National Commission on Human Rights  
Prof. Dr. Baharuddin Lopa  
Sekretis Jenderal  
Komisi Nasional Hak Azasi Manusia (Komnas HAM)  
JI Latuharhary 4B  
Jakarta Pusat  
Indonesia

EXTERNAL

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**Pudjo PRASETIO  
INDONESIA**

Pudjo Prasetio is a 71-year-old prisoner of conscience adopted by Amnesty International who has now been in prison for over 30 years. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1967 for his political affiliations and has had appeals for clemency rejected. He is now in need of constant medical attention as he has been suffering from Parkinson's disease over the last year or two. He also had a stroke in 1993 and subsequently suffered temporary loss of mobility and speech. He is receiving medication, which is probably provided by his family, but there are periods when the prison staff are said not to provide him with the medication at the required time. During these times, his symptoms are said to become more distressing and he is unable to walk, eat or drink without aid. He has asked for transfer to an old people's home for the remainder of his sentence where he would have access to the constant care he now requires. This request has been turned down.

**BACKGROUND**

Pudjo Prasetio is one of 14 people who still remain in prison 30 years after a coup attempt in Indonesia in 1965. He was a shipbuilder by trade and a trade unionist and in the mid-1950s had joined the now-banned Communist Party of Indonesia (PKI). An attempted coup in October 1965 was attributed to the PKI by the government. Although a handful of PKI leaders may have been aware of the planned coup, the record shows that the vast majority of PKI leaders, members and supporters had no knowledge of it and played no role in it. However, the authorities used the attempt as a pretext for a massive purge of the Communist Party and its affiliated organizations. In less than one year, an estimated 500,000 to one million real or suspected PKI supporters were killed. Some 500,000 more were arrested in the following years, and about 1,000 were tried in courts which failed to meet the most basic standards of fairness. The accused were sentenced to long prison terms or condemned to death.

Pudjo Prasetio spent 12 years in detention before he was finally brought to trial in 1979 before the Denpasar District Court in Bali on charges of subversion. There was no evidence that he had engaged in "subversive" or criminal activities, yet he was sentenced to life imprisonment after an unfair trial. He appealed against his conviction and submitted a request for clemency to President Suharto. He learned in March 1991 that it had been rejected. In a letter to an Amnesty International member he wrote:

"By the way, my asking for clemency was refused by the president. It means that there's no way more to be released. If there's no political changes I'll be jailed forever."

Pudjo Prasetio is married with three sons and two daughters. For many years he was imprisoned in Denpasar, Bali and saw nothing of his family, all of whom lived some considerable distance away in Central Java. In March 1995, he was transferred to Semarang in Central Java where he is now able to receive visits from family members.

Amnesty International continues to call for his unconditional release. There is no evidence to support refusal to grant clemency.